

*Crime
Against
Humanity*

**Society for
Medical Care of
Chemical War Victims**
November 1987



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Against
Humanity*



**In the Name of God,
the Compassionate, the Merciful**

“... We saw the effects of mustard gas on a peasant family, particularly a mother and her two small daughters aged two and four years...”

“... We had the distressing experience of witnessing the suffering of the four - year - old child less than two hours before her death...”



“... We saw the very damaging effects of mustard gas on the young mother who was four months pregnant...”



In the course of the World War I, and amid the hideous scenes caused by the war, the sight of women and children, who were hospitalized because of their injuries caused by mustard gas, was especially shocking.

Swollen eyelids, inflamed faces, and blisters all over the skin, on which the injured person had to sleep, painful moaning of the persons burned with chemical substances, and the fear of becoming blind and losing sight, were some of the most horrendous aspects of chemical warfare that were noticed by the people of the world.

People, particularly in Europe, were living in such a condition that they had to always carry their protective masks with them, and at any moment expect a cloud of poisonous gases to appear in the sky above their heads.

It is true that during the World War I, the casualty caused by chemical weapons was much less than that of conventional weapons, but the sufferings and torturous pains undergone by the victims of chemical weapons before their gradual death, made chemical weapons be considered as a prohibited weapon; the use of chemical weapons was finally banned by the Geneva protocol in 1925.

Since the adoption of this protocol, the world has indifferently witnessed the repeated violations of this protocol. No doubt, the most important of such violations are the Iraqi chemical attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the details of some of which have been already submitted to the UN Security Council through reports prepared by UN expert teams in 1984, 1985 and 1986.

Among chemical attacks carried out by Iraq,

the most tragic ones have been those aimed at residential areas in which women, children and the civilian population were injured. If an international organization ever decides to look into the violation of human rights, chemical attacks against the civilian population should be the first case to be studied.

How Chemical Attacks Started:

the Iraqi all-out invasion of the Iranian territory started on 22 September, 1980. In these attacks, large areas of Iran were occupied by the Iraqi troops. Following several operations carried out by Iranian Muslim combatants, major parts of the Iranian occupied territories were gradually liberated, causing intensive pressure on Iraqi troops. With a view to alleviating this military pressure, the Iraqi regime decided to deploy chemical weapons, hoping to be thus able to get the upperhand in the battlefield.

It was in late 1980, that Iraq carried out its first chemical attacks gradually expanded to include the civilian population in addition to military targets.

Here, mention is going to be made of some of the Iraqi chemical attacks carried out against purely civilian targets, even though Iraq has mainly used the banned chemical weapons against military targets.

Iraq has so far carried out more than 30 chemical attacks against civilian targets in Iran, the most important of which are as follows:

1-) 8 and 9 August, 1983: the village of Shiverash, and several villages in the vicinity of Piranshahr.



In these attacks, aerial bombardment with mustard gas was carried out. Here, about 100 people were injured apart from 10 of them who had developed more severe and systemic symptoms, the rest were only suffering from eye irritation and symptoms of minor poisoning fortunately no death was reported.

2-) 27 and 30 October 1983: The city of Baneh and villages around it.

In these attacks once again mustard gas was used, as a result of which about 50 civilians were injured, nine of whom unfortunately lost their lives.



3-) 11 April, 1987: Khorramshahr.

In this attack, carried out at 01: 00 hour, the water treatment plant of Khorramshahr was hit by missiles containing nerve gas. The report of the UN expert team, dated 8 May 1987, reads as follows.

«The first group was composed of five civilian workers at a water installation located north of the city of Khorramshahr who were exposed on 10/11 April 1987 to an attack by eight rockets launched from a helicopter, resulting in about 100 victims (including 20 workers from this installation); 15 of the victims died, including five workers.»





4-) 16 April 1987: Alout and Kandeh villages. In this attack, once again aerial bombardment with mustard gas was carried out. All injured individuals were civilians who were mostly treated in local hospitals. Only 4 persons who were seriously injured were transferred to Tehran for more specialized treatment. These four persons who were visited by the UN expert team included 2 women, one of them pregnant, four months gone with a baby, and two children



of 2 and 4 years of age.

