



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/20084
3 August 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1988 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention the details of the most recent instance of Iraqi irrepressible inhumanity; the chemical bombardment of eight locations at Sheikh Othman District in Oshnaviyeh in the West Azarbaijan Province. The bombing took place at 2:45 hours, local time, on Tuesday 2 August 1988, when the innocent and unsuspecting inhabitants of Oshnaviyeh were asleep. Eight chemical bombs, carrying lethal mustard gas, were dropped. A total of 1,031 civilians, mostly women and children, were injured. The number of martyrs is as yet not known.

This latest round of chemical bombardment has occurred not only despite Security Council resolution 612 (1988) but also constitutes another example of the Iraqi blatant disregard for the appeals made by Your Excellency and the President of the Security Council for the exercise of restraint by both parties to the Iran-Iraq conflict, at a juncture when efforts are under way to reach a peaceful settlement. By its latest deployment of chemical weapons, the Iraqi régime is clearly indicating its own unwillingness to halt the use of these deadly weapons at whatever cost. In view of this and the contents of the recent report of Your Excellency's team of experts on the use of chemical weapons by Iraq (S/20060), dated 20 July 1988, I request that Your Excellency immediately dispatch another team of experts for investigation of this most recent Iraqi attack, the evidence of which is still available for observation and analysis.

My Government also urgently requests the unequivocal condemnation of this heinous Iraqi act of aggression by the Security Council of the United Nations. Immediate and serious measures by the United Nations, in general, and the Security Council, in particular, are imperative so as to prevent any such future acts by the Iraqi régime, so relentlessly bent upon a course of destruction aimed at undermining all efforts for the attainment of peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region.

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

(Signed) Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Islamic Republic of Iran

