



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/19967  
27 June 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1988 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the letter of His Excellency  
Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of  
Iran.

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

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

Annex

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic  
Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

The Iraqi crimes during the course of the imposed war include among others: bombarding the purely civilian areas, massacring innocent civilians, employing deadly chemical weapons and targeting tankers in the Persian Gulf - for breaking the defence lines and in order to break the morale of the Iranian combatants, are obvious cases of atrocities perpetrated by this criminal régime that have profoundly stirred the world conscience. While the world at large, the majority of heads of States and independent political figures all over the world have expressed their grave concerns in respect to these atrocities and have condemned them, the Security Council has either kept silent or simply taken a mild position vis-à-vis all these anti-human acts.

The employment of chemical weapons in Halabcheh was the climax of this crime which made the civilized world both ashamed and profoundly alarmed. Recently, too, the extensive use of chemical weapons in the south of Khuzestan between the cities of Ahwaz and Khorramshahr has resulted in hundreds of deaths and over 3,000 severely injured.

Advanced technology employed by Iraq to manufacture chemical weapons and its constant use of varied chemical agents, combined with lack of serious action on the part of the United Nations in general and the Security Council in particular to establish a permanent mechanism for immediate investigation and verification of the use of chemical agents has led to the erosion and disappearance of traces of this Iraqi crime.

In the light of the above I deem it necessary to draw your urgent attention to the following:

International bodies should exert all their resources to prevent Iraq from the use of such anti-human weapons.

A team of chemical experts should be sent promptly to the region before the environmental evidence of the crime is eroded. A permanent mechanism for prompt investigation and verification of the use of chemical weapons should be envisioned.

We declare that it is the silence of the international circles and their latitude in this respect that has provided Iraq with a free hand constantly to employ chemical agents as a normal and conventional weapon with no qualms whatsoever.

Should the international bodies concerned further hesitate to uphold the authority of the international humanitarian law for short-sighted political considerations which has led to the massacre of innocent civilians through the use of chemical weapons by Iraq, we then consider it our legitimate right for

self-defence to take effective and necessary measures to employ all facilities at our disposal in order to put an end, once and for all, to such Iraqi atrocities.

Ali Akbar VELAYATI  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Islamic Republic of Iran

