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ARMENIAN AND RUSSIAN OPPRESSIONS

(1914-1916)

(TESTIMONIES OF WITNESSES)

Prepared by Dr. ERDAL İLTER

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PRESENTATION

Armenian propaganda tries to conceal the facts through certificates which are the products of imagination like "Andonian Certificates". It forms clouds of questions in the minds with the claim that Armenians were subjected to massacres. All of these efforts in fact serve to make "The question of the massacres of the Turkish people" committed by Armenian gangs to be forgotten. Today the mass graves of Moslems slaughtered by Armenian gangs in Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia, are laid out in front of the eyes of public opinion of the world¹. Many other unknown ones are waiting to be revealed to daylight and to be exhibited in genocide museums. Objective scientists are searching and revealing the facts that are wanted to be concealed and presenting them to the attention of the public opinion in their studies. Although the days of disaster are wanted to be made forgotten, these do not go out of minds. Objective studies carried out on Armenians, show the mistake of the efforts to invoice the Emigration Event in 1915 to Turkish Nation². The real

¹ For example, see Enver Konukçu, Ermenilerin Yeşilyayla'daki Türk Soykırımı (11-12 Mart 1918), Ankara 1990; "Kars-Subatan Şehitliği Kazısı," Yakın Tarihimizde Kars ve Doğu Anadolu Sempozyumu (Kars-Subatan 17-21 Haziran 1991), Ankara 1992, pp. 361-457; "Zeve Şehitliği Kazısı," Yakın Tarihimizde Van Uluslararası Sempozyumu (Van 2-5 Nisan 1990), Ankara 1990, pp. 309-406.

² Stanford J. Shaw and Ezel Kural Show, History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey, Volume II, London 1978, pp. 314-317; Alois van Tongerloo, "Armeense Drang Naar Autonomie," Inforient-Dossier (15_October, 1981), pp.25-27; Justin McCarthy. "Armenian Terrorism: History as Poison and Antidode," Inter-

guilty are the imperialist states who provoked and deceived Armenian community. It is a reality that in our era, the wars are carried out not at the front, but at the behind of the front lines. The front that the Russians opened in the Eastern Anatolia was also such a front. The Emigration Law was prepared for the purpose of preventing the further abrasion of the lines of the Turkish Army behind the front, and to take away the defeatist elements located in that area out of the operations field and in the critical areas in the country, the people living in Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia and who disobeyed the State were removed from those areas. There where Turks also among the people who were removed. With this law, the aim was to cause them to settle in more secure areas, and not to be massacred, as Armenians claim. However, in the direction of interests, by charging the event on the Turkish Nation, it is tried to be screened and to be concealed. In fact, following the First World War, when Entente Powers occupied Istanbul, they could not prove the "Armenian Massacre" claim and the American archives to which they had clung with a last hope, did not give anything to them, and thus, "Armenian Massacre" claim had collapsed even at those days (1920) from the legal point of view³. In our era also, the young Ar-

national Terrorism and Drug Connection, Ankara 1984, pp. 85-94; Azmi Süslü, Ermeniler ve 1915 Tehcir Olayı, Ankara 1990; menian generation is wanted to be grown up with hate, and to follow blood feud. In the freedom environment of the West, these negative efforts can give much quick results. The task that we have to carry out is to weigh the facts on the scales of reality and to find out the real truth.

Beginning from the declaration of Constitutional Period, the result to be derived from the events happened, within its historical course is that, Armenian Committees who run after the dream of Armenia and who were directed towards the interests of the Entente States, by putting obstacles that are difficult to overcome, in front of both Turkey and Armenian people who want to live in peace, have always dragged the country and the people who followed them into disaster.

In our era also, same Armenian organizations and institutions who dream to bring The Armenian Diaspora into Anatolian territory by establishing Great Armenian State and take action for this purpose, try to deviate the historical realities and to destroy the friendly relations that are tried to be developed between Turkey and Armenia that gained her independence on September 23, 1991 by the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The observance of the existence of Turkey is a source of confidence for Armenia, in other words, for Armenians, the only window that is

Osmanlı Belgelerinde Ermeniler (1915-1920). Ankara 1994.

³ Bilâl N. Şimşir, Malta Sürgünleri, İstanbul 1976, pp. 259-284. American High Commissioner in Turkey Admiral Bristol, in his report that he sent to U.S.A. Secretary of State in 1920 related to Armenians, indicated that the recent stories seen in European media about Armenian assassination, were directed for the purpose

of misleading and they were the propaganda made to ensure the support of egoist plans of Allied Powers. See Laurence Evans. United States Policy and the Partition of Turkey (1914-1924). Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press. 1965; Turkish Translation, Tevfik Alanay. Türkiye'nin Paylaşılması (1914-1924), İstanbul 1972, p. 262.

opened to the West is Turkey is recognized by the politicians and statesmen of Armenia and this is an important development for Armenia that is prepared for the 21st Century.

On the other hand, it is obvious that, a peace environment to be constituted in Caucasia, along with Turkey-Armenia friendly relations, will create a stability medium for the other states in the area. For this reason, the problem of Nagorno Karabagh between Armenia and Azerbaijan, has great importance to be solved fairly between the parties. In this point, there is a historical task for the Armenian Republic. Following the solution of this problem, the participation of Armenia in Western Alliance and, as it was expressed by The Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yılmaz on March 21, 1996, the opening of borders between the two countries, is seen as a point which can be evaluated from Turkish point of view.

According to us, it is a reality that it will be advantageous for the interests of Turkish and Armenian communities, if the Armenian Republic follows policies, parallel to the friendly hand extended by learning lessons from history, within the framework of international policies.

