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CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION  
OF THE ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN  
IRAN AND IRAQ

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Fortieth year

Letter dated 22 January 1985 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a report on the savage patterns of treatment of Iraqi prisoners of war carried out by the Iranian régime.

It would be highly appreciated if this report could be circulated as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zuhair I. MOHAMMAD  
Chargé d'Affaires

ANNEX

Savage patterns of treatment of Iraqi prisoners of war  
by the Iranian enemy

Use of threats and torture

1. This is one of the methods of changing the ideological structure through a series of cruel measures involving the threat to kill, physical and psychological torture and sham trials. Through this method, many ugly crimes were committed including the killing of 30 prisoners of war and the injuring of 70 others for the mere reason that those prisoners expressed their discontent over their maltreatment by the guards. Other prisoners witnessed similar executions in Karj, Barandak, Tazliya, Tawanda, Meshhad, Simran and Anzali. The use of this method is aimed at destabilizing the emotional balance of the prisoners of war by suggesting to them that a horrible fate awaits them if they do not accede to the demands of the enemy.

Sectarian isolation

2. The enemy also resorted to isolating the prisoners of war according to sect and religion. The Shiites, for example, were kept away from the Sunnis and the Christians. According to this isolation, the enemy brought clergymen from each sect and sought to change the inclinations of the prisoners of war in keeping with their sectarian sentiments. The aim behind this measure is to address the prisoners of war each according to his religious belief, which makes it easier to achieve control over them. As to the Christians, they were subjected to heavy pressures aimed at converting them to Shiism and forcing them to perform Islamic religious rites.

Daily coercive measures

3. These include forcing the prisoners of war to listen to lengthy religious preachings charged with hatred for Iraq and its leadership, forcing them to carry photographs of Khomeini, to shout slogans against the political system in Iraq and to perform collective prayers. This measure is also aimed at accustoming the prisoners of war to such conduct, and this leads, through repetition, to what is called in psychology "force of habit", under which the prisoner feels no sense of guilt as a result of shouting slogans against the régime or carrying a photograph of Khomeini, etc.

Method of hiding prisoners of war

4. The enemy has hidden large numbers of prisoners of war from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Such a method heightens the anxiety of the prisoner who has been entirely cut off from news about his family. It also increases his fears about his undetermined fate and makes him feel that he is exposed to death at

any moment. This may lead him to accede to all the wishes of the enemy in order to preserve his life and to hear news about his family.

#### Changing the location of prisoners of war

5. Under this measure, the enemy continually transfers the prisoners of war, in groups or individually, from one place of detention to another. This leaves the prisoner of war in a state of continuous anxiety which denies him the opportunity to adapt himself to the circumstances around him and to form close relations with his fellow prisoners. This often leads to weakening the psychological resistance of the prisoner of war and consequently the enemy achieves his aim of making the prisoner receptive to anything in return for stability. This also makes the prisoner of war more pliable and more receptive to ideological suggestion, at least on the surface, in order that he may be left alone.

#### Solitary confinement

6. The enemy distributes the prisoners of war in such a way as to make it easy to deal with them in accordance with his aims. He isolated the officers from the enlisted men. He also tries to break up the unity of the group by dispersing friends and colleagues. The enemy practises solitary detention of individuals who enjoy a good standing among the prisoners of war and who resist the methods and programmes of the enemy. This measure aims at creating barriers to the psychological unity of the prisoners of war which may arise in a group living in one place. It also aims at punishing the prisoners of war who offer resistance in order that others may not consider emulating them.

#### Placing agents among the ranks of prisoners of war

7. This measure places elements from the puppet "Dawa" Party among the ranks of prisoners of war in order to gain knowledge about their political leanings and loyalties. The agents are selected from various areas of Iraq and are charged with writing accurate reports on the affiliations and allegiances of the prisoners of war and presenting such reports to the administration of the cage. In the light of such reports, tortures, solitary confinements and murders are carried out.

#### Intimidation of pilots

8. In view of the active role of pilots in the war, the enemy has intimidated them by such methods as telling them they would be tried after the war as war criminals. This method makes the prisoner of war very anxious about his future and fate, and may lead to the same results referred to elsewhere in the present report.

Poisoning of food

9. This is done by adding to the food poisonous substances or substances loosening the bowels in order to make the prisoners of war suffer from collective severe pain or defecate on themselves. This measure aims at making the prisoner of war feel humiliated and weak and at bringing him ultimately to a state of psychological exhaustion which makes him accept what is imposed on him voluntarily in order to ensure his safety.

Sexual assault

10. The administration of the cages of the prisoners of war encourages those co-operating with them to sexually assault unco-operative prisoners, particularly juveniles. This leads to weakening the moral deterrent of the prisoner of war and to turning him into a pliable tool in the hands of the enemy and his agents.

Night raids

11. This is done intermittently. At various times of the night, the guards of the cages of the prisoners of war emit alarming cries calling on the prisoners to assemble and go outside. During these intervals, individual and collective punishments are imposed on the prisoners of war, such as making them crawl in the snow, or leaving groups of them until the morning gathering piles of snow opposite the gates of the prison. This is aimed at depriving the prisoner of war of rest and leaving him in a state of psychological instability in order to win him over.

Withholding letters

12. For the prisoner of war, the greatest joy is receiving letters. The enemy plays a trump card with this measure. He withholds letters from the prisoner after telling him that his letters have arrived. This measure entails a great deal of psychological torture. It is also aimed at winning over the prisoner of war by signalling to him that all his needs will be met if he co-operates. Otherwise, he would be deprived of those needs.

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