



KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

16 MARCH
1988

29th

Anniversary

CHEMICAL
ATTACK

WE WILL
NEVER
FORGET
HALABJA

HALABJA



Crime against HUMANITY

HALABJA , MARCH 16th 1988

The attack took place during the closing days of the Iraq-Iran war, also known as Persian Gulf War.

On March 16th, 1988 in the town of Halabja, a small city of about 70 thousand people located in Iraqi Kurdistan, 240 km northeast of Baghdad and 15 km from the Iranian border, the Iraqi regime, led by the Dictator Saddam Hussein, made a horrendous massacre. For several hours, Iraq's air force bombed residential areas of the city with a lethal chemical compound, a mixture of mustard, hydrogen cyanide and nerve gas.

HALABJA

MASSACRE OF HALABJA

16 MARCH

5.000 civilians lie on the ground after the use of chemical weapons



In that attack at least 12.000 people were killed while, the survivors, had to struggle for many years against various diseases and physical disorders, such as colon and skin cancer, cardiac and respiratory problems and blindness.

Furthermore, in that area, there have been several cases of genetic malformation. Despite today this episode is recognized by all as a crime against humanity, at that time the International Community did not lift a finger against Iraq! Forgetting to apply the sanctions provided in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, the same used by the British government to receive from Security Council the authorization for intervene in Syria.

The US Departments of State the day after the attack, accused the Iran government for what happened, arguments that were brought forward also by the CIA for much of the nineties. The US intelligence agency

later radically changed its version and often cited the "Halabja case" to demonstrate the possession of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime and justify military intervention. Chemical weapons were used by Iraq a few months later, after that an agreement of ceasefire was signed with Iran.

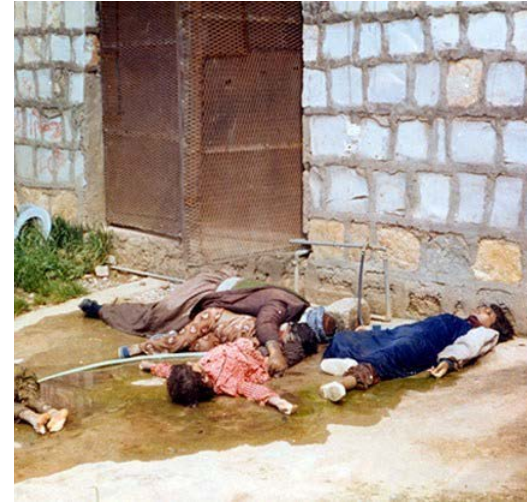
On August 25th, 1988, during the "Final Anfal Operation" the Iraqi regime attacked the Kurdish region of Bahdinan, making an extensive use of mustard and nerve gas. The attacks went on until September 9th when the regime was forced to stop its "final solution" for the strong international protests.

During those days numerous civilians were killed, however some of them managed to take refuge in the neighbor's territories, mostly in Turkey. Even in this situation, the UN did nothing to help the people, because "It was an internal matter of the Iraqi State".

THE CHEMICAL WAR *against* KURDS



The use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against the Kurdish region dates back to 1961



**THE REGIME
DESTROY
ABOUT
5.000
VILLAGES
AND
TWENTY
CITIES**



The use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against the Kurdish region dates back to 1961. After the fall of the Monarchy (July, 14th1958) and one year of democratic reform, The President of the Republic, General Abdul Karim Kassem, chose the dictatorship: he banned the Communist Party and opened hostilities against the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq.

The war conduct by the government saw air raid over crops with Napalm and bacteriological pollution, and the release on the ground, of thousands of mice bearers of the typhoid bacillus.

The war continued with the same methods until March 1975. Thereafter and until 1989, the regime destroy five thousand villages and twenty cities always through the use of napalm to burn the fields and forests.

CONTAMINATION

OVER TIME



Which
chemical weapons used
Saddam Hussein?

After the massacre of Halabja, they tried to investigate on the chemicals weapons used

Dr. Jean Briere, in a lecture at the University of Lyon, spoke about the use of mustard gas, acid hydrogen and neurotoxic gas, as Sarin and Soman.

Professor Aubin Heyndrickx, a Belgian world famous toxicologist, thought this was a mixture of mustard and neurotoxic gas, probably Tabun, used both in Halabja that in Badinan.

Dr. Kamal Keituly, a Kurdish chemist and researcher in Glasgow, recalls that while in the years 60-70 they used sulfuric gas, phosphorus and nitrite, stored in tubes that were dropped by helicopters, in Halabja they used nerve gas Sarin, Soman, Tabun and VX.

These types of substances cause an atrocious death: sometimes they lead to blindness and incurable injuries. After the attack on Halabja and Badinan, experts from various countries warned that the contamination effects would also affected subsequent generations.

According to the study by Dr. Christine Gosden, professor of medical genetics at University of Liverpool, published in the Washington Post, on March 21st 1998:

"skin anomalies were frequent and often evolved into cancer. We found that the rate of sterility, of congenital malformations and cancer, even in children, were three or four times larger with respect to a same city of the region not exposed to such substances; ten years later, they recorded even higher death rates from leukemia and lymphoma among children. Chemotherapy or radio therapy in the region do not exist (...) The neuro psychiatric consequences are evident, with several cases of chronic depression and consequent suicidal tendencies. "

HALABJA



THE WEAKNESS OF THE POWERFUL

HALABJA, EMOTIONS AND SILENCE

Despite all, the UN with great delay issued just a resolution that, confirmed the use of chemical weapons, but it was weak and generic and does not contain any sanctions against Iraq, despite the provisions of Chapter 7 of the Charter.

Unsuccessfully several international associations lobbied on the UN Commission for Human Rights in Geneva, in order to adopt a more decisive behavior.

They denounced that, in the absence of a clear condemnation and the spectrum of sanctions, Iraq would have continued its campaign to exterminate the Kurdish population. Subsequent events confirmed the worst predictions.

The inadequate reaction of the international community encouraged Saddam Hussein to continue the project of extermination.

The Baghdad regime counted first on secrecy: up to 1991 journalists, observers, and diplomats had no access to Kurdistan (if not illegally, across borders temporarily controlled by the Peshmerga, where they risked to be hanged by the Government, as happened to a British journalist in the spring of 1989).

When the Government of Teheran, which at that time controlled the Iraqi border, spread the first images of Halabja and allowed the access of foreign media in the "city of death", the public opinion and the international community mobilized itself.

HALABJA



IT'S TIME TO END THE SILENCE

APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The Halabja chemical attack has been officially declared as act of genocide against the Kurdish people.

Seven years ago, on March 1st, 2010, the Iraqi High Criminal Court recognized the massacre of Halabja as act of genocide, a decision welcomed by the Kurdistan Regional Government.

Subsequently, there were the recognition of the Government of Norway on November 21st 2012, the Swedish Parliament on December, 5th 2012, the British Parliament on February, 28th 2013, the South Korean Parliament on June, 27th 2013 and finally, since November 19th 2013, the Congress of the United States is pursuing a resolution for the recognition of the genocide.

The President of the Kurdistan Region, President Massoud Barzani still claims for the support of all governments around the world and all "Kurdish friends", in order to recognize the genocide of this people at international level and to guarantee justice to the families of the victims.

The recognition of what happened is fundamental in order to preserve the memory of the past and prevent a recurrence of such violations in the future.

HALABJA

KRG ITALY

KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION IN ITALY



italy@gov.krd
via G.Carissimi 37 Rome
www.italy.gov.krd

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