This book that we have prepared with the title "Armenian and Russian Oppressions (1914-1916) (Testimonies of Witnesses)", in order to open the screen of suspect on the "Moslem Victims Issue" that is tried to be concealed by the Armenians and to let the people know the realities behind Armenian claims, is the translation of the works which consist of the records of the testimonies of witnesses about the oppressions that

were committed by Armenians against Turkish people, and which was printed in Istanbul in 1917 among "National Congress" publications by the Ottoman State, with the title "Documents sur les Atrocidés Arméno-Russes". The testimonies of the witnesses contained in the book, have been taken under oath by authorized people and commissions that examined the oppressions at sites and established by minutes.

A lacking translation of French edition of this book of documents which puts forward a part of the Armenian and Russian oppressions carried out against innocent Turkish and Kurdish people in Bitlis, Muş, Van, Hakkâri, Siirt, Erzurum, Erzincan and Trabzon provinces between 1914-1916 and which have been used by some authors, have been included in the book of Retired Major-General Ahmet Hulki Saral, "Armenian Question" (pp. 411-446). However it has been observed that some parts in original French edition and its translation do not coincide with each other in the examination that we carried out, especially in location and individual names, and these were misreading and typing errors. For this reason, these mistakes were corrected as much as possible by going to the originals⁴ of the text, and translated in compliance with the original text. Furthermore, the changed names of the locations mentioned in documents, have also been shown with today's names. Since the book was printed disorderly, the book was brought to an understandable form by dividing it under general headings and fol-

⁴ Arşiv Belgelerine Göre Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi, 1906-1918, Vol. I, Devlet Arşivleri Genel Müdürlüğü Yayını, Ankara 1995.

lowing the note numbers, and the reference books that have been made use of for the arrangement of the book and a large index have been added to the end of the book.

In order to ensure the subject to be understood more obviously and to provide its integrity, the relevant section of the book-which explains Van, Bitlis and Muş events before and after the mobilization, and titled "Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-1 İhtilâliyyesi, İ'lân-1 Meşrûtiyyet'den Evvel ve Sonra" (The Objectives and Revolutionary Operations of Armenian Committees, Before and After the Constitutional Period) again published by the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Ottoman State in İstanbul in 1916, which is a Perfect evaluation of the works, has been included by us in summarized form as "INTRODUCTION" to the book.

March 28, 1996 Ankara Dr. Erdal İLTER

INTRODUCTION*

After the declaration of Mobilization by the Ottoman State on August 3, 1914, riots happened in many places in compliance with the instructions given by Armenian Committees, with the arrangement and administration of branches. These events are remarkable incidents in regard to the ways that they happened. Until the time that we participated in the war, The Russian, English, French and later on Italian embassies and consulates together with the consulates of these states in the provinces, acted as mediators in the communications of the committees with foreign and Ottoman countries. They obtained their needs like weapons and money. The chiefs and members of these committees excellently spied on their account about our military and political situations.

With the money of Allied Powers and with the help and mediation of the Consulates of these States the Armenians in foreign countries, have been armed. They were sent in gangs and gangs to Caucasia and Iranian borders as Regiments of Revenge. The Armenian soldiers escaped to enemy side with their weapons. The Armenians in our most of the provinces, started armed riots in various areas in order to accelerate the victory of the Entente States and thus to realize their national aims and to demolish the Ottoman State which they thought it would already survive only a few days.

^{*} Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-ı İhtilâliyyesi, İ'lân-ı Meşrûtiyyet'den Evvel ve Sonra, İstanbul 1332 (1916), pp. 160-161, 170-176, 197-205.

Van province is one of the most remarkable areas to be examined to understand Armenian current and spirit. Here, the purpose of the Armenian Committees and the situation of the committees are observed with clear obviously. The preparations and conspiracies that have been concealed in other provinces, are observed obviously here. Both Van and Bitlis, were shown by the Armenians as the areas where they were most crowded as regards to population, and where they were shown as majority compared with the Moslem people. We should immediately say that this claim is completely contrary to the reality. Actually, Hakkâri part of Van province, which consisted of Central Van and Hakkâri subdivisions, was settled by Moslems in eighty percent and. Moslems always constituted a great majority in other towns of Van compared with Armenians.

It was necessary for the committees to spread out everywhere that there was a continuous uneasiness in this area. Because they hoped that they would reach their aim only in this way and they ran after the intervention of foreigners for many years and as a result they hoped that they would reach autonomy through this means.

The history of events of this province till the declaration of Constitutional Period in 1908, can be summarized with the political riots that arouse from time to time and the attacks and the oppressions of gangs. After the declaration of the Constitutional Period, all secret preparations that existed previously began to come out, the things which could not be written or said, started to be said openly.

In this province the Armenians always acknowledged the committee, not the state and the state always saw the committee against it. If the chain of events, is examined, that happened till the mobilization in this province, it would be seen that the members of the committee prohibited Armenians to approach to the state with all their force. Again it would be seen that they tried to create a continuous enmity between Islamic and Armenian communities and did their best efforts to show the country in uneasy and public disorder situation.

As much as the weapons heaped up and the organization expanded, the rudeness of the Armenians increased in the same ratio. In the center of Van Province, at Armenian districts there was a custom to fire guns in the evenings, after the sunset. It was not possible to prohibit it until the last times.

The closest friends and advisors of the Armenian Committee members in the province were British, Russian and French Consulates. The most important issues were negotiated with the Armenian Committee members in Russian Consulate.

