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LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pursuant to my letter dated 23 October 1983 (S/16071), I have the honour to inform you that on 20 October 1983, the Muslim forces of Iran launched an operation in the Kurdistan region of the Iran-Iraq border with the purpose of pushing back Iraqi artillery units that bombarded Iranian border towns to free our civilians from the threat of death and destruction. In the first days of the operations, the Muslim forces of Iran succeeded in pushing the enemy back several miles and capturing the garrison of Garmak, which was used as a forward base of operations and supplies by Iranian counter-revolutionaries, with the assistance and direct involvement of agents of the Ba'athist régime of Iraq. In the garrison, which was also used as a prison, 45 Iranians who had been held prisoners by the counter-revolutionaries were freed. One of the freed prisoners described how tens of other prisoners had been murdered by counter-revolutionaries. As in all other military operations by the Muslim forces of Iran, maximum restraint was exercised not to violate the moral codes of Islam or the international law of war.

The armed forces of Iraq, unable to acquire the upper hand on the battlefield, resorted, once again, to treacherous and inhumane attacks against civilians in Iran. On 22 October 1983, the residential quarters of the towns of Dezful and Masjid Soleiman were hit by surface-to-surface missiles, killing more than 120 innocent civilians, of whom 82 were children, and wounding close to 450 others and destroying a great number of houses and shops. The residential quarters of the town of Marivan were also targets of aerial bombardment, causing more casualties and destruction.

These barbarous acts by Iraq, along with scores of similar acts in the recent past, stand witness to the fact that the peace-loving gestures of Iraq in the international forae are merely attempts to divert international public opinion from the realities on the front and disguise the barbarous nature of the ruling régime of Iraq.

A further development in the situation on the front consists of reports received from units of Iran's armed forces positioned on the hills overlooking the

town of Panjvin, regarding action by the Iraqi armed forces within the town to deliberately destroy parts of the town or, perhaps, its entirety. Explosions have been heard, and smoke has been seen rising from different parts of the town. At the same time, heavy machinery is being used to deliberately demolish sections of the town, beginning with the eastern sectors. The Joint Command of the Iranian armed forces on the front suspect the following reasons for such Iraqi actions:

(a) Iraq expects the Muslim combatants of Iran to overrun the town and has decided to destroy certain installations to prevent their capture;

(b) Iraq considers this situation an opportunity to blame any destruction that it may itself cause in the town on the armed forces of Iran and thus attempt in vain to balance its own despicable record of continuous crimes against civilian life in Iran;

(c) Iraq may wish to use its own actions in Panjvin as a pretext to launch more barbaric attacks on innocent civilians in Iran.

With regard to these developments, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran extends an invitation to Your Excellency to dispatch your representative to the area to witness the realities on the scene, with the purpose of updating the report of the fact-finding mission dispatched to Iran and Iraq contained in Security Council document S/15834.

I would appreciate if this letter were distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAIE KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
