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LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith to Your Excellency the text of a letter from His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

(Signed) Said RAJAIE-KHORASSANI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter from H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign  
Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to the  
Secretary-General

As you are aware, on 14 June 1985 the international Quds Day, massive demonstrations took place in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as in many cities around the globe with Muslim inhabitants. I am certain that you are well aware of the importance and sanctity of this date for the Muslim people of the world. The massive participation, all over the world, in these demonstrations leaves no doubt as to the attitude of Muslims towards it.

You are also aware that the Iraqi régime specifically announced and increased its savage attacks against the civilian quarters of our country. Most missiles and air attacks were directed against the gathering places and the demonstrations in process. The lowest estimate of the casualties of these heinous crimes has been 600, as reported to the United Nations by its team stationed in Teheran.

The number of the casualties of that day does not have any unique quality in comparison with civilian casualties in the imposed war. However, what make this episode of Iraqi war crimes very unique are the following two factual considerations:

(a) The attacks were aimed at demonstrations conducted for the cause of the liberation of Palestine. Thus, the Iraqi régime not only murdered large numbers of civilians just as it has been doing in the past 57 months but it also attempted to suppress the cause of the demonstrations with its threats and actual operations;

(b) The Iraqi régime announced, right after these heinous crimes, that it intended to stop its blind attacks against civilian quarters for two weeks.

Considering the fact that, during this time, there has been no change in the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to Iraqi attacks against civilian quarters, it is evident that the Iraqi régime had decided earlier to increase the severity of its attacks and then suddenly announce a cease-fire for a limited period and thus a time for their resumption, thus ridiculing international law and humanitarian principles.

I am confident that since the end of the Second World War, the rules of international law and the competent organs for their enforcement have not been so severely disregarded and mocked as a means for advancing the policies of a criminal régime.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, since the very beginning of the imposed war, has directed the attention of the international community to the importance of an all-out international effort to prevent Iraqi violations of the rules regulating the conduct of hostilities. Regrettably, the lack of due attention to this task on

the part of the international community has caused the repetition of such heinous crimes, which is practically leading world public opinion to challenge the raison d'être of international rules and conventions.

Nevertheless, the unprecedented participation by Iranian people in great numbers in the Quds Day demonstrations has illustrated beyond any doubt that the determination of the Iranian people to struggle until their just demands are met and justice established cannot be broken by such violations of international law.

I assure Your Excellency that the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite Iraqi criminal behaviour in the past and in spite of the ability of its armed forces, will not initiate any attacks on civilian quarters. However, we have always reserved for ourselves the right to retaliate in kind. What should be noted, however, is that, after witnessing all the atrocious crimes of the Iraqi régime in the past 57 months since the beginning of this war of aggression, it is not expected of a responsible and well informed international authority to accept the Iraqi régime's propaganda at face value.

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