All of the events happened till mobilization, in Van, are nothing but the political crimes arranged by the committee. After the mobilization, the Armenians in this region decided to integrate their activities to make easy the movement of Russians, together with the Armenians in Caucasia area, in compliance with the directives given by the committees. The strategical situation of Van was very important as it was the border neighbour of Azerbaijan which was under the invasion and influence of Russians and due do its vicinity to

Russia. Here, no Armenians were observed, who complied with the mobilization call. It was observed that, the Armenians previously fled from the Army without weapons in order not to draw the attention, later on began to flee from the Army with weapons and in a planned way.

After the declaration of war in November 1914. upon the attack of Russians to our borders with voluntary Armenian battalions, the attitude and the behavior of the Armenians both located in the center of the province and its surroundings began to change completely. The civil servants and gendarme were subjected to attacks and insults. The events be came unpreventable with the riot that burst out due to the counting of sheep in Timar. Here, the number of gangs exceeded a thousand, with the participation of others in the vicinity, These were armed with Mauser and Russian rifles. Catak-Van-Bitlis telegram lines were cut. Two soldiers were killed in the attack made to the government palace in Catak. They began to attack to Kurdish villages and passengers. They killed the Moslems they met, in a wild manner without any differentiation whether they were women or children. The revolutionists, also opened fire to the squadron located at Hamid Ağa Barracks in Van and gendarme and territorial force stations surrounding Armenian districts. The riot, turned to be a general situation, and spreaded to Erciş and Adilcevaz. In the middle of April 1915, the Armenian gangs, consisting of at least 400 people under the command of Russian officers, tried to penetrate into the country from Russian and Iranian borders. In the combats happened with Armenian gangs in Van and its surroundings, flags on which "Armenian free", "Armenian salvaged" words written, and Armenian fur caps, Russian and French caps, in front of which the word "Revenge" was written, were found in many of the trenches.

Another area that the Committees gave importance after Van, was the surroundings of Bitlis and Mus. This area was on the way of Van-Diyarbakır-Aleppo-İskenderun, which was suitable and convenient for transportation and especially it was busy in every season of the year. Furthermore, Mus was a famous place for Armenian riots for a long time. For this reason, committees gave much importance to this area. They appointed their most capable men and delegates to these areas to determine and administer their organization preparation. When there was no inspiration of the committees, the Moslem and Armenian people in these areas, had a very comfortable life. Before the declaration of the Constitutional Period, there used to happen riots and a lot of Moslems used to be killed following the preparations that lasted for months. Later on, the governments of Britain, France and other states were showered with telegrams stating these were "Islamic Oppressions" (!) Actually, the real victims were the Moslem people. Weapons and bombs were brought to these areas from Russia, through Caucasia, Iran and Trabzon; and from Egypt and America, through Iskenderun. The committee organization in this area, was brought to a more perfect situation after the declaration of the Constitutional Period. Gangs and volunteer establishments and committee centers opened even in villages. The Armenians began to act only with

the instructions of the committee. The Committee inspectors used to settle the disputes among the villagers in compliance with the instructions of the Committee. Furthermore, they were punishing those who avoided providing weapons and who made an application to the state; and even they centenced same to death. It is a definite reality that, in none of the places of Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia, the Moslem people never had weapons as many as the Armenians had. The offense was always made by Armenians. The Armenians had one aim through these events; and that was the autonomy of Armenia.

Upon the declaration of Mobilization, with the instruction of Russia, Dashnak Committee gave the administration of Van area to Van Parliamentarian Vremian, one of the most famous Committee members; and the administration of Bitlis, Muş and their surroundings to Vahan Papazian, who also one of Van Parliamentarians. Vremian settled in Van, Papazian settled in Muş and they both began to prepare and conduct some movements.

At the beginning, Armenians began to participate in the Mobilization and made some small demonstrations in favor of Ottoman State. However the armed Armenian military units, after they received their weapons, escaped and participated in the enemy side. The gangs began to attack on the Moslems on the roads who were going to carry out their military service.

At last, at the end of 1914, the gendarme detachment which was sent to Sekur village, around Ahkis village of Hizan district of Bitlis, to capture fugitives and call for military service, was met by the people of

the village with weapons, saying that they would not give soldiers to Ottoman State and they would not recognize the State. They killed the gendarmes by opening fire on them. The same situation happened in large and crowded villages like Korsuh, Ahkis and Beygiri. As soon as the riots began in Hizan and Bitlis, the events began in Muş plain too. It once more came in to light that those who conducted the struggles there were Ruben, Muş Dashnak representative; and Esro, a famous Committee leader and the riot was arranged by Papazian.

The aim of the Armenian in this riot, was to infringe with the military communications, transportation and operations, and to keep the military forces and the units busy. For this reason, they did their best in Bitlis and Mus provinces.

DOCUMENTS ON ARMENIAN-RUSSIAN OPPRESSIONS

(DOCUMENTS SUR LES ATROCITÉS ARMÉNO-RUSSES)

Prepared by Dr. ERDAL İLTER

FOREWORD

The exchange of places (Emigration) measure that the Ottoman State had to take in the military zones for two years (1914-1916) after the general riot of the Armenians are tried to be given under the appearance of a massacre in the public opinion of Entente States¹ and neutral countries. We are in the opinion that it is our task to counter with these movements aimed to mislead the public opinion.

