

Federation of the Kurdish Organisations against Ethnic Cleansing

Dompvloetlaan 25 , 1851 NM Heiloo – Netherlands . Tel&fax 003172533788

The Honourable Frank Jensen
The Minister of Justice
Slotsholmsgade 10
1216 Copenhagen K,
Denmark

1rst November 2001

An urgent appeal for the prosecution of General Nizar Al-Khazraji in Denmark

Your Excellency,

A while ago General Nizar Al-Khazraji was put under police surveillance in Denmark on suspicion of committing war crimes in South Kurdistan (Northern Iraq).

General Al- Khazraji was the Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Army from 1987 to 1991. In 1988, the Iraqi regime began a series of military operations, known as the Anfal, against the Kurdish people in Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq). More than 182,000 Kurds disappeared during these operations and their fate is still unknown. The Anfal lasted from 23 February to 6 September of that year and involved the use of chemical weapons. As a consequence, the town of Halabja was completely destroyed and a further 5000 Kurds lost Their lives. Another consequence of the use of chemical weapons was that the natural enviroment was devastated and remains so to this day.

General Al-Khazraji, as Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Army, was among those responsible for these operations. According to International Law, General Al-Khazraji, as one of the leading figures of the Iraqi regime, must be considered as bearing responsibility for crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity committed against the Kurds.

We, the undersigned, urge the Danish Government to prevent General Al-Khazraji from leaving Denmark. We ask also that further investigations be conducted into his role in the above crimes against humanity and for him to be brought to justice before an International Court.

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