

Iraqi court mulls fate of 'Chemical Ali'

by UPI

BAGHDAD - The Iraqi court trying Saddam Hussein's cousin, known as "Chemical Ali," is to decide this month if he is guilty of war crimes against the Kurds.

Ali Hassan al-Majid -- the former Iraqi leader's relative -- and five other former regime officials are on trial for their roles in a 1980s military campaign against the Kurds. The Iraqi High Tribunal is to announce its verdict June 24, said prosecutor Jaafar al-Moussawi.

Al-Majid, the former head of the Baath party's northern command, has denied he was responsible for the use of chemical weapons in the military campaign that earned him the nickname "Chemical Ali."

Nearly 180,000 Kurds, mostly civilians, were killed during the operation, reported KUNA, the Kuwait news agency.

Hussein, a defendant in the case, was hanged last year after being convicted of killing 148 Shiite Muslims following a 1982 attempt on his life.

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