



**JUSTICE FOR IRAQI KURDS**

It's time to recognise the truth

## **Justice 4 Genocide campaign marks anniversary of the final stage of Anfal - Saddam Hussein's genocidal campaign**

**29 August 2012:** This week 24 years ago, Saddam Hussein implemented the final stage of his genocidal campaign against the Iraqi Kurds, in the Badinan district of the Kurdistan Region in Iraq. The final stage which lasted for two weeks, from 25 August 1988 to 6 September 1988, aimed to systemically wipe out the Kurdish population in the region. During the Badinan campaign, nearly 13,395 people, including 6,964 children who were taken into captivity, where they were later killed.

During the final stages of the genocide Saddam Hussein's cousin, Ali Hassan al-Majid, famously known as Chemical Ali, planned and carried out a number of chemical weapon attacks against Kurdish villages, using what was thought to be nerve and mustard gas. Those who survived these attacks recalled the effects of the gas, which initially smelt sweet, but soon caused vomiting, blackening of the skin and suffocation. Many continue to suffer the effects of the chemicals physically and psychologically today.

The British Government does not recognise this targeted act of mass murder as genocide. Today, Justice 4 Genocide calls on the public to sign its petition and urge the British Government to recognise the genocide. Recognition is the first step in achieving justice for the survivors and victims of the genocide.

Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, Kurdistan Regional Government High Representative to the UK, said, "We are fighting for recognition of the horror endured by the Kurdish people, who deserve justice for what happened to them. Kurdish families are still suffering the effects of the chemical attacks. Many need specialised medical treatment, and babies in the area are still born with deformities as a result."

Ms Rahman added, "By signing this petition, British citizens will be giving their support to the Kurdish men, women and children who were killed in Saddam Hussein's genocide. Please sign the petition today and help us achieve justice for the Iraqi Kurds."

The Anfal was an eight-staged genocidal campaign carried out from February to September 1988. It is estimated that up to 200,000 Kurdish people were killed, most buried in mass graves across Iraq and many of which have not yet been found and uncovered.

Males between the ages of 15 and 70 were regularly rounded up and executed, or 'disappeared' never to be seen again by their families. It is estimated that 632 Kurdish men were killed in Badinan area, with the villages of Ikmala, Gizeh, and Warakhal losing nearly their entire male population.

Survivor Kamaran Haider, who now lives in Portsmouth, was 11 years old when chemical weapons were dropped on the Kurdish town of Halabja in a similar attack to those in the Badinan region. Kamaran's four brothers, his sister and both his parents were all killed. He said, "I lost my whole family. They were screaming and crying, but gradually they went silent. In time I didn't hear them anymore. I saw my family in front of the bomb shelter, they died together. My skin was burning and I couldn't see or move. After three days in a bomb shelter surrounded by dead bodies, I was rescued. Please sign this petition to help gain justice for my family and for the thousands of people who died during the genocide."

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors:**

For further information, to organize an interview or photos, please contact Stephanie Blott, Amy Bourke or Helen Ayres at [KRG@luther.co.uk](mailto:KRG@luther.co.uk) or call 0207 618 9193 to arrange it.

Please sign the petition here: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/31014>

For more information please visit the website: [www.justice4genocide.com](http://www.justice4genocide.com)

**Some key facts about the genocide**

- The genocide of Kurdish people in Iraq began in the 1960s and continued until the late 1980s.
- In 2006, the Iraq Government estimated there being 270 mass graves in Iraq containing between 10 and 10,000 bodies in each grave. However, the International Commission on Missing persons have recently estimated that there are significantly more mass graves in the country.
- The Kurdistan Regional Government estimates that over 180,000 Kurdish people were killed between February and September 1988 alone during Saddam Hussein's genocidal campaign called Anfal. The true scale of the killing from the 1960s to 1990 is not yet known.
- In the 1980s, the Kurdish population was also attacked with chemical weapons. Hundreds of small scale chemical attacks took place against the Kurds. During the most vicious assault, Saddam Hussein dropped bombs containing chemical weapons on the

Kurdish city of Halabja gassing as many as 5,000 men, women and children to death indiscriminately and leaving tens of thousands of people injured. They died slowly, in unimaginable pain from chemical burns. Of those who survived, many still live with painful injuries and many children are born with birth defects. Halabja is famous for being the largest ever chemical attack on a civilian population in history.

- In 1983, 8,000 men and boys of 'battle age' from the Kurdish Barzani tribe were rounded up on trucks and vanished. The bodies are now being discovered in mass graves. From then on, men and boys as young as 13 were targeted, driven far away from their homes in trucks and executed en masse. Many victims were tied together, made to stand on the lip of pre-dug graves and shot in the back so they would fall forward into them. Others were made to lie down in pairs, sardine-style, next to mounds of fresh corpses before being killed. Some, who did not die from gun shots were then buried alive.
- In 1993, US-based Human Rights Watch launched an extensive investigation into the 1988 attacks on the Kurds by Saddam Hussein's regime and concluded that it was genocide (Human Rights Watch, *The Anfal Campaign Against the Kurds*, 1993.)
- In 2005, the court in the Hague established that the chemical bombing in Kurdistan constituted genocide in a landmark case in 2005 - the Frans Van Anraat Trial.
- The Iraqi High Tribunal found Sultan Hashim Ahmad, Hussein Rashid al-Tikriti, and Ali Hassan al-Majid (known as Chemical Ali) guilty of genocide in 2007.
- Also in 2008 the Iraqi Presidential Council approved Resolution 26 ratifying a parliamentary resolution condemning the crimes of Saddam Hussein's regime against the Kurds as acts of genocide. This resolution affirmed the previous parliamentary resolution that declared all acts committed against the Kurds in Iraq-Kurdistan by the former regime were to be considered genocide.
- In March 2010, the Iraqi Supreme Court ruled that the 1988 attacks on the Kurdish population were indeed genocide.
- In August 2011, The Iraqi Court of Justice, Iraqi Council of Representative, and the Iraq's Parliament officially recognised the Faylee killings as genocide.