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LETTER DATED 23 JUNE 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 draw your attention to the following horrifying news reported by the Islamic Republic News Agency from Damascus on 23 June 1985:

Repatriated Iraqi POWs being executed

Damascus, 23 June, IRNA - Repatriated Iraqi Prisoners of War (POWs) who refuse to say false things about the Islamic Republic are liable to be executed by the Iraqi régime, an Iraqi national who recently arrived here said. He said that some released Iraqi POWs had been already executed for their refusal to make false statements about Iran.

Some of the Iraqi disabled POWs recently unilaterally released by the Islamic Republic have not been handed over to their families.

The news of the Iraqi régime's execution of repatriated Prisoners of War has terribly disturbed my Government.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in compliance with its policy of unilateral repatriation of disabled Iraqi POWs, has, so far, repatriated a large number of them on the assumption that their lives would not be in jeopardy in their home country. However, in view of this alarming piece of news regarding the Iraqi gross violation of humanitarian law, and a criminal act in itself, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran requests Your Excellency to take every measure at your disposal to investigate the matter seriously and immediately in order to protect the lives of the repatriated Iraqi POWs and to assure the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the lives, safety and dignity of the Iraqi POWs, who are scheduled to be unilaterally repatriated to Iraq, will be respected, or else the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should feel guilty for such repatriation which would cost the Iraqi POWs their lives.

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

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative