



**Security Council**

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LETTER DATED 2 MAY 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention.

The Islamic Republic of Iran handed over 48 more Iraqi disabled POWs to the Turkish Red Crescent authorities on 29 April 1985, so that they could return to their own country.

This is the second time that the Islamic Republic of Iran has unilaterally released a number of Iraqi disabled POWs in pursuit of its practical suggestions to Your Excellency concerning the repatriation of the POWs, reaffirming its conviction to and unconditioned concern for the well being of POWs.

The first gesture of good faith made by the Islamic Republic of Iran was on 2 March 1985 when 27 Iraqi POWs were repatriated to Iraq through the same channel.

On the other hand, in spite of its false announcements the Iraqi régime has never taken any practical measure for repatriation of the POWs. It has only exploited the situation of POWs for immoral propaganda purposes. For instance on 11 March 1985, the Iraqi Ambassador in Ankara announced that 22 Iranian disabled POWs would be released. However, no action has yet been taken to that effect.

Prior to 11 March 1985, too, Iraq had claimed to have released 30 Iranian POWs, but neither ICRC nor any other organization has any knowledge, whatsoever, of the fate of these 30 Iranian POWs.

Such false Iraqi announcements and claims naturally create great hopes in POWs and their families only to be shattered when those announcements are not materialized by the Iraqi régime. These Iraqi tactics have consequently turned into cruel devices for psychological torture of POWs and their families.

In view of the poor record of Iraq in humanitarian matters, the Islamic Republic of Iran has officially warned the ICRC and expressed its deep concern for the safety of the allegedly released Iranian POWs (S/17137), though regrettably without avail.

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We, therefore, request of Your Excellency to persuade the Iraqi régime to heed to international norms and principles concerning the treatment of POWs, especially to the Third Geneva Convention regarding their repatriation. We are confident that Your Excellency, in virtue of your strong sense of moral and legal obligation, would spare no efforts to facilitate the repatriation of POWs in the context of the Third Geneva Convention.

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

(Signed) Said RAJAIE KHORASSANI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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