Today, every neutral person whose minds are not confused by the prejudice of a century must know that the Armenians (so-called victims) at places where the subject war² took place have been the executioners of Moslems. Real massacres were committed by these voluntary Armenian gangs that acted under the command of the Russian commanders, and the old prosperous provinces and villages turned in to ruins at the end of the attacks of brigand gangs and the plan to destroy the Moslem people was continued pitilessly. These massacres not only committed in the invaded Turkish provinces but in the destruction and destroy winds also blew in Russian Provinces where the Moslems were settled until today. Besides the Eastern Anatolia which was smashed under the pressure of the cruel enemy, all of Batum; area, Artvin, Acara, Hezor, Maradit³. Macakhel⁴ and their surroundings where the Moslems lived comfortably until the last events became the

¹ United Kingdom, Russia and France.

² The First World War (1914-1918).

³ Today, Murath subdistrict of Borçka town of Artvin.

⁴ Today, Camili subdistrict of Borçka town of Artvin.

scene of unimaginable and hair-raising murders committed by Armenians, under unconcerned looks of the Russian official authorities.

This gathered book only contains a partial expression of these disgusting events which were revealed by final and unobjectionable testimonies.

These few lines perhaps will draw the attention to the disgusting events that were concealed with delicacy until today and which were rarely seen in worldwide media

CHAPTER ONE

OPPRESSIOS IN BITLIS PROVINCE

1. The first testimony under oath of Ali, son of Süleyman from Bitlis (10.6.1916) (He migrated to Kayalu⁵ village of Mardin)

The Armenians of Van and Bitlis, who previously learned that the Russians wanted to occupy Bitlis about the end of February 1915, attacked Moslems. They slaughtered the Moslem people pitilessly by closing the roads to escape. Meanwhile my brother-inlaw Ali, his mother Rabişe, Sheikh Ahmed from Kazanan⁶, his wife and one of his servants, our neighbors Receb, son of Ahmed, Hasan who was 80 years old and his son İzzet, two sick soldiers who were on leave, were the victims of these barbarians who killed them into pieces.

Only five persons from our family that was totalling to 17 people, could rescue from the massacre with great difficulty. One of the children of my cousin was thrown into the air and while he was falling down, he was cut in two pieces with a stroke of a sword by these murderer Armenians.

They have raped young girls and later on they dragged them along the roads in blood. As a result, the

⁵ Today, Kayalı village of İdil town of Mardin.

⁶ Today, Kazanan village of Korkut subdistrict of Muş.

Armenians performed murders that have not been heard, against Moslems.

2. The testimony under oath of Abdürrezzak, son of Kâmil from Bitlis (10.6.1996) (He migrated to Kayalu village of Mardin)

During the occupation of our province⁷, we were going to Arap bridge together with the families of my brother and uncle at the early hours of the morning. The Armenians who cut our way, killed my brother Çerkes who was in front of me, Abdülkadir, the son of my uncle and his sister Emine.

We escaped and rescued as five out of eighteen people and could reach Mardin. The remaining from the group, including my children were taken as slave or killed.

3. Gülpik⁸ Village of Hizan Town (Testimony under oath of Ebubekir and Abdülkerim from Gülpik Village) (4.7.1916)

I was some where outside of our village. Some of the notables of our village had gone to Bitlis. Upon their return they informed us about the occupation of Bitlis. Some of our men went there to stop the enemy when it was learned that the enemy was proceeding from Tatik⁹ town. The others set out towards Karçı-

kan¹⁰. In the fight we had with the enemy, we understood that it was impossible to resist them for a long time and we immediately ran to rescue our families. At this critical moment, the enemy army consisting of Russians and a lot of Armenians who came to our village from two different points by raiding, began to kill the people and burn the houses. A few of us could rescue themselves. But 150 people, consisting of women, men, children and girls, were killed by sword strokes. While we were escaping, Bided and Arşak from Oranis¹¹ village, Sander from Hirit¹² Armenian village and Kisyo Kiyo from Şube¹³ village, were swearing our religion from behind and insulting our prophet.

Russians and Armenians tortured so much that, upon our return, the villagers burst into tears. Naked men and women, tied together, were hung on trees. There were children, cut into two pieces on the laps of women whose heads were plucked and breasts were cut. The young and beautiful girls were taken away and those who were less beautiful were killed after their genitials were torn. The murderers had taken away the furniture which would be of use to them, and burned the others

⁷ Bitlis would be occupied by Russian on March 3, 1916.

⁸ Today, Süttaşı village of Hizan town of Bitlis.

⁹ Later on it was affiliated to Hizan town, today it is **Bölükyazı** subdistrict of Bitlis.

¹⁰ While it was a village of Gevaş town of Van, later on it become a town. The name of this town, could not be identified today.

¹¹ Today, Anadere is a village of Reşadiye subdistrict of Bitlis-Tatvan.

¹² Today, **Cökekyazı** is a village of Hizan Town of Bitlis.

¹³ The name of this village could not be identified today.

4. The first testimony under oath of Ahmed Nureddin Efendi, Deputy head official of Pervari¹⁴ Town (22.6.1916) (Former Town Director of Akçan¹⁵)

Servet Bey, governor of subdivision of Mus Province, was honest and protective towards all of the people of his subdivision without making any discrimination of any race and religion difference. But the Armenians of Mus were bringing out difficulties to the government in recruiting military service and in taxation when they found opportunity. We were clearly seeing the provocative behaviors of the Dashnak people and Armenian priests and sensed the damages of the traps set up. With the inspiration of intrugues, most of the Armenian villages did not delay in making terrorist events. Armenians used to invite the voluntary soldiers and territorial forces passing by the area under the pretext of bread and water, there they suffocated them, hollowed their eyes out and cut their heads. Especially, they did not hesitate to do any thing in order to have the rifles of the soldiers. The Armenian oppression was especially made at Evran¹⁶ village, consisting of 300 houses. At this village, as a result of the investigation we made on July 15, 1915, the following information came out.

