

**CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

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LETTER DATED 30 JANUARY 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A REPORT CONTAINING  
A DESCRIPTION OF AN ATTACK WITH CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN PIRANSHAHR,  
IRAN

I have the honour to transmit to you a report describing one of the instances when chemical weapons were used by the Iraqi military.

The report describes the attack which was in the form of an air raid on 9 August 1983 against the Iranian border town of Piranshahr, where poisonous gas bombs were dropped.

Annexed to the report are photographs of a number of victims of the August 1963 and several subsequent Iraqi chemical attacks.

You are kindly requested to regard the report as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and to distribute it accordingly.

(Signed) Nasrollah KAZEMI KAMYAB  
Ambassador

## LETHAL EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS DEPLOYED BY THE INHUMAN REGIME OF IRAQ IN PIRANSHAHR

The war is entering the fourth year since its inception and the propaganda machinery of the world oppressors blares forth tall tales of Saddam's dedication to peace, yet the Baathist regime of Iraq is resorting to more heinous war crimes all over the fronts.

Responsibility for crimes perpetrated against the Muslim people of Iran as well as Iraq, in flagrant violation of all humanitarian and international principles, undoubtedly rests upon the same international human rights organizations which have come out so brazenly in support of the Iraqi crimes by having recourse to a conspiracy of silence.

The deployment of chemical poison gases by the Iraqi regime in air raids against the border area of Piranshahr on 9 August 1983, exemplified the brutality of that regime. By this attack Iraq violated the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which prohibits the use in war of asphyxiating poisonous or other gases.

By delivering toxic chemical agents, the Iraqi regime unleashed the lethal effects of the chemicals upon the area, seriously injuring over 50 military personnel as well as civilian people in Piranshahr.

This atrocity, like so many other calamities inflicted upon the Iran Muslims by the Iraqi invaders, evoked no response from the international human rights organizations other than absolute silence.

### Details of the Attack

According to the victims who escaped alive and are now being treated for their injuries, the attack came at 7 a.m., 9 August 1983, six kilometres to the west of Piranshahr-Revanduz Highway.

According to eye witnesses an Iraqi plane flying very low and noiselessly over the positions of the Islamic combatants, targeted the infantry troops on the road and left the area after producing a terrible blast.

### The Effects of the Blast

The troops in the area heard an explosion like that of an artillery shell, along with the explosion of the dropped bomb. They also saw a dark pillar of rising smoke. Several small groups of soldiers hit by the shock waves, dropped. The rest of the troops, unmindful of the likely dangers of a second strike by the Iraqi plane, ran to the rescue of their wounded fellow-combatants.

A pungent and nauseous stench of gas enveloped a large area around the explosion and a layer of dark powdery dust settled on all equipment in the area.

While the casualties were being carried to the hospital all the combatants who were around when the explosion occurred felt a stinging pain on their legs, backs, testicles and eyes. The pain obviously signalled the initial symptoms of contact with a noxious compound released by the explosion. The eyes of those affected became glazed, irritated and then gradually lost vision.

The injured were transferred first to hospitals in Piranshahr and Ogumeh; and after receiving primary medical care they were dispatched to Teheran to be given specialized treatment.

## DAMAGING PROPERTIES OF THE TOXIC AGENTS DELIVERED BY THE IRAQI CHEMICAL WEAPONS

A specialist in dermatology in Teheran provided the following data in connection with the cases of victims of the Iraqi chemical bombs.

The victims, he said, had been poisoned by the toxic agents which the bomb had diffused over the area in various forms of gas, liquid and dust.

The analysis conducted in the chemical and pharmaceutical laboratories of the Teheran University School of Pharmacy revealed that the bomb delivered by the Iraqis had released nitrogenous compounds usually known as "mustard gas".

The noxious effects, the specialist explained, appear foremost on such sensitive tissues and organs as mouth, thighs, testicles and genitals. Among the first symptoms of contamination, he said, are irritation in the eyes and blurred vision. Also being heavier than air the compounds tend to spread low on the ground.

On the degree of toxicity of the chemicals, it was noted that in medicine controlled administration of nitrogenous compounds were employed to destroy cancerous cells. Whereas on direct contact with the chemicals, the mucous tissues of the mouth, nose and respiratory tract receive serious damage.

### Eye Witness Accounts by some Victims

Mr. A. Asadi, one of the victims, complaining of sores on his thighs and testis and anxious to return to the battlefield after the completion of his treatment, said that unlike other bombs no shrapnel or fragments flew out of this particular bomb. Another victim Mr. H. Mohammad Zadah, a member of the army personnel, suffering from inflamed eyes, said that direct light severely irritated his eyes.

Ali Ja'fari, a member of the mobilization forces (BASIJ), who had suffered most intense injuries, was in severe pain, and his physicians believed that though his treatment would be completed in a month's time most probably he would experience relapses, and the injuries of his eyes and body would re-emerge.

### FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC REPORTS OF VISITS TO THE INJURED

A group of foreign and domestic reporters, photographers and film makers visited, on 24 August 1983, the victims of the chemical attack who are under treatment in a Teheran hospital. The reporters and photographers having interviewed the patients and their physicians recorded their impressions of a fraction of human pain and anguish inflicted upon innocent victims through savage assaults of the Iraqi regime.

During this visit, the reporters of the foreign media and representatives of the news agencies observed the physical damage and bodily impairments of the victims caused by the poisonous agents released by the Iraqi chemical bomb.

The reporters were shocked and grieved to find that after 15 days of treatment the victims were still in pain from still-festering wounds.