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GENERAL

S/19993
7 July 1988
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1988 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 transmit herewith a letter dated 7 July 1988 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs concerning grave facts about the Iranian régime's commission of a new heinous crime against Iraqi prisoners of war. We shall provide you with the film referred to in the letter as soon as we receive it.

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

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 7 July 1988 from the Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to our letter dated 3 July 1988, in which I reiterated our request for the dispatch of a mission to investigate the Iranian régime's crimes against Iraqi prisoners of war and in which I set forth some illustrations of the crimes being committed by the Iranian régime, particularly the killing of prisoners bound by ropes, the cutting off of their limbs, burying them alive and the use of violence and terrorism for the purpose of religious and political brainwashing, in addition to that régime's continued seclusion and concealment of thousands of them.

Today we place before you, with profound grief, grave facts about a new heinous crime committed by the Iranian régime against the prisoners. After their liberation of the Mawat region, which had been occupied by Iranian forces, the Iraqi armed forces found the remains of considerable numbers of Iraqi prisoners. It is quite clear that the Iranian régime killed them, mutilated their corpses and burned them, after tying up some of them with ropes. These crimes are shown in the film sent with this letter, which was shot in the above-mentioned Mawat region.

We have called and continued to call for the strongest condemnation of this violation of the Geneva Convention relating to prisoners of war and, indeed, of the most elementary moral and religious values and concepts. This has forced us, in the past, to appeal to you more than once not to remain silent about such brutal crimes but to condemn them.

As we notify you about this new crime against our prisoners, we are convinced, more than at any time in the past, of the need to condemn this brutal conduct on the part of the Iranian régime in respect of prisoners of war, and we request the Secretariat and the Security Council to accord major and urgent attention to this grave subject. The matter also requires that the Secretariat be speedy in dispatching the mission of investigation which we have called for and, accordingly, take decisive measures to protect the life and dignity of the prisoners of war, in accordance with the third Geneva Convention of 1949.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq