



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/36/847  
S/14806  
18 December 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-sixth session  
Agenda item 111  
DRAFT CODE OF OFFENCES AGAINST THE PEACE  
AND SECURITY OF MANKIND

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 17 December 1981 from the Permanent Representative of  
Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the message of His Excellency Dr. Sadoon Hammadi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the criminal act of the Iranian régime of murdering Iraqi prisoners of war.

I request that the attached message be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 111, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Salah Omar AL-ALI  
Permanent Representative  
of Iraq to the United Nations

ANNEX

Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq  
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that it has been established to the Iraqi competent authorities by eyewitness Iranian prisoners of war who have fallen to the Iraqi forces during the last battle at Khafjiyah, that the Iranian authorities murdered Iraqi prisoners of war taken in the said battle. The same shocking news was confirmed by a number of Iraqi military personnel who escaped captivity.

This hideous act constitutes a grave and ominous breach of the rules of international law and in particular the third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 1949. These rules express the conscience of mankind as a whole. And the despicable act committed by the Iranian régime constitutes a crime against the human and civilized values of the international community.

Having violated its international obligation under the Charter by waging a war of aggression against Iraq, the Iranian régime has added the further grave breach of the rules pertaining to the treatment of prisoners of war. The Government of the Republic of Iraq, while reserving its right to pursue all avenues to protect its vital interests, considers that hideous crimes of the sort committed by the Iranian régime deserve not only the strongest condemnation but also concerted preventive action in the interest of human values which the Iranian régime has continuously defied.

(Signed) Dr. Sadoon HAMMADI  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Iraq

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