

Racial and Fascist Aspects of the Anfal Campaign

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Background: The Crimes of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity in the International Declarations

- **Article 2 of the convention held in 1948:**
 - **Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such:**
 1. **Killing members of the group**
 2. **Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group**
 3. **Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part**
 4. **Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group**
 5. **Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group**

Background: The Crimes of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity in the International Declarations (cont.)

- **1968 Convention:**
 - **Article 1: Conviction towards these crimes will not stop however much time lapses.**
 - A) **War crimes defined at the Nuremburg International Military Court charter issued on 8 August – 1945 which was referred to in the two decrees of the United Nations No. 3(D – 1) dated 13 February 1946 and No. 95(D – 1) dated 11 December 1946, especially the serious crimes which were documented in the Geneva Convention on 12 August 1949 to protect the victims of war.**
 - B) **Crimes against humanity, if they are committed at times of war or peace, which are defined at the charters above.**

Background: The Crimes of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity in the International Declarations (cont.)

- **The Arab Human Rights Board**
 - **Same definition is used for genocide**
 - **It also added: Such crimes cannot be committed by one person, which means that the genocide is a crime committed by a group who controls an Armed Authority, meaning the Government.**

Key Questions:

- **Does the massacre of Anfal and using chemical weapons in Kurdistan in 1988 fulfil the definition of genocide?**
- **Does Arabisation, expulsion and displacement of the Kurds fit within Article 1 and Article 2 of the two mentioned conventions?**

The Position of Arabisation Under International Law Charters

- **The former Iraqi regime used the following procedures:**
 1. **Massive ethnic cleansing against the Kurdish population in the Kirkuk province, to change the demography of the city and the province**
 2. **Changing the name of the province from its historic name to Al – Ta’amin, and transferring some of its towns and districts to an Arab province called Salah – Aldeen**
 3. **The regime implemented a vast operation of Arabisation against the Kurdish and Turkmen residents; as the condition to stay in Kirkuk was to change their ethnicity to Arabic, anybody who refused was expelled and all their belongings were confiscated**

What happened in the Anfal Operations?

- **Using Chemical Weapons:**
 - **Documented information indicates that Iraq bought and produced (with the help of the Eastern and Western countries), vast amounts of weapons of mass destruction.**
 - **These weapons were used by the Iraqi Forces against the Kurdish population in 280 villages, resulting in the killing of 25,000 Kurdish civilians of both genders and all age groups, and similar number of wounded people.**
 - **Halabja will stay as a symbol and witness of the biggest crimes against humanity by the regime. 5,000 Kurdish people were killed as a result. In addition, the chemical materials affected the environment: water, plants and animals.**

What happened in the Anfal Operations? (cont.)

- **The regime destroyed 3839 Kurdish villages, including cultivated lands and animals. The regime bombarded Kurdistan by air and all types of internationally banned weapons, including Napalm and clustered bombs.**

What happened in the Anfal Operations? (cont.)

- **The leader of these criminal attacks, Ali Hasan Al-Majeed stated on 26 May 1988 in the Ba'ath Party Northern Branch conference:**

... I will wipe out all of them; let us see who will object? The International Community? Damn the International community and those who care about them...

... We are going to attack them by chemical weapons not only for one day but for 15 days, and then I will announce that anyone can surrender with his weapon. Then I will print one million of these announcements in Arabic and distribute them in the North. I will not mention chemical weapons because they are banned, but I will say I will wipe you out with the new killer weapon...

What happened in the Anfal Operations? (cont.)

- **The regime surrounded the villages and collected the Kurdish civilians to an unknown fate (death), then burned the villages by dynamite or destroyed them by bulldozers.**
- **There is evidence that the security forces were responsible for raping Kurdish women and young men.**
- **The Military Intelligence Service and Security forces forced a lot of women in Kurdistan to become involved in prostitution by threats to kill them.**

What happened in the Anfal Operations? (cont.)

- **The regime destroyed the Kurdistan infrastructure so no villagers could ever go back to their homes.**
- **182,000 Kurdish civilians were killed, including children and 100,000 people fled to the Iranian Kurdistan.**

What happened in the Anfal Operations? (cont.)

- **The Kurdish people faced there atrocities alone; nobody raised a voice locally, in the Arab world or internationally.**
- **The total silence of the international community regarding these atrocities was inexcusable, in any aspect of politics, morality, humanity and religion.**

What should we do for the victims?

- **All Arabs, Iraqis or non – Iraqis, should feel sorrow for the following reasons:**
 1. **What happened to Kurdistan happened in the name of all Arabs, defending Arab unity and nations, even though the majority of Arabs did not participate in it.**
 2. **The silence of the majority of the Arabs regarding those atrocities.**
 3. **We did not do anything to expose those criminal acts and disclose the names of those who executed these operations.**

What should we do for the victims? (cont.)

- 1. The best preparation for the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Anfal.**

- 2. Demanding the International Community through the United Nations to achieve the following:**
 - Anybody who helped the regime to obtain banned weapons to be trialled in court.**
 - Compensate the Kurdistan region generously to rebuild what was destroyed as a result of using those weapons.**
 - Compensate the victim's families and those who are permanently disabled or handicapped as a result of using those weapons.**

What should we do for the victims? (cont.)

- 3. The Central Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to establish a special account to be funded by both to rebuild Halabja to a standard modern town in Kurdistan**
- 4. Taking care of all villages of Kurdistan which were subjected to chemical weapons during the Anfal campaign, with best services.**
- 5. Developing the affected areas agriculturally and industrially and finding jobs for the unemployed.**
- 6. Providing victims' families with good pension and suitable accommodation.**

What should we do for the victims? (cont.)

- 7. Building a new museum.**
- 8. Arranging tours to the town of Halabja and other areas so the former regime is ashamed internationally.**
- 9. Building a monument containing the names of all martyrs and missing people of the Anfal campaign, be they Kurds and non – Kurds.**
- 10. Choosing another town in the world which has suffered similarly to be twinned with Halabja.**

***We have a debt of honour on us towards
the victims of Anfal and Halabja and we
should all devote to it in the best way.***