

## TEHRAN TIMES

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### Prosecutor demands death penalty for Saddam

BAGHDAD (AFP) - The chief prosecutor in the trial of **saddam hussein** on Monday demanded the death penalty for the ousted Iraqi president and two other defendants.

"We demand the maximum punishment for Saddam, (his half-brother) Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti and (former vice president) Taha Yassin Ramadan," Jaafar al-Mussawi said in court as he rested the prosecution case.

The ousted president, looking calm and composed, smiled from the dock as the prosecutor called for him to be sent to the gallows.

Saddam and seven other defendants are on trial for the killing of 148 Shiite civilians from the town of Dujail where the then president escaped an assassination attempt in 1982.

The prosecutor however asked that charges be dropped against defendant Mohammed Azzam Azzawi, a former official of Saddam's ruling Baath party with responsibility for the Dujail area, and that he be released because of his inculpability and poor health.

Mussawi also asked the court to show leniency to three other local Baath party officials -- Ali Daeh Ali, Abdullah Khadem Ruweid and his son Mezhar Abdullah Ruweid.

The prosecutor said he would leave it to the court to decide on the appropriate punishment for Awad Ahmed al-Bander, the former chief judge of the revolutionary court and deputy head of Saddam's office.

Presenting his final remarks, Mussawi said "the charges against the defendants are of murder, extreme deprivation of people, torture and forcibly hiding people.

"These are crimes against humanity because it has happened under a wide assault and was organized by authorities against a group of citizens."

In his final arguments Mussawi said Saddam admitted being responsible for the Dujail inquiry.

"Saddam's signature is on the document approving the death sentence on 148 people and he admitted ordering the destruction of orchards in Dujail after the assassination attempt," Mussawi said.

Saddam was overall head of the security services who carried out the crackdown in Dujail, Mussawi said, adding that he had "asked Taha Yassin Ramadan in a phone call to coordinate the crackdown and in a meeting between Saddam and tribal chiefs, he justified the Dujail crackdown."

Justifying his demand for the death penalty against Barzan al-Tikriti, Mussawi said that Barzan told the tribunal that Saddam sent him to Dujail for the inquiry.

"In notes between the intelligence services and the presidency, Barzan asked for rewards for the agents who participated in the Dujail crackdown," he said.

He said Ramadan was also at a meeting called by Saddam to coordinate the Dujail crackdown, adding "witnesses said the popular army (paramilitaries then controlled by Ramadan) were implicated in the crackdown".