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LETTER DATED 15 DECEMBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pursuant to my letter of 14 December 1983 (S/16218), and upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the unfortunate and sad news of the latest atrocities of the Iraqi régime against the civilian population in the border towns of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was with great sorrow that I informed you in my above-mentioned letter that "we are convinced that the recent allegations are precedents to the same type of carnage to be inflicted upon our innocent civilians". I further noted that "The international community will have to bear a part of the blame for past and future atrocities of the Iraqi régime, because of the unwillingness of the international community to discharge its moral obligations and duties in this regard". Regretfully, in less than 24 hours our predictions materialized. On 14 December 1983, at 17.35 hours local time, the Iraqi mercenaries attacked the civilian quarters and residential areas of four Iranian border towns causing the following casualties:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Civilians martyred</u>	<u>Civilians wounded</u>	<u>Houses destroyed</u>
Andimeshk	10	122	unknown number
Behbahan	5	50	45
Ramhormoz	11 (including a pregnant woman)	60	20
Dezful	7	55	unknown number

We have repeatedly warned the international community that its differences toward these heinous crimes against humanity indeed encourages the disillusioned rulers in Baghdad to continue their atrocities against the innocent Iranian civilians. We believe it is the moral and legal obligation of the United Nations to react strongly and without delay to these war crimes in order to deter the aggressor régime of Iraq from carrying on its inhuman and savage designs. The lives of those civilians who are being bombarded as a reaction to the indifference of the international community are certainly more important than any short-sighted

political consideration that has prevented certain bodies in the international community from discharging their Charter obligations. The unfortunate fact that the United Nations - for various reasons known to all - has not yet been able to deal constructively with the substantial and fundamental issues in the war of aggression waged against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the régime of President Saddam Hussein and his reactionary allies does not relieve the United Nations from acting decisively and rapidly in order to put an end to these savage atrocities.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested on previous occasions (as evident in my letters contained in documents S/15851, S/15909, S/15926, S/15932 and Add.1, S/15934, S/15941, S/16000, S/16019, S/16053, S/16071, S/16104, S/16117, S/16128, S/16129, S/16139, S/16140, S/16154, S/16181, S/16185 and S/16204) that Your Excellency should send your representatives to the region in order to witness and examine the Iraqi atrocities - including the use of chemical weapons - against innocent civilians of the border towns of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The fact that Iraqi rulers have consistently claimed - before their savage "retaliations" - that the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have attacked civilian targets inside Iraq makes it even more appropriate and necessary for Your Excellency's representatives to visit both countries and determine the validity of each side's claims. Furthermore, for the past few months, the international community has not responded to our requests concerning the dispatch of a mission in order to examine, inter alia, areas affected by chemical weapons used by Iraqi mercenaries against civilian targets inside the Islamic Republic. This undue delay has resulted in the elimination of parts of the evidence, which are bound to disappear with the passage of time. Any further delay would result in the disappearance of the rest of the evidence of this heinous crime of the Iraqi rulers, and the world public will be deprived of its right to be correctly informed of the realities on the war-fronts.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to renew its invitation to Your Excellency's representatives to visit both countries and to examine the validity of the claims concerning military actions against civilians. We would like to assure you that the Islamic Republic of Iran will accord its full co-operation to such a fact-finding mission, so that it can discharge its duties. It is our firm belief that the reluctance of certain quarters in the United Nations to allow the international community to carry out its humanitarian responsibilities certainly results in the continuation of these savage crimes against humanity of which the United Nations has been duly informed through Your Excellency, and the United Nations has to carry a substantial burden for its unwillingness to carry out its humanitarian duties.

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

(Signed) Said RAJAIE KHORASSANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