We found a well in the vicinity of the house which belonged to an Armenian who was a member of

Dashnak Committee; and its mouth was closed skillfully and narrowly. When we opened its lid, a disgusting and filthy odor covered the environment. A man, whom I told him to go down, informed me that the well was full of human corpses. We took them out to find out their identities. The number of victims consisting of innocent and unlucky soldiers was 19. The situation of these corpses showed that only three-four days, had past after the frightful executions that were performed by the Armenians who were honored with the sincere protection of Ottoman Government for 600 years. We left the village after we buried the corpses of these soldiers who were suffocated by the Armenians meanly.

5. The testimony under oath of Mehmed Resul son of Abdurrahman from emigrants of Muş¹⁷ (5-6.6.1916) (The testimony is received by Hani¹⁸ Director)

I was wounded towards the middle of January, 1915 in a combat made near Betlevo¹⁹ village. Together with my three sick friends, we could not follow the army that was withdrawing and we were taken as slaves by the enemy. First they carved the eyes of soldier Hüseyin and said "Get up and look around!. Are there any Ottoman soldiers? Are they coming?" Later on,

¹⁴ A county of Siirt.

¹⁵ Today, Mercimekkale subdistrict of central town of Muş.

¹⁶ Today, Yağcılar village of Mercimekkale subdistrict of Muş.

¹⁷ Compare with, Ermeni Komitcleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-i İhtilâliyyesi, İ'lân–ı Meşrûtiyyet'den Evvel ve Sonra, pp. 314-315.

¹⁸ A town of Diyarbakır.

¹⁹ Its name of today, could not be identified.

they took him to a small river and martyred him there. After this murder, they attacked to my other friend whose name I cannot remember. They killed him also when the frightful torture was over.

It was the turn of our third friend. They cut his genitial organ and put it in his mouth and later on, they martyred him by suffocating. I recognized three Armenians among executioners. One of them was Aram, son of Monk, from Cakar district of Mus; the second one was Aleksan, son of Bağdasar Gürüb; the third one was Hrant, son of lawyer Hrant from Bas district of Mus, and the other five persons were Russian soldiers. These executioners approached me and told that the end of all Moslems were like this and they branded 24 parts of my body by red-hot heating of the bayonets of their rifles in the fire that they set up. When a Russian soldier came close to me, who wanted to rescue me, I was uttering painful screams. This soldier took me to a side and told me that his name was Abdülmelik and he came from a Moslem family from Kazan and he would be able to rescue me

Eight executioners, I and Russians soldiers set out. Another group, consisting of about 100 Armenians and Kazakhs, joined us. We were going in the direction of Til²⁰ village. On the way, we met a Moslem Community of about 800 people. Kazakhs and Armenian martyred almost all of them. Towards the evening, we reached Til (Korkut) village. Armenians brought two pregnant Moslem women with them whom they had kidnapped during Karameşe²¹ village pillage. They

brought the women in the middle of Russians and Armenians. Two Armenian soldiers, had betted about the sex of the children that the women were carrying for forty pilasters. Upon this they cut the abdomen of the one of the women with a knife and took out a boy. The fetus of the other women, led various suggestions. Five minutes later, four Russians and six Armenians. brought six Moslem girls. I recognized one of them among the Armenians who was from Ziyaret²² village of Mus. The girls were put in row. A Russian officer came, chose a girl among them and took her away. Meanwhile Russian soldiers ordered the girls to perform the namaz and do their prayers. While the poor girls were performing their religious obligations, they seduced them. They were both doing this mean behaviour and saying "From now on, we will conduct the namaz of Moslems in this way". I had three nights at Til (Korkut) village. Although I had too much pain in my wounds, I was able to rescue with the help of Moslem Russian soldiers. About dawn, I climbed a hill, overlooking the Kazanan village. Pitiful screams were coming from the village. When the Sun rose, I saw the Russian and Armenian killed the residents of the village and burned them while they were still alive. I was horrified and turned to be a stone, and I could not leave the place where I was until the night. I set off in the dark and meeting with every kind of danger and difficulty, I came to Hani.

²⁰ Today, **Korkut** village of Korkut subdistrict of Muş.

²¹ A village of Mercimekkale subdistrict of Mus.

²² Today, Yaygın subdistrict of central town of Muş.

6. The testimony under oath of Yasin Efendi, son of Hacı Mehmed (1.6.1916) (A police of Bitlis in charge in Mardin)

I was on duty at the station, when Bitlis province was occupied at about 10 o'clock at night. My horrified sister came and said that the province was raided by the enemy. When we went out to the street with our friends, we saw the escaping people. The shots of thousands of rifles and machineguns was heard.

I was obliged to go to a place called Arap bridge, which was half an hour away from Bitlis, in order to rescue my family from the agression of the enemy. Behind of us, Russian units and Armenian gangs, were trying to stop all of the Moslems who were escaping from them under strong fire and were killing them. On the other hand, Russian Kazakhs were treading them under the feet of their horses, Screams of Hopelessness mixed with the yelling of Russian Kazakhs, and the cries of the children were rising in every corner. A small group like us, rescued in a miraculous way. During our escape, deputy Police Officer Mehmed Vehbi Efendi, was shot on his foot.

All the others became the victims of the rowdiness of Russians and Armenians. There were the following people whom I know, among these were the poor persons: Vefik Bey, deputy chief of Police Director of Van; Ali Efendi, Police Officer; Süleyman Efendi, deputy Police Officer Remzi Efendi and Said Efendi from Van, who were in charge in Bitlis, Hamdi Efendi and Resul Efendi, Police officers of Bitlis; Şaban Vehbi Efendi, chief clerk of Bitlis justice Department; Mullah Said-i Kürdî, a famous savant, with his 20 students; and tradesman Abdürrezzak, son of Hacı İshak.

