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LETTER DATED 22 APRIL 1988 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the very sad duty to inform you of the tragic news that yesterday, 21 April 1988, at 1300 hours, six Iraqi warplanes dropped 10 cyanide bombs on the Shemriveh area, situated between Ahwaz and Khorramshar, as a consequence of which numerous civilians were martyred and injured. At 1330 hours, Iraqi warplanes again dropped 18 chemical bombs on the village of Khashnish, south-west of Howaizah, as a result of which 130 fasting civilians were martyred and injured. These chemical bombs contained blister and asphyxiating agents.

In view of the continued deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi régime, it is at this point absolutely imperative for the international community to become actively involved in preventing any further use of this deadly weapon; a use that constitutes the greatest human tragedy of our century and has so far inflicted unimaginable suffering and pain.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran hereby requests that Your Excellency take urgent measures to dispatch immediately an expert team to Iran to investigate this latest use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi forces.

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

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