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LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1988 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the letter of His Excellency  
Mr. Abdolkarim Moussavi Ardabili, Chief Justice of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as  
a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad Ja'afar MAHALLATI  
Ambassador  
Acting Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter from the Chief Justice of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
addressed to the Secretary-General

Although longer than a week has elapsed since the crime of the Iraqi bombardment of the Kurdish areas in the north of Iraq, there has as yet been no serious step taken by the international organizations. This has occurred even though international organizations are the alleged supporters and executors of international law and the said Iraqi crime has been committed in violation of many of the rules of international law and more particularly of the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous and Other Gases.

The ruling régime of Iraq, in the course of its chemical bombardment of the Iraqi town of Halabja, massacred more than 5,000 innocent and defenceless civilians and injured thousands of others. This has been the first time in the history of mankind that a Government has repeatedly and widely deployed chemical bombs against its own people in an act of genocide. The Iraqi régime has so far shown no commitment in practice to any of the international conventions to which it has been a signatory and has shown, by its most recent crime, its preparedness to commit the most anti-human acts. Under these circumstances, the silence of the international organizations and the irresponsible response of the Security Council of the United Nations have aroused the astonishment of all freedom-seekers of the world. The position of the international organizations is indeed unacceptable and in contravention of rules and norms of international law.

We sincerely thank you for having condemned the acts of the Iraqi régime and for having announced the dispatch of a specialist team of the United Nations to the Islamic Republic of Iran to investigate this catastrophe in all its dimensions. We also request that you take immediate measures in the direction of the legitimate punishment of the criminal and the termination of such attacks as well as the implementation of an arms embargo against the Iraqi régime and the banning of the manufacture of chemical and bacteriological weapons in the factories which are active in a number of Iraqi cities. It is evident that should the United Nations show its good will in confronting this crime, there will exist the possibility of seriously considering Your Excellency's suggested consultations. Otherwise, the party responsible for the failure of consultations will be Iraq; the very initiator of the war who becomes increasingly audacious in committing abhorrent crimes in the face of international silence.

(Signed) Abdolkarim MOUSSAVI ARDABILI  
Chief Justice  
The Islamic Republic of Iran