7. The testimony under oath of 45 years old Grocer Muhiddin Efendi, son of Hüseyin (6.6.1916) (He is from Taş district of Bitlis, now resides at Savur town)

It was the end of February of 1915. While I was staying at house, continuous firing and noise began to come from various places of the city. This was the indication of the coming of Russian and Armenian units. When I went out to the street, I saw that the gangs were executing a general massacre in the city. I immediately returned to my house to rescue my family. On the way, when I saw Fazıl Efendi, Bitlis communications lines clerk of Bitlis, from Viran²³, was cut into pieces, I began to escape with my family in Province Palace Direction. Here, the roads were blockaded by the Armenians. They were killing all of the Moslems without making any difference of age. As I could not find a way of escape in that direction, I wanted to jump into the river passing through Bitlis, not to be murdered by the enemy. My brother Musa, prevented this attempt of mine and with the divine grace of God, we rescued from the General massacre, in spite of many difficulties.

Among the thousands of victims, there were well-known people:

²³ Today, Çanakyayla village of Adilcevaz town of Bitlis.

- 1. Dursun Efendi, son of Hacı Şemseddin, from the notables,
- 2. Abdülbaki Efendi, son of Hacı Yusuf from Hersan district.
 - 3. Hacı Mehmed, son of Hacı Hasan,
 - 4. Nadir, son of Mahmud,
 - 5. Abdürrezzak, son of Cemal,
 - 6. Dursun, son of Mahmud,
 - 7. Hamid, son of Receb,
 - 8. Cemil, son of Bilâl,
- 9. Sheikh Abdülhalik Efendi, son of Sheikh Mehmed Küfrevi,
- 10. İsmail Bey, Bitlis Gendarme battalion commander.

Former Judge of Muradiye, Ahmed Efendi was murdered in his bed. The sister of Ahmed Efendi, Bedriye Zaman Hamm; the daughter of Receb Efendi, Perihan Hamm; the wife and son of corporal Halid, Leyla Hanım and Salih were martyred at their homes with horrible tortures Musa Efendi, like his brother Muhiddin, lived the same miserable scenes.

8. The testimony under oath of 40 years old Haydar, son of İsa (6.6.1916) (He is from Bitlis, now he lives in Savur town)

In February 1915, my family and I were in Yako²⁴, one of the villages of Bitlis. One day, I set off to go to my brother, who was in Bitlis. On the way, when I saw a group of people from Bitlis. I asked the reason of their leaving Bitlis. They told me that the province had been raided suddenly by Russian and Armenian units, those units were mainly consisted of Armenians, they had killed the Moslems they met, without making any difference among women, men and children, with the strokes of bayonet.

Ali, son of Süleyman from Hersan district Bitlis told me that, among those who were killed, there was my brother, who was in Bitlis, and the son of my other brother Halid; the wife of Halid; Minnet, daughter of Yakub, had been taken away; my brother-in-law Yusuf, son of Hacı Ali had been killed and his aunt. Mercan: daughter of Sakir had been taken away; my neighbor Sheikh of Kazanan, Sheikh Ahmed, who was sick, one of his servants. Hasan, son of Mustafa, from Hersan district who had co me to visit Sheikh, had been murdered after they had taken his money in great amounts as ransom They killed Hasan, near the house of Süleyman, son of Hacı Yusuf, together with his son İzzet, and Ali brother of Hacı Nasrullah with the strokes of bayonet, they had killed 80 years old Nigâr Hanım from Ahlat, and the sick family of a soldiers called Tero, and made 60 years old Sheikh Hâfi Efendi, to carry furniture with naked feet, upon this as I did not dare to go to Bitlis, I returned to Yako (Ünaldı).

9. The second testimony of Ali, son of Süleyman, residing at Hersan district of Bitlis (6.6.1916)

My brother Ismail and Halid were killed on the threshold of their houses by Armenians. The wife of Halid, who was the daughter of Yakub, was taken away

²⁴ Today, Ünaldı village of Sarıkonak subdistrict of Bitlis.

by force. My brother-in-law Yusuf, son of Hacı Ali, was also killed. His aunt, Mercan, daughter of Şakir, was taken away meanly by the gang.

My neighbor Sheikh Ahmed from Kazanan who was sick and his wife Semo and one of his servants were killed in their beds. The fate of Receb. son of Mustafa, who had come to visit the Sheikh, has been the same. Hasan, son of Kılınç zâde İsmail, was killed near the house Süleyman, son of Yusuf, although they had taken ransom in great amounts from him. They also killed his son Izzet and brother of Hacı Nasrullah, with the strokes of bayonet. 80 years old Nigâr Hamm from Ahlat, the sick wife of Tero, Halil, son of Celo zâde Ismail, Ahmed, son of Mehmed, his brother Mikdad, were massacred in the house of Süleyman, son of Hacı Yusuf. Said Efendi, son of ex-Mufti of Bitlis and like his 60 years old uncle Sheikh Hâfi Efendi, inspite of heavy snow and cold, were forced to work with bare feet and head and to carry heavy loads to long distances. Upon these, I did not dare to go to Bitlis and returned my village Yako (Ünaldı).

10. The testimony with oath of 37 years old Mahmud, son of Mevlüd, who was Gendarme in Muş²⁵ (6.6.1916) (He is from Kale district of Muş and from those who took shelter in Hani. His testimony is received by Hani Director).

