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Item 106 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON

ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE

PRINCIPLE OF NON-USE OF FORCE IN

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 20 June 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to document NV/80/31 which was circulated at the request of the Permanent Representative of Iran, together with a text of a telegram addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran, I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, to point out that the allegations contained in the telegram constitute a flagrant and unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

The Iranian telegram makes the unfounded allegation that my Government disregarded and committed the gravest violation of the principles of human rights by "summarily" expelling "thousands of Iranian as well as Iraqi citizens of Iranian origin across the border into Iran" thus forcing upon them a refugee situation. While it is difficult to envisage why the return of citizens to their own country could be considered a refugee situation, it has to be remembered that the people of Iraq have been known through the ages for their generous hospitality to all those who sought shelter and refuge within their own country. This is particularly so in the case of the Iranians, who have always been welcomed by their Iraqi neighbours, to whom they are bound with the closest religious, historical and cultural ties. Yet no State in the world, no matter how liberal and generous its immigration policies may be, could be expected to condone criminal and illegal activities committed within its own borders by foreign immigrants at the expense of its internal security and the peace and well-being of its own citizens. Iranians in Iraq have committed blatant acts of terrorism at the instigation and with the full support of the Iranian Government. The indiscriminate criminal acts of bombing, shooting, burning, and poisoning have resulted in the loss of many innocent lives, including children, young students, women and old people. Many

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persons have been maimed and injured in mosques, universities, towns and villages across the country. Those acts have been committed with the explicit blessing of Iranian official circles, which have repeatedly and openly enticed the population to overthrow the Government in the name of the so-called "Islamic Revolution".

Again, alleging "grave violation of the principles of human rights", the Iranian Government assigns to itself the missionary role of speaking for the so-called "Shiite majority" in Iraq. It contends that "systematic harrassment" is being committed against such a "majority". It is widely known that one of the most fundamental policies of the Government of Iraq is the complete separation between affairs of State and those of religion, while at the same time freedom of faith and worship is fully guaranteed to all religious denominations. This is the only policy which accords with human rights and fundamental freedoms in the present-day world.

Looking at the Iranian scene, however, one sees, despite what is being claimed, a different reality. The noble religion of Islam has been distorted, if not debased, by a narrow sectarian outlook, resulting in mass and systematic discrimination based on race and religion. The Iranian Government cannot seek shelter behind what it represents as religious precepts, for enlightened world public opinion cannot be deceived about the human rights record of a Government which still holds human beings as hostages for political propaganda, as its high officials have admitted lately. Indeed, whatever the Iranian Government may claim, it cannot hide its racist and discriminatory policies against all the religious and national minorities in Iraq which have been systematically subjected to destruction simply because such minorities demand the recognition of their religious and ethnic rights. The Government of Iran cannot deny that its authorities do not conform to internationally-agreed standards for trials and treatment of prisoners.

It is, indeed, humorous that the Iranian communication refers to the discussion at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights which is said to have taken place on a so-called "similar act" to that to which the communication refers. To set the record straight, that discussion was initiated by the Shah's régime, and the similar unfounded allegations were utterly rejected by the Commission when their propagandistic designs were discovered. One is really left to wonder whether the present rulers of Iran are not the Shah in different dress as they seem to share in common with the Shah the philosophy that human rights is a subject to be manipulated solely for propoganda purposes.

Iraq's internal and foreign policies in general, and in the field of human rights in particular, are well-known and need no defence. My Government's respect for human rights and firm adherence to the principles and rules of international law and civilized conduct need no credentials, certainly not from the Iranian Government. Instead of meddling in the internal affairs of other States, the Iranian authorities should take a lesson from the recent history of Iran where grandiose designs and fantasies ended in disrepute and disaster. They are well-advised in all fairness to themselves and the Iranian people to divert their energies to put their own house in order by co-operating with their neighbours.

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I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 106 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Salah Omar AL-ALI
Permanent Representative