One of the children, unfortunately, passed away only one hour after the visit of the UN team. The pregnant woman also died after 5 days because of severe leukocytopenia (due to destruction of bone marrow by mustard gas) and severe pulmonary insufficiency (as a result of burning of pulmonary alveoli and blockage of oxygen entry into the blood circulation).

5-) 4 April to 5 June 1987: villages in Arbil province, located within the Iraqi territory.

During the months of April and June Iraqi regime carried out numerous chemical attacks against civilian targets inside its own territory, especially in areas controlled by dissident Kurds.





In these attacks too, mustard gas was used (possibly in order to bring persistent and long lasting contamination thus forcing people to leave their villages).

In a part of a report recording these attacks, one reads: «... at least 10 persons were martyred. More than 400 women, children and old people, who could not leave the contaminated area, were injured ...»

(Quoted from the pamphlet published by the War Information Headquarters, dated May, 1987).



6-) 28 June 1987: Sardasht

One of the most hideous crimes of the human history was committed in Sardasht on this day.

In a medical report on these attacks made by Tabriz University, dated 17 July, one reads:

We doctors and relief workers have witnessed the occurrence of this incident. Some of us worked in Sardasht hospital when the attack was carried out, but the rest were transferred to Sardasht from Tabriz and Tehran in the wake of the attack in order to help the injured.





Thus happened the attack:

Sunday 28 June, 1987, 16:30 hours ...

Roaring of several Iraqi fighters flying over Sardasht broke the calm silence of this city ...

Because of the experience of previous attacks, people rushed to air raid shelters...

The low noises of several explosions ...

and then a cloud of poisonous mustard gas overcasted the city center and the bazaar area of Sardasht.

Contamination was so vast that even in a distance of one kilometer from the city, the pungent smell of mustard gas could be felt ...

Several hours later a group of civilians, with swollen eyes, suffering from asphyxia and dyspnea, itching and redness of skin (which was slowly replaced by blisters) rushed to the hospital of the city of Sardasht.

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ALTON SEDAGHAT



(the hand of one of Sardasht residents)



Polluted areas were decontaminated with decontaminating liquids and powders. The injured first washed their bodies and changed their clothes and then underwent medical treatment.

In the first hours following the attack, 30 persons, mostly children and old people lost their lives because of severe respiratory problems.



GHADER, AYNY, 40 yrs.,
Martyr



HASAN ABDULLAHZADEH, 80 yrs.

At least 4500 persons, out of a population of 12000, were injured in this city. Among the injured, 3000 persons were treated as out - patients; 1500 more patients, 650 of whom relatively seriously injured, were hospitalized.

The injured belonged to various age groups:
Old men and women of about 70 year of age;

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FATAMEH MOHAMMADIAN, 50 yrs.



RASOOL NARIMANY, 75 yrs., Martyr



KOLSOOM FATAHY, 20 yrs.

Young adults and middle - aged persons; and children of various age groups.

MARYAM FATAHY, 25 yrs.



JAMILEH ASADZADEH,
20 yrs., Martyr



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AMIR KHALILPOOR,
17 yrs., Martyr

ANVAR KHÁLILIPOOR, 18 yrs.



KAMAL GHADERPOOR,
18 yrs., Martyr

ABDAN AZIZY, 6 mths., Martyr



KARIM RASOOLIAN, 10 mths.





ISMAEL LAHAFY, 9 mths.

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SHAHIN
GHADER - MOLAPOOR,
7 yrs., Martyr

FARIBA RASOOLIAN, 7 yrs.



ABDULKARIM AZIZY, 3 yrs.



HERO YEGANEH, 1 yrs.



Some Iranian children were even exposed to poisonous gas before the birth, because there were four pregnant women among the wounded...

