



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/20961  
13 November 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

LETTER DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the unofficial translation of the text of a note verbale submitted to the Office of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Tehran.

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

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Note verbale dated 28 September 1989 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the International Committee of the Red Cross at Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at Tehran and with reference to the note No. 74/1/11/68 dated 27 June 1989 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq to ICRC dated 11 July 1989 (S/20724), has the honour to make the following observations:

1. This is not the first time that the Iraqi régime, in an attempt to divert public attention from the obstructions it has put in the way of the implementation of resolution 598 (1987) and to cover up the inhuman treatment and torture of Iranian prisoners of war (POWs) has raised baseless allegations and pure lies, attributing them to the repatriated Iraqi POWs. Needless to say, neither the repatriated Iraqi POWs nor their families and friends dare to make any observation contrary to the wishes of the Iraqi Government.
2. In its note, the Iraqi régime refers to the issue of the application of pressure by the Islamic Republic of Iran to change the beliefs of Iraqi POWs. From the very outset of the war the teams and delegations dispatched by the United Nations or ICRC have been witness to a large number of Iraqi POWs refusing to be sent back to Iraq and choosing to stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Many Iraqi POWs, in their meetings with the representatives of ICRC without the presence of a witness, have stated that they are not willing to return to Iraq and wish to seek refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This fact clearly demonstrates, on the one hand, the climate of fear and repression inside Iraq and, on the other, the Islamic and humanitarian treatment of Iraqi POWs by the Islamic Republic of Iran.
3. The Islamic Republic of Iran has effectively tried to meet and satisfy the various health, nutritional and educational needs of the POWs. By the same token and on the basis of the Third Geneva Convention it has made an effort to be responsive to the religious needs of the POWs. Many Iraqi prisoners, from the very first days of their captivity, began to espouse Islamic ideals, and the religious inclination of a large number of other prisoners increased as a result of experiencing Islamic and humanitarian treatment by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It should be noted that in general the Islamic and humanitarian atmosphere prevailing over the camps of the Iraqi POWs naturally cannot correspond to the perceptions of the Iraqi régime.
4. Among the most disgraceful and brutal acts by the Iraqi régime are the murder, gross torture, psychological pressure and mistreatment of Iranian POWs, which have continued from the very beginning of the war contrary to all norms and principles of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions. The representatives of the Swiss Terre des Hommes who are involved in teaching at the Iranian POW camp at Ramadi, Iraq, have constantly protested against the brutality of the Iraqi authorities and the beating of Iranian prisoners. These representatives have

underlined that Iraqi authorities beat young Iranian POWs. One of these representatives, who was expelled from Iraq because of the protest against the mistreatment, said: "They treat these prisoners as if they were animals in a zoo".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has frequently raised the issue of mistreatment and torture of the Iranian POWs with ICRC and other international bodies and again, on this occasion, while rejecting baseless and fallacious allegations of the Iraqi régime, strongly urges the international humanitarian organizations to adopt effective measures to put an end to the mistreatment and torture of Iranian POWs.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Wishing the victory of the oppressed over the oppressors.

