

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1984/18  
9 January 1984

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Fortieth session  
6 February-16 March 1984  
Item 12 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL  
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE  
TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 28 December 1983 from the Permanent Mission of  
the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to the Assistant  
Secretary-General, Centre for Human Rights

I have the honour to inform you with regret that on the occasion of the  
Christmas season of goodwill the undefended city of Masjed-e Suleiman was again  
subjected to the brutal bombardments of Iraqi forces.

At midnight, 24 December 1983, the Iraqi Television broadcast a military  
communiqué in which, following some false accusations, it expressed its intention  
to strike at selected (civilian) targets situated in the heart of the Iranian  
Territory. Then, at 1740 hours on Christmas Day, the City of Masjed-e Suleiman  
came under savage Iraqi missile fire.

The City, situated more than 200 kilometers from the war zone, has been  
attacked on several occasions in the past and the nature of these attacks are a  
clear violation of humanitarian principles and international law.

A recent ICRC press release No. 1479 of 15 December 1983 takes note of the  
increase in the bombardment of Iranian towns by the Iraqi forces, and thereby  
stresses the inacceptability, with regard to basic humanitarian law, of the Iraqi  
justification of such attacks.

The Iraqi attack on Christmas Day took the lives of more than 20 innocent  
civilians and left nearly 100 injured. It also destroyed a number of houses in the  
city. The previous bombardment of the city of 5 November 1983 left nearly 100  
killed or injured and 110 dwellings and public facilities destroyed and damaged.

The adoption of an attitude of silence on the part of the United Nations  
authorities in the face of the perceptible increase in the carrying out of such  
operations by the Iraqi Regime, in flagrant violation of basic international  
humanitarian principles, is but an encouragement of the repetition of the crimes,

and represents a danger to the credibility of the United Nations and may have consequences with regard to the carrying out of its functions in the future, particularly in the humanitarian field. Thus it is requested that the Commission for Human Rights discourage and condemn in explicit terms the carnage of Iranian civilians in the non-military towns by the Iraqi Regime.

Please consider this letter as an official document at the forthcoming Session of the Human Rights Commission and distribute it among member States accordingly.

Please be assured of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Nasrollah KAZEMI KAMYAB  
Ambassador