

## What is Operation Al-Anfal?

Operation "Anfal" began in the Kurdish cities in the Kurdistan region of Iraq with a direct decision from the Revolutionary Command Council, which was the highest decision-making authority in Iraq under Saddam Hussein's regime.

According to this decision, the Anfal operations began and were genocidal operations by transferring large numbers of residents, such as prisoners to urban areas in the province of Mosul and Naqrat al-Salman in Al-Samawah, and burying them alive with their family members in mass graves, which led to the killing of 182 thousand Kurdish citizens and the destruction of Four thousand villages, four districts, and 30 districts.

On January 11, 2007, during the trial of the main defendant in the Anfal case, Ali Hassan Al-Majid, and admitted before the court that he had issued a decision to deport the people of the Kurdish villages located on the border with Iran, Turkey and other villages, He added that he ordered the forces to execute anyone who ignored the government's orders to leave the villages during a military operation against the Kurds in 1988 and gave instructions to consider these villages as forbidden areas and issued orders to the soldiers to arrest everyone they find there.

### **They are waiting for their relatives despite the 30th anniversary of their absence**

Although 30 years have passed since the "Anfal" massacre, many citizens in the cities of the Kurdistan region that were subjected to the "Anfal" campaign are waiting for their relatives and have not severed the thread of hope that they will survive, while families who are certain of the death of their relatives in the process seek to search for Their bodies are in the desert and the southern governorates to return their remains to the Kurdistan region. Every so often, new mass graves are found, renewing the suffering of thousands of the families of the victims.

## Anfal victims complain about the 19th anniversary: Nobody cares about us

**They marked the occasion, asking officials not to attend**

Chamchamal (Sulaymaniyah Province): "Asharq Al-Awsat" The families of the Anfal victims yesterday commemorated the 19 anniversary of the Anfal campaign, which the former Iraqi regime launched against the Kurds, in the late 1980s, in which more than 182,000 Kurdish citizens were killed

The commemoration ceremony took place in various regions of Kurdistan. In the city of Shorsh in Chamchamal district (60 km south of Sulaymaniyah), the participants requested that no officials in the Kurdistan Regional Government be present. Al-Sharq al-Awsat spoke to some of the victims' relatives, including the imprisonment of Muhammad Ghafour, 65, who said, "They took my husband and my brothers in the 1988 Anfal operation." "Why don't the Kurdish and Iraqi government compensate us ... We are victims of Saddam's regime and the government of Iraq and the Kurds alike," she added, crying



## Anfal» .. Pictures of the tragedy»

**As the anniversary of the genocide campaigns that claimed 182,000 lives in 7 months approaches, how do the families of the victims coexist**



Iraqi Kurdistan: Jamal Pengweni

These are vivid stories documented by the pictures of the suffering of a group of Kurds who have survived the mass extermination campaigns known as the "Anfal" operations. They are narrated by those victims who, fate wanted them to survive one of the biggest crimes of genocide that affected the

Kurds, during which they lost a large number of their children. And their dear ones in a brutal campaign that targeted large areas of Iraqi Kurdistan, starting from the spring of 1988 until the end of 1989. They are stories of grieving fathers and bereaved mothers who wished themselves to take care of their children when they were old, and today they look to the far horizon, hoping that news of their lost children will come to them. They were absent for a long time

Those barbaric campaigns launched by Saddam Hussein against the civilian population in Kurdistan were part of a scheme by which Saddam wanted to eliminate the Kurdish presence in Iraq, where in a period not exceeding seven months he drove more than 182,000 men, women, elderly and children to the