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COMISIÓN DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

58º período de sesiones

Tema 9 del programa provisional

CUESTIÓN DE LA VIOLACIÓN DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS Y LAS
LIBERTADES FUNDAMENTALES EN CUALQUIER PARTE DEL MUNDO

Nota verbal de fecha 3 de julio de 2001 dirigida a la Alta Comisionada de
las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente
del Iraq ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

La Misión Permanente de la República del Iraq ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra saluda atentamente a la Alta Comisionada de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos y tiene el honor de transmitirle por la presente una nota dirigida a la Alta Comisionada por el Gobierno de la República del Iraq en relación con la reciente agresión aérea perpetrada por los Estados Unidos y la Gran Bretaña contra el Iraq. La mañana del 19 de junio de 2001 los agresores bombardearon un estadio de fútbol en Tall Afar en el Iraq septentrional, produciendo la muerte de 23 jóvenes y decenas de heridos.

En su nota, el Gobierno de la República del Iraq desea que la Alta Comisionada para los Derechos Humanos condene este crimen reprensible y haga un llamamiento a los Estados Unidos y a la Gran Bretaña para que pongan fin a su serie de agresiones contra el pueblo iraquí en el norte y el sur del Iraq con la excusa de que están protegiendo las zonas de exclusión aérea. Estas zonas de exclusión aérea son ilegales e ilegítimas. Los responsables del crimen de Tall Afar deben ser condenados en tribunales internacionales y se les deben imponer las sanciones que merecen por sus crímenes de guerra contra niños inocentes.

La Misión Permanente de la República del Iraq agradecería se tuviera a bien distribuir la susodicha nota* como documento del 58º período de sesiones de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos.

* El anexo se reproduce como se presentó, en árabe e inglés únicamente.

Annex

Note from the Government of the Republic of Iraq addressed to Mrs. Mary Robinson, the High Commissioner for Human Rights

On 19 June 2001, United States and British aircraft launched a criminal attack on a football stadium in the Talaafar area of northern Iraq as a result of which 23 children and young men at that stadium were killed and dozens wounded.

For more than 10 years, the children of Iraq have been subjected to deliberate programmed murder and intimidation, initially through the devastating war orchestrated by the United States of America and the United Kingdom which targeted their lives and their future and exposed them to conditions of violence, deprivation and loss of life, and subsequently through the comprehensive embargo, which deprived them of their right to life, health, education and a secure childhood, and the ongoing aerial bombardments of civilian institutions in which civilians are killed at random. All this reconfirms the heinous nature of the crimes which those two States have persistently committed in flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the obligations embodied in the Optional Protocols of 1977, the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 25 May 2000. Moreover, the acts of aggression which those two States are committing against the children of Iraq run counter to the endeavours that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the General Assembly and the Security Council are making to protect children and ensure a better world for them through the holding of the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children in September 2001. These acts of aggression also run counter to the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Security Council on the effect of armed conflicts on children, in which he has emphasized the need to accord the highest priority to child victims of wars.

The ongoing United States-British military aggression against the people of Iraq, and particularly its children, illustrates the moral vacuity of those two States and their contempt for the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law. Accordingly, immediate action is required to put an end to those crimes that are being committed before the eyes of the international community, which is standing helpless in the face of this tragedy, being hesitant to adopt a fair and equitable position for fear of angering two dominant States which are imposing their policy on the other States of the world in total disregard of international law and the principles of human rights.

In the light of this massacre of innocent children by the United States of America and the United Kingdom, the Government of the Republic of Iraq trusts that the High Commissioner for Human Rights will condemn that odious crime and call upon the United States Administration and the British Government to refrain from the commission of further crimes against the Iraqi people in the northern and southern regions of Iraq on the pretext of protecting the illegitimate and illegal air exclusion zones and to refer the persons responsible for that odious crime to international tribunals so that just retribution can be imposed on them for that war crime involving the deliberate murder of innocent children.