1- A woman, 7 months gone with a baby, lost her life after 5 days

2- A pregnant woman delivered her child a short time after the chemical attack. On the same day, the baby and 12 days later, the mother lost their lives because of systemic infection and septic shock, while they were kept in ICU.

3- A woman, 8 months gone with a baby; her overall condition is satisfactory.

4- A woman, 7 months gone with a baby, showing symptoms of serious poisoning with mustard gas. Her vast skin lesions are gradually healing.

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SADAGHAT, 36 yrs.



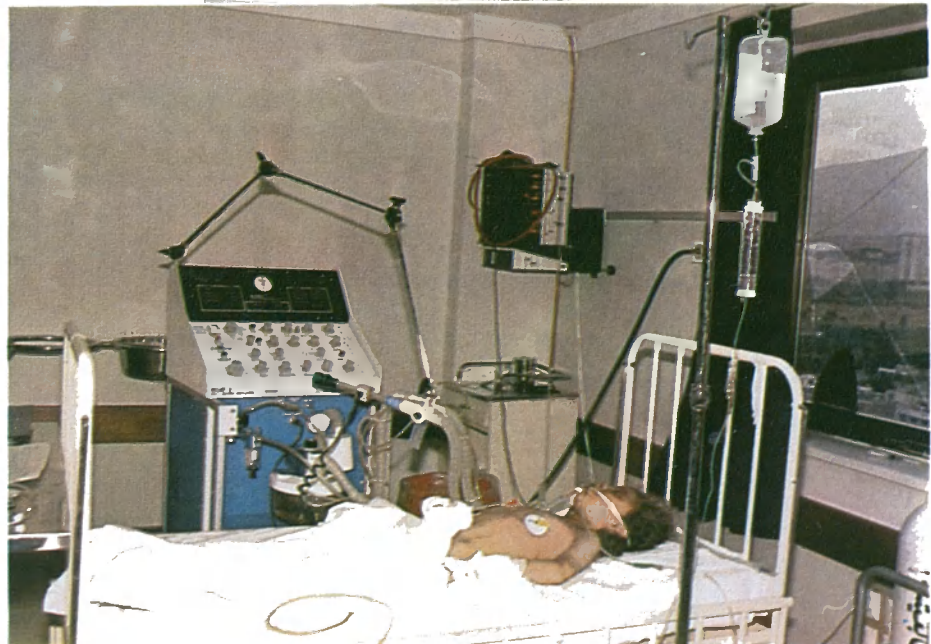
MARYAM BABAKZADEH,
40 yrs., Martyr

Now, several days after the attack, 90 persons, kept in ICU of various hospitals, have lost their lives. So the number of the martyrs so far reported is 130.

In most cases, the loss of life has been caused by severe damages to bone marrow, impairment of natural defensive system of the body, and burns in the respiratory airways and pulmonary alveoli.

Iranian officials have frequently requested UN expert teams to be sent to Sardasht to record one of the most serious cases of the breach of human rights. But so far, we do not know why, no one has been dispatched, even though we know the members of the expert team are fully prepared to be sent to Iran, because in their report of May 1987, addressing the UN Secretary - General, they have written:

BIGRUE JANGDOOST,
8 yrs., Martyr





“If in the future, a further mission is requested, then we will of course all be ready to respond”

The Iraqi regime, with all such crimes, has invalidated the Geneva protocol of 1925. We believe that freedom-loving people of the world should get together to prepare a new protocol duly protected by reliable sanctions.

In our world today, despite the apparent calmness enjoyed by some people, the whole world is threatened by chemical weapons. the lack of international pressure against Iraq for its use of chemical weapons against Iran will pave the way for other aggressors in other parts of the world.

... In such conditions that the number of countries possessing chemical weapons is constantly increasing,

... In such conditions that the US has in its budget for 1986 officially allocated, at least, \$ 164 m. to the development and production of new chemical weapons,

... In such conditions that the danger of stockpiling chemical substances for military purposes is to a large extent done away with, because binary technology can be used, and

... In such conditions that Iraqi authorities officially declare that, “We do not the least hesitate to use any sort of weapons, even chemical weapon”. (General Maher Abdul - Rashid, United Press, March 19, 1984)

...The world is left with two options to choose from: either, it should react to these events at an international level, or look for gas masks and experience anew the memories of the World War I (of course in a more sophisticated fashion).



