

## **Statement Prepared by ICAN Kurdistan Network - IKN**

### **27th Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention 28 November - 3 December 2022**

In order to eliminate the Kurdish presence in the Erbil governorate, 38 raids and artillery shelling were targeted on more than 65 villages.

The defunct regime of the Baath, which was dominated by chauvinistic ideology, wanted to eliminate the Kurdish people in many ways, with different paths, and its last step was to use chemical weapons to eliminate the largest number of them. From this standpoint, the regime fought against the liberated areas and areas out of his control using internationally banned chemical weapons and struck them with the greatest violence. The regime dealt with the liberated areas with chemical weapons after 1987 until the end of August 1988, ignoring humanitarian issues, especially defenceless citizens (women, children, and the elderly). Even animals, birds, plants, farms, orchards, and trees were not safe from his deeds and plans.

According to reports from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, the regime obtained chemical weapons in October 1983 but did not use them against the Kurdistan people for unknown reasons. The regime used all kinds of chemical weapons against the Kurdish people in its last plans. It has been noted that most of the raids and assaults started at night, having the largest number of victims.

They started to use chemical weapons against the liberated areas that were controlled by the Peshmerga forces or areas in which the Iraqi army withdrew voluntarily. However, during the chemical attacks, they did not differentiate between armed men and defenseless citizens, including women, children, and the elderly.

Erbil City is covered by chemical bombardment, which includes more than 65 villages in 83 air raids and long-range artillery shelling with chemical weapons. In that operation, more than 335 were killed and 500 were injured by nerve poisonous gases, causing the body to burn both internally and externally. Some of the villages were attacked several times, including Balisan and Doli Samakoli, Rawandz, Barzan, and Mazuri Bala, on the 16th of April 1987, through 20 raids with 12 planes on the village of Balisans. Again, 186 people were martyred, most of them women, children, and the elderly. During their transportation, 265 injured were kidnapped by the tyrants of the regime. Only 66 bodies were found after the spring uprising in 1991 inside the headquarters of the Military Corps near Erbil. These bombing operations were carried out during the Bad Anfal operations (April 16, 1987–end of August 1988).

During the regime trial, despite the presence of witnesses and all evidence for the use of these prohibited weapons, Saddam Hussein was not executed for a heinous crime, but for the Duchail crime. The Iraqi government did not make any official apology and although it was provided in Article 132 of the Iraqi constitution (2005) to compensate all the victims that occurred at the hands of the former regime, it did not compensate the families of the victims.