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LETTER DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 26 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq contained in document S/20922, I have the honour to inform you that the military authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran maintain that contrary to the statement of the Iraqi authorities, no incident occurred on 25 October 1989. However, an incident took place in the mouth of the Bahman-shir River on 13 October 1989, constituting a gross violation of the cease-fire by Iraq, which was duly reported to the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) by the Iranian military authorities as follows:

At 1100 hours (local time) two Iranian patrol boats observed two boats sailing towards them at the mouth of the Bahman-shir River. The observed boats, which appeared to be fishing boats, began a surprise attack against Iranian patrol boats at close range. In a quick reaction to distance themselves from the Iraqi attacking boats, an Iranian naval guard, Ali Yar Shenasi, son of Shabne, fell into the water. The Iraqi attack unit, while shooting at Iranian boats with 14.5 guns, took Mr. Ali Yar Shenasi captive.

Such irresponsible Iraqi provocative action is nothing short of aggression, casting serious doubt as to the intention of the Iraqi authorities. The Islamic Republic of Iran warns the international community about the serious implications of such lawless Iraqi behaviour for the peace and security of the region. The self-restraint exercised by the Iranian authorities in the face of such Iraqi aggression shall not be taken for granted, and if continued only Iraq is to bear responsibility for the consequences.

We call upon Your Excellency to adopt urgent and effective measures to secure the immediate release of Mr. Ali Yar Shenasi and to put an end to such blatant Iraqi violations.

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

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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