Appendix:
Photographs and names of some other casualties
and martyres of the Sardasht calamity on 28th
June, 1987:



HADY YEGANEH, 10 yrs.



SALAH VAHEDY, 7 yrs., Martyr

IBRAHIM EDALAT, 40 yrs.



MAHMOOD AZIZY, 38 yrs.



HASAN AHMAD - PANJEH, 27 yrs., Martyr





KHAZAR AHMADY,
43 yrs., Martyr



MOHAMMAD AMINY,
34 yrs., Martyr

ABDULLAH MINAEY, 33 yrs., Martyr



RAHIM SADAGHAT, 5 yrs.



HASAN ATASHAK, 37 yrs., Martyr



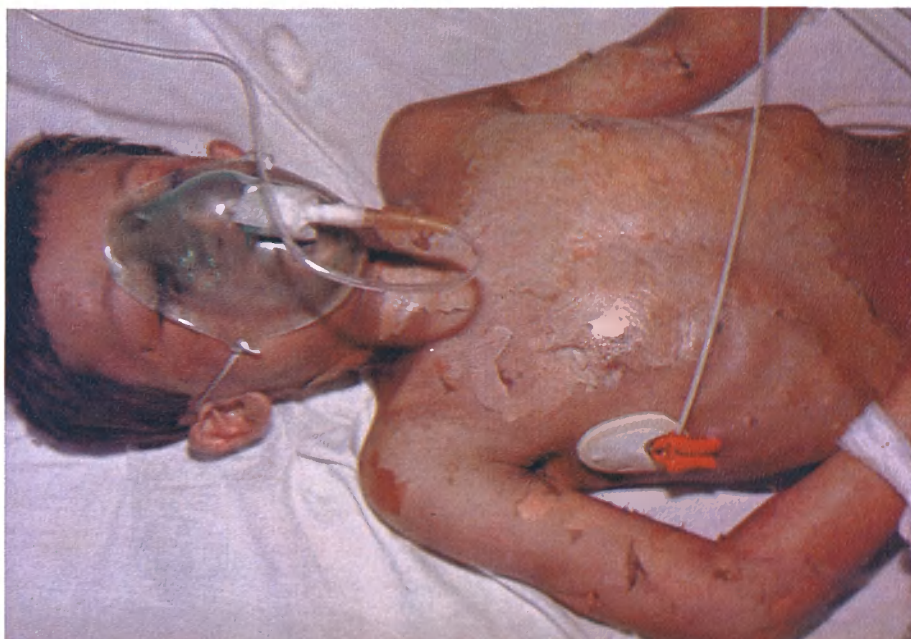
SAADAT ASADZADEH, 17 yrs., Martyr



ZAREYIAR HADAD, 9 yrs.
& SEERVAN HADAD, 7 yrs.



ABBAS JANGDOOST,
7 yrs., Martyr





KHADIJEH RASOOLINIA,
13 yrs. Martyr

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SALEH RASOOLPOOR,
50 yrs., Martyr

HASAN AHMADY, 25 yrs., Martyr



ABDULLAH MAEROOFI, 39 yrs., Martyr





RAHIM
MOHAMMAD - PANAHY,
42 yrs., Martyr

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VAREYA TOHIDY, 8 yrs.

IBRAHIM MOHAMMADIAN, 4 yrs.



LOGHMAN BARZEGAR, 11 yrs., Martyr



In section 6 of the charter of the Nurrenberg International Court, three kinds of offences which may be committed by governments or their subjects have been specified as follows:

- a. War crimes.
- b. Crimes against peace.
- c. Crimes against humanity.

The present pamphlet is a documented report of the most serious crime against humanity ever committed.

In the hope that in the not too distant future we shall witness the trial of its perpetrators in an international court.

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Chemical War Victims
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