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LETTER DATED 20 MAY 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a summary of the reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the situation of Iraqi prisoners in Iran with the request that you circulate it as a document of the Security Council in order to supplement the information contained in the report of the mission dispatched by you to investigate the situation of prisoners in Iraq and Iran.

(Signed) Riyadh M. S. AL-QAYSI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Summary of the reports of the International Committee of
the Red Cross on the situation of Iraqi prisoners in Iran

The mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Teheran visited a number of camps for Iraqi prisoners of war during the period 19 May-18 October 1984. During that time it made observations concerning the Iraqi prisoners of war and the conditions in the camps in which they were detained. It is clear to us from these reports that ICRC has spoken of certain events and certain conduct for which the Iranian régime is to be condemned because of the mistreatment of our prisoners and the adverse conditions within the camps, which are in flagrant violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

There follow hereunder the most important of the observations made and the infractions noted by ICRC:

1. Karizal Prisoner-of-War Camp

(a) Non-delivery of letters to prisoners from their families.

(b) The report stressed the need to meet with prisoners alone and without supervision by the Iranian authorities. What happens in this camp, however, is that there is an intermediary between the camp administration and the prisoner during the interview, in clear violation of the third Geneva Convention.

2. Parandak Prisoner-of-War Camp (Tariq al-Quds 1)

(a) Insufficient number of hospital beds; there are 6 beds, whereas there are 700 prisoners.

(b) The mission received death certificates for 19 prisoners, 10 of whom had died on the same date, a matter giving rise to suspicion. When representatives of ICRC made inquiries and requested clarification on the matter, the camp commandant replied that he had no detailed information since he had been appointed after the time of their death.

(c) The prisoners did not have a free choice of television programmes or of when to watch, but were compelled to watch particular programmes.

(d) The camp administration prevented the prisoners from sending letters to their relatives and claimed that the measure had been taken for disciplinary purposes. The ICRC representative pointed out that such punishments represented a clear violation of the third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

(e) The camp administration refused to allow the mission to interview prisoners without witnesses.

(f) The mission ascertained that the camp administration inflicted disciplinary punishments on prisoners, using electricity, striking them with sticks and subjecting them to pressure, because of their refusal to attack their country, Iraq, as desired by the Iranian authorities.

(g) The mission received 13 death certificates containing incorrect information.

(h) ICRC requested that the prisoners should be provided with mattresses, whereupon some of them were provided with used and dirty mattresses.

(i) ICRC representatives noticed the presence of vermin in the prisoner-of-war camp and requested the camp commandant to remedy the situation.

(j) Insufficiency of the food distributed to prisoners.

(k) ICRC representatives requested that the prisoners should be provided with pyjamas, but the camp commandant did not respond to the suggestion.

(l) The camp administration imposes on the prisoners slogans hostile to their country.

3. Heshmatieh Camp (Tarig al-Quds 2)

(a) Non-delivery of letters to prisoners.

(b) Imposition of religious and political classes with the aim of brainwashing the prisoners, thereby creating tension within the camp.

(c) Not permitting the mission to conduct interviews with the prisoners without the presence of a witness from the camp administration.

(d) ICRC requested implementation of the Geneva Convention with regard to the matter of establishing the names of the sick and disabled who could be returned to their home country.

4. Takhti Camp (Tarig al-Quds 3)

(a) ICRC established that there were 80 sick and disabled prisoners who, under the terms of the Geneva Convention, should be returned to their home country.

(b) The prisoners complained of the meagre number of letters they received from their relatives, not having received replies from them for a period of more than 12 months.

(c) The medical commission of the ICRC mission insisted on the pressing need for the return home of two of the prisoners in this camp because they were suffering from cancer.

5. Davoudieh Camp (Tariq al-Quds 6)

(a) Nine of the sick prisoners have died.

(b) The camp administration withholds the prisoners' letters, the number of letters written by them being some 20,000, of which only 23 have reached Iraq.

(c) Detention of prisoners in solitary confinement cells for long periods of time.

(d) The camp administration subjects the prisoners to a political and religious re-education process and subjects them to pressure and threats in order to make them respond to such re-education.

(e) Unsuitability of the camp, and bad lighting.

(f) Unavailability of mattresses for 160 prisoners. The prisoners also complain of shortcomings in heating and of lack of preparedness for winter.

(g) Unavailability of basins for washing the prisoners' clothes.

(h) ICRC inquired about the fate of 19,977 missing letters.

6. Ghazil Hisar Camp (Tariq al-Quds 8,9)

(a) Threatening of prisoners by various means in order to induce them to write statements against their country. The threats involved various forms of pressure, compulsion and removal to unknown destinations.

(b) Use of corporal punishment against prisoners.

(c) Death of three, including one for whom no date of death was determined.

(d) ICRC established the names of the sick and disabled prisoners who under the terms of the Geneva Convention should be returned to their home country.

7. Mehrabad South Camp

(a) Refusal of permission to the mission to conduct interviews with the prisoners without camp supervision.

(b) Small number of letters received by the prisoners.

(c) Implementation by the camp administration of a policy of causing tension among prisoners.

(d) Forcing of those prisoners who speak English to forgo interpretation during interviews with representatives of ICRC.

(e) Prohibition of sports.

(f) Unavailability of sufficient mattresses for the prisoners.

8. Bambiyaf Camp

All of the prisoners' living conditions are totally unacceptable.

9. Manjeel Prisoner-of-War Camp (Tariq al-Quds 12)

(a) Placing of a large number of prisoners in solitary confinement cells for long periods of time without informing them of the reason for their detention.

(b) Implementation by the camp administration of a policy of causing tension among prisoners.

(c) Encouragement by the camp administration of a number of hostile prisoners for the purpose of disseminating political and religious ideas among the other prisoners.

(d) The representatives of the mission requested to be allowed to interview prisoners without supervision and to be able to speak freely with them.
