



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/20807
23 August 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1989 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring the following to your attention.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always expressed its deep concern to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations over the inhuman treatment and torture of Iranian prisoners-of-war (POWs) by the Iraqi régime and has requested the adoption of effective measures to end the torture and other mistreatment common in Iranian POWs camps in Iraq. The reports of the missions dispatched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1985 and 1988 are valid documents confirming the existence of mistreatment and torture in Iranian POWs camps in Iraq.

The representatives of the Swiss Charity "Terre des Hommes", who for a few years were managing schools for POWs at Ramadi Camp in Iraq, have repeatedly complained about the conduct of the Iraqi régime with the Iranian POWs.

Mr. Ian Brown is the last representative of that Charity who, following his predecessor, was expelled from Iraq because of these complaints. After being expelled from Iraq, he talked about the barbaric behaviour of Iraqi officials which was published in the 22 July 1989 issue of the Independent, in London. He said:

"Terre des Hommes approached the Iraqi Government to set up this scheme and they accepted. But it turned out that their motives was propaganda.

"They used to take foreign journalists on a 20-minute stage-managed tour. What I objected to was that they were being treated like animals in a zoo.

"When the war was still on, there were visits once a month. In recent months, they tailed off and it was clear the Iraqis weren't getting any propaganda benefit."

Mr. Brown said that while he put no pressure on the young Iranians to attend classes, they were occasionally beaten by the Iraqi guards to try to force them to attend.

S/20807
English
Page 2

These barbaric acts are a clear violation of the Third Geneva Convention by Iraq, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, cognizant of the fact that the condition present in Ramadi Camp is prevalent in all Iranian POWs camps in Iraq, calls upon the international community to adopt appropriate measures in compelling the Iraqi régime to respect the most basic rights of POWs, eliminate torture and cease its propagandist use of the POWs.

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

(Signed) Gholamali KHOSHROO
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