I have been in the hands of Russians as a slave of war for two and a half months. 10 days ago, I de-

serted and learned that the office of my battalion was in Hani, and came here. On February 10, 1916, I set off from Mus to go as a courier to the Commander of the squadron which was in Liz²⁶ area. When I arrived on the hills of Molla Davud²⁷ village. I was surrounded by Russian soldiers and Armenian gangs. Upon this, I immediately destroyed all the documents. I was captured as a slave. The Armenians and Russians took my rifle, watch and money. Among enemy soldiers there were about a dozen Armenians. From these, I recognized Kinyâz, son of Monk from Bulanık, Gazar from Abri²⁸ village. Bedo from Gebolan²⁹ village and Vano, son Melkon from Mus. They wanted to kill me, but the Russians, saw that I was a soldier and prevented them. After wards, these Armenians had beaten me, they took me to Molla Davud village and shoved me to their officers. Later on they imprisoned me in a house, protected by six Russian soldiers. Only one of them was on guard at nights. The other five used to go to the village and gathered Moslem married women and young girls and brought them near their friends. They forced those women and girls to dance and drink wine. After they forced them to submit their animal-like desires, saving to me, "Look, the same disaster will come to all of the Moslems" and they swore Islamic religion. We had that night in this way. The Armenians and Russians left the

²⁵ Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-i İhtilâliyyesi..., pp. 315-316.

²⁶ Today, Erentepe subdistrict of Bulanık town of Muş.

²⁷ A village of Erentepe-Bulanık-Muş. Its name could not be identified today.

²⁸ Today, Esenlik village of Erentepe subdistrict of Mus-Bulanık.

²⁹ Today, Cankurtaran village of Erentepe subdistrict of Muş-Bulanık.

village in the morning, by taking me with them, and they killed all of the remaining villagers after various tortures.

Later we came to Kazanan village. The enemies imprisoned all of the men in a house and women in a separate house. They imprisoned me in a third house. What I saw through the window was like this: Russians and Armenians calling the men one by one, took their money and killed them with tortures such as carving their eyes, opening wounds in their bodies or after tying their cut arms to their abdomens forcing them to dance. After these hateful executions they went to the side where there were women. They chose newly married ones and beautiful young girls. They burned young girls while they were alive, they took out the clothes of newly married women and raped them. These Armenians and Russians during their murders saw that two of their victims were pregnant, and gathered around them and made bets on the sex of their children on four rubles, and cut the abdomens of these poor women. They looked whether they are boys or girls. Later they hanged six women on the trees and cut them into pieces with cleavers. They said to me, "That is what you deserve".

We set off from here to go to Molla Yahya village. Here I was again imprisoned in a house. Here also they executed the same massacres. At night, by pulling a stone from the wall of the room where I was staying, I could escape from the prison and encountering with thousands of difficulties, I could come here. The citizens I met on the way, said that they witnessed the

similar horrifying executions performed against Moslems.

All of the residences of Kara Hüseyin and Kuşanlı villages, were killed with the swords in the same way by Armenians and Russian.

11. The testimony under oath of Fevzi Efendi, Hakif³⁰ Town Director³¹ (5.7.1916) (The oppression executed at Korsuh³² and Sekur³³ villages of Hakif town)

I had gone to Ahkis³⁴ village in October 1914 together with about 20 gendarmes to recruit and to be submitted to newly established fortification (worker) battalions. Village elderly council stated that there had been nobody in the village and majority of the villagers were in the army and they were in Erivan. This explanation was wrong. Therefore, after preparing a list for 50-60 people, I was obliged to send two gendarmes to Sekur village and four gendarmes to Korsuh (Karbastı) village to ensure these recruits participate in the army. When the gendarmes arrived at Sekur village where the resident of the village were Armenians, had met them with swears, called them saying, "Get away from here, the authority of your director does not influence us, let your head officer of the district come here with two

³⁰ Today, Aksar subdistrict of Hizan town of Bitlis.

³¹ Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-i İhtilâliyyesi..., p. 174.

³² Today, Karbastı village of Hizan town of Bitlis.

³³ Its name could not be identified today.

³⁴ A village of Akşar of Hizan town of Bitlis. Its name could not be identified today.

battalions". Upon this by taking a force about six-seven persons, they went again to the village. However, these gendarmes met with intense fire of rifles. These gendarme soldiers named İsmail and Nezir from Bitlis, were martyred there. The others returned to Hakif (Akşar) after a struggle that lasted for a couple hours.

To the four gendarmes who were sent to Korsuh (Karbastı) village, Armenians, first of all, behaved politely and invited them to a house for dinner. They were massacred by the eight Armenians at the house, their bodies were brought in a situation that could not be recognized and their weapons were seized. When I learned this situation, with the force I had with me, we set off to the above mentioned villages to make investigation. When we saw the Armenian rioting, we gave up this idea of ours and went to a Moslem neighboring village called Hiset³⁵. After a while a woman, called Sultan from Beygiri³⁶ village came and said that she had brought the messages of Armenian chief of gangs, namely Lato, from Ozim³⁷ village and Kalosar from Sekur village. Sultan said to us, "If you do not give back the Armenian recruits that you have taken as fortification soldiers, the Armenians will decide to put all of you to the sword and bomb the villages". Of course, we did not accept this offer. Upon this, the Armenians attacked us. The struggle continued about two days. As a result of the help of other gendarmes and Kurdish people, we could drive away the attackers. During these events, a lot of Moslem women and children were killed without any cause.

The above mentioned events, prove that Armenians arise turmoil in the country and limped the course of military and civilian works.

