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IRNA REPORTS IRAQI REGIME USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS TO STOP VAL-FAJR IV

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(TEXT) TEHRAN, OCT 22, IRNA -- THE IRAQI REGIME HAS USED CHEMICAL WEAPONS AGAINST THE ISLAMIC FORCES IN ORDER TO STOP THEIR ADVANCE IN THE VAL-FAJR-4 OPERATIONAL REGION.

IRNA REPORTERS IN THE BATTLE FRONTS SAID THAT THE IRAQI FORCES FIRED AT LEAST 20 CHEMICAL ARTILLERY SHELLS ON THE POSITIONS OF THE ISLAMIC FORCES FRIDAY IN THE SARBISH AND HANI BARANEH REGIONS NORTH OF THE IRAQI TOWN OF PANJVIN.

A MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE REGION CONFIRMED THAT THE IRAQIS HAD DEPLOYED TOXIC WEAPONS IN THE VAL-FAJR-4 OPERATIONAL REGION BUT SAID THAT THEY WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE ADVANCE OF THE IRANIAN MUSLIM COMBATANTS.

A TEAM OF MILITARY EXPERTS ARE CARRYING OUT TESTS IN AREAS WHERE THE SHELLS HAVE LANDED.

THE IRAQI FORCES HAVE DEPLOYED CHEMICAL WEAPONS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST. IN ONE INSTANCE ON AUGUST 9, MORE THAN 50 IRANIAN COMBATANTS SUFFERED SEVERE INJURIES AS A RESULT OF CHEMICAL BOMBS DROPPED BY IRAQI PLANES SIX KILOMETRES WEST OF THE PIRANSHAHR-SAVANDUZ ROAD, IN THE NORTHWESTERN BORDER REGION.

THE VICTIMS OF THE BOMBING WERE LATER VISITED BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AT TEHRAN'S LUQMAN ALADOWLEH HOSPITAL. THEY COMPLAINED OF PAINFUL BURNS ON VARIOUS PARTS OF THEIR BODY AND SEVERE IRRITATION IN THEIR EYES.

ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE USE OF POISONOUS AND LETHAL GASES, BACTERIA AND CHEMICALS ARE PROHIBITED IN WARFARE.

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