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LETTER DATED 27 FEBRUARY 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, and pursuant to my letter of 23 February 1984 (S/16370), I have the honour to call your attention and that of the international community to the fact that the Iranian régime still persists in bombarding civilian targets in Iraqi towns and villages.

On 24 February 1984, the official Iraqi military communiqué contained the following:

"At 11.30 a.m. today two enemy aircraft carried out a raid on residential areas in the environs of the Sa'diyah district in Erbil Governorate. Our ground defence intercepted them and forced them to flee. The enemy attack resulted in the destruction of a dwelling-house and damage to a number of civilian vehicles and installations there.

"Four enemy aircraft also attempted to carry out a raid on residential areas in Qal'at Salih, Azir and Majar in Maysan Governorate. They were repulsed by our air defence facilities, pursued by our fighter aircraft and forced to flee.

"The Iranian régime continued to bombard the city of Basra and the towns of Mandali, Khanaqin, Shihabi, Zurbatiyah and Halabjah with heavy artillery. In Basra, the enemy bombardment resulted in the deaths of 7 civilians and the wounding of 37 others, the destruction of 6 dwelling-houses, and damage to 6 civilian cars, a civilian hotel and a secondary school. The bombardment also caused the destruction of 5 dwelling-houses and damage to a civilian vehicle in Mandali, the destruction of 3 dwelling-houses in Khanaqin, the destruction of 1 house and damage to a civilian vehicle in Shihabi, and the death of 1 civilian and the wounding of another in Halabjah."

On 25 February 1984 the official Iraqi military authorities issued the following communiqué:

"At 6.42 a.m. today three fighter aircraft belonging to the Iranian enemy carried out a raid on residential areas in the Miqdadiyah district and the Abu Saydah and Sa'diyah subdistricts of Diyala Governorate. Further, at 7.45 a.m. today another fighter aircraft raided the town of Aqarah in Ninawa Governorate, aiming against residential areas there. Our air defence

facilities intercepted the enemy aircraft and forced them to flee. The savage enemy raid caused losses in the ranks of the civilian population and damage to civilian property and installations, as follows:

"(a) Miqdadiyah district: 9 dead and 27 wounded, including 10 children, and destruction of 7 dwelling-houses.

"(b) Abu Saydah subdistrict: 7 dead and 9 wounded, and damage to 14 dwelling-houses and to 4 civilian vehicles.

"(c) Sa'diyah subdistrict: wounding of a female child and damage to 26 dwelling-houses.

"(d) Town of Aqarah: 3 dead and 32 wounded, and damage to 4 dwelling-houses, a civilian vehicle and some civilian property.

"At 7.55 a.m. today two enemy fighter aircraft carried out a raid on the modern villages in the township of Darluk in Dohuk Governorate. The raid caused the death of 2 civilians and the wounding of 9 others and damage to 15 dwelling-houses.

"At 10.48 a.m. today two Iranian enemy aircraft carried out a raid against residential areas in Ali al-Gharbi, Ali al-Sharqi and Qal'at Salih in Maysan Governorate. Our ground defence and air defence facilities intercepted them and managed to bring down one of them, seen descending in flames inside Iranian territory, while the other aircraft took flight. This enemy raid caused the deaths of 3 civilians and the wounding of 30 others including a number of women and children, and damage to 2 dwelling-houses and 3 commercial establishments in Ali al-Gharbi, and the wounding of 10 civilians and damage to 1 civilian vehicle in Ali al-Sharqi. The raid also caused the deaths of 2 civilians and the wounding of 5 others in Qal'at Salih."

The communiqué issued by the Iraqi Military Command on 26 February 1984 contained the following information:

"This morning, a number of enemy aircraft raided a number of our towns and civilian establishments, as follows:

"(a) At 7.40 a.m.: against residential areas in the town of Miqdadiyah and the townships of Abu Saydah and Sa'diyah. At 7.45 a.m.: against residential areas in the town of Aqarah. At 7.55 a.m.: against the modern villages in the township of Darluk in Dohuk Governorate. At 10.48 a.m.: against residential areas in the towns of Ali al-Gharbi, Ali al-Sharqi and Qal'at Salih. The enemy aircraft were intercepted by our air defence facilities, which managed to bring down one of them, seen descending in flames inside Iranian territory; in the northern region another enemy aircraft was seen on fire while heading into the Iranian interior. The enemy raids caused the death and wounding of a number of civilian citizens, among them a number of women and children, as follows:

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"Miqdadiyah: 9 dead and 27 wounded; destruction of 7 dwelling-houses.

"Town of Abu Saydah: 7 dead and 9 wounded; damage to 14 dwelling-houses and 4 vehicles.

"Sa'diyah: 1 wounded; damage to 26 dwelling-houses.

"Town of Aqarah: 5 dead and 34 wounded; destruction of 6 dwelling-houses; damage to 19 dwelling-houses.

"Ali al-Sharqi: 3 dead and 30 wounded; damage to 2 dwelling-houses and 3 commercial establishments.

"Ali al-Gharbi: 10 wounded; damage to a civilian vehicle.

"Qal'at Salih: 2 dead and 5 wounded.

"The Iranian régime also continued today to bombard the city of Basra and the towns of Khanaqin and Mandali with heavy artillery. The savage enemy bombardment resulted in the deaths of 3 civilians, the wounding of 9 others and the destruction of 2 dwelling-houses in Basra; 2 wounded and the destruction of 7 dwelling-houses and damage to a civilian vehicle in Mandali; and 5 wounded, the destruction of 5 dwelling-houses and damage to an elementary school and a civilian vehicle and to a number of civilian installations and plantations in the town of Khanaqin."

I should like, on this occasion, to reiterate to you the request of my Government, contained in the letter dated 21 February 1984 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of my country (S/16361), that you should take urgent steps to develop effective international supervision mechanisms whereby the international community may ensure that strikes are not carried out against towns and villages and against the civilian population, the United Nations being the body capable of developing such mechanisms.

Failing that, the Iranian régime will have the possibility of pursuing its aggressive policy, savagely shelling towns and villages and the civilian population within Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyadh M. S. AL-QAYSI
Permanent Representative