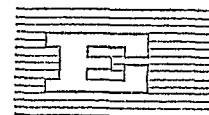


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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Forty-first session

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION 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 21 December 1984 from the Permanent Mission of the
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the United Nations
Office at Geneva, addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General
for Human Rights

In accordance with the decision taken by all the Heads of Arab Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva on 11 December 1984, I have the honour to inform you that I have been entrusted with the responsibility of transmitting to you a copy of the telegram addressed by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, for circulation as an official document of the forty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Walid Bachir Ould-Rouis
Permanent Representative of the
People's Democratic Republic of
Algeria

Annex

Mr. President,

While Iraq has more than once declared its full acceptance of international wartime rules and conventions for the settlement of its conflict with Iran, while it has translated this commitment into concrete terms by releasing successive groups of Iranian prisoners, the Iranian military authorities found no other means of response than open fire indiscriminately, on 10 October 1984, at Iraqi soldiers held as prisoners of war in the "Kurkan" camp, killing and wounding a large number of them. The aggression was perpetrated while an I.C.R.C. mission was present in that camp.

As you are aware, prisoners of war are held in trust - under the 1949 Geneva Convention - of their country of detention; they are protected by international law against any violation of their personality, dignity or religious creed and must be treated in an appropriate, decent human manner.

Yet, instead of observing the rule of an international convention to which it is a full party, Iran chooses to flout its obligations, murdering its prisoners in their detention camps and, sometimes, before they reach those camps.

You certainly share my view, Mr. President that this hideous act - which might be repeated in the future - calls for the harshest and most clear-cut condemnation, and that the Iranian authorities must be made to know in the clearest terms that the international community and all humanitarian bodies and institutions look upon this action as a deliberate crime which can only rouse indignation and total reprobation not only because of the innocent people victimized, but also because it constitutes a stark violation of the moral values underlying relations among nations in time of peace and war.

The League of Arab States is deeply grateful to the efforts you are deploying in this respect and fully supports your tireless endeavours to put into effect the principles underlying your Organization's commitment to the defence of man's right to a life of dignity, the respect of international law and the safeguarding of humanitarian rules and conventions.

With my high consideration,

Chedli Klibi
Secretary-General of the
League of Arab States