

## **Graphic Images of Deaths Shown at Hussein Trial**

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By Marc Santora

BAGHDAD — Horrific images of villagers being slaughtered in what prosecutors said was a chemical attack directed at ethnic Kurds were shown here today in the trial of Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Hussein, who has already been convicted and sentenced to death by hanging in a separate trial over his role in the killing of 148 Shiites, is facing charges of genocide, as he is accused of directing the killing of some 180,000 Kurds in the 1980s.

The footage shown by prosecutors in court was some of the most graphic evidence presented against Mr. Hussein to date. Shot in April 1987 and May 1988, one clip shows attack helicopters flying low over the mountains as villagers scatter, some in trucks, others on foot. Women stand gathered near tents crying as white smoke gathers.

The aftermath of the chemical attacks was seen in other footage, including that of corpses frozen in death, including the lifeless body of a dead baby, mouth still open.

“Where are the terrorists they wanted to kill?” a prosecutor, Munqith al-Faroon, said to the court.

The prosecution sought to bolster the emotional video footage by presenting what it said were internal government memos. The memos, similar to what the prosecution presented Monday, show that the attacks were directed by top government officials, prosecutors contend.

The defense maintains that rather than trying to systematically purge the area of Kurds, Mr. Hussein’s government was conducting a legitimate military operation against separatists who threatened it while Iraq was at war with neighboring Iran.

Mr. Hussein, who appeared in court with his six co-defendants, was largely quiet during the session, which took place inside the heavily fortified Green Zone.

Meanwhile, the violence continued in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq today. Fifty-one bodies, many seemingly murdered execution style, were collected off the streets of Baghdad. Among them was a prominent Iraqi actor, according to an Iraqi official.

In Iraq’s second largest city, Basra, there was growing tension on the streets after the murder of a prominent sheik, Muhsen al- Kanan. He was killed five days ago by men wearing police uniforms. Today, as on Monday, gunfire could be heard erupting across the city throughout the night.

In the northern city of Baquba, 12 bodies, including two women, were found dead.

And a United States marine died from wounds he received while fighting in Anbar province, the heart of the Sunni Arab insurgency, the American military said.

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