



## Security Council

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LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1987 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, on 16 December 1987, the news agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the Iranian authorities had released 450 Iraqi prisoners and that those prisoners had requested political asylum in Iran and would take part in the fighting against their country, Iraq.

The Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already addressed in detail, in various international forums, particularly the United Nations, the plight of Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran and has stressed that the Iranian régime has, from the start, proceeded in its dealings with them from a political standpoint that is related to its expansionist aims against Iraq. It has proceeded to the deliberate killing of prisoners who refused to bow to its will and has rallied, from among the prisoners, Iranian elements formerly living in Iraq to impose terrorism and psychological, political and physical persecution on the others in order to change their national loyalty to the extent described by the former President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Alexander Hay, in his statement of 23 November 1984, when he said that Iran was leaving Iraqi prisoners of war only two options - treason or death.

This news, which was announced by the Iranian authorities, is proof of this régime's blatant violation of humanitarian law in its treatment of prisoners and in using them for the achievement of its expansionist goals, which are counter to international law.

As we draw attention to these Iranian practices in violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and also of the most elementary moral principles, we strongly protest against these brutal practices which the Iranian régime persistently applies in its treatment of Iraqi prisoners and its coercing them to fight against their country, Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI  
Permanent Representative