12. The testimony under oath of Headman Mustafa, son of Osman from notables of Horus³⁸ village (8.7.1916)

An enemy force about 400 people consisting of infantry and cavalry units, coming from Bitlis and Kesan³⁹ directions, attacked suddenly to our village at four o'clock in the morning. In front of them there were the Armenians from Hirit (Çökekyazı), Sim Haç⁴⁰, Vastin⁴¹ and Prons⁴² villages. There were about 200 armed men in our village. Although we defended our village till the sunset, the Armenians who knew the ways to our village, began to enter into the village. The Russians

³⁵ Today, Kolludere village of Hizan-Akşar subdistrict of Bitlis. Here we have to remind this issue: There are two more villages today which are called **Belenoluk** (Upper Hişet) and **Ormandalı** (Lower Hiset) of central town of Pervari of Siirt.

³⁶ A village of Hizan-Akşar subdistrict of Bitlis. Today its name could not be identified.

³⁷ Today, Gümüşören village of central town of Pervari of Siirt.

³⁸ Today, **Horozdere** village of Hizan town of Bitlis.

³⁹ In XVIth Century, among the Sanjaks of Van Province, a sanjaks called Kesan, has been mentioned. We could not identify its location today. Furthermore, there was a **Kesan** village, which is called **Ergecidi** today, of Tutak town of Ağrı.

⁴⁰ A village of Hizan-Akşar subdistrict of Bitlis. Its name of today could not be identified.

⁴¹ A village of Hizan-Bölükyazı subdistrict of Bitlis. Its name of today could not be identified.

⁴² Today, Gökçimen village of Hizan town of Bitlis.

followed them. When we withdrew, our village was on fire. The women and children who stayed at Bekran district, were screaming. The cavalrymen ran after us and kept us under volley. The women and children suffered the greatest loss. At last we succeeded to rescue. From the well-known people of our village, Ömer son of Sâfi'î, together with his family consisting of 15 women and children were taken as slaves by the Russians. They took these slaves to an unknown direction. After a few hours walk, in the investigation we carried out, it was found out that hundreds of people were missing. We were afraid of their being massacred. After 10 days, the enemy left our village and we returned back to the village. There was a horrible scenery in front of our eyes. It could be said that the village was constructed with human bodies. The women whose skins were stripped, were hung on the trees. The men, whose eyes were carved by Armenians and Russians were tied on the trees as a dartboard, the children were cut into pieces, the furniture and jewelry also were destroyed.

13. The testimonies under oath of Sheikh Haydar Efendi, from the notables of Hizan together with Abdülmecid Efendi, Mufti of Hizan (5.7.1916)

Gayda Dervish Lodge, constructed on a small hill, located in Hizan, and where thousands of passengers are stayed for a night, consisted about 100 rooms together with its annexes. Russians and Armenians, proceeded to Gayda Dervish Lodge after burning Cem Hani Dervish Lodge which was protected by six gendarmes. The enemy that was attacking was a unit of

800 people. A force of 60 people consisting of Russian and Armenians under the command of Aram Pasha⁴³ suddenly attacked the dervish lodge. Against this force, gendarmes had to withdrew. All of the people blocked in the dervish lodge, were burned alive. We were on a hill, located an hour distance to the dervish lodge. While the fire was destroying people and buildings, Armenians and Russians who were not satisfied with this wildness, attacked the villages in the vicinity and massacred all the people they caught.

14. Testimonies with oath of Davut Efendi and Hüseyin Efendi, notables of central Karasu of Hizan (7.7.1916)

About the end of February, a crowd of Armenians and Russians of 400 people, attacked Karasu at seven o'clock in the morning. We were on the hills, half an hour away from the village. We were informed by the nomads while the enemy was going to surround us. Russians and Armenians followed us and they killed all the people at Gayda. Later on the enemy entered into Karasu and they burned the government building and the house of Ömer Haşim. They massacred Şâfi'î, son of Mehmed, two old women called Zeliha and Leyla who could not leave the village due to their ages, in a horrible manner. These gangs also killed a lot of women and children from the nomads of Hakif (Akşar)

⁴³ Armenian chief of gang from Karabagh, who executed Turkish and Kurdish massacre in Van and its surroundings. After the occupation of Van by Russian, he would be appointed as the governor of this Province.

village. This massacre was verified by the bodies that we met on the way returning Karasu, they were not be recognized at all. The Armenians destroyed the furnitures and goods that they could not take away.

15. The second testimony with oath of Ahmed Nureddin Efendi, old town Director of Akçan (Mercimekkale)(25.6.1916) (Poisoning of Servet Bey, Muş Governor)

It was December and January of 1914-1915. Due to a feast celebrated by Armenians, Muş governor Servet Bey, had a courtesy visit to Armenian bishop. The Armenians who did not hesitate to execute every kind of murder, this time decided to kill Servet Bey, by offering him poisonous coffee. Servet Bey did not doubt and drank the coffee given to him and this caused his death.

This last event together with other events, show that the Armenians, wanted to kill also the educated, intellectual and active people among Moslems. When they find opportunity, they poisoned some of them, burned them alive or carved their eyes. The horrible misbehavior of the Armenians did not only consist of these murders executed against Moslems. At the same time, they made espionage in favor of Russians and gave information on military and administrative subjects and guided them in every kind of attack.

16. The third testimony with oath of Ahmed Nureddin Efendi, old town Director of Akçan (Mer-

cimekkale) (27.6.1916) (Massacre of Arak⁴⁴ Monastery)

At the end of 1914, the Armenians were deserting from Ottoman army together with their weapons in groups. In Muş valley, especially at locations called Cankli Monastery⁴⁵, Kızıl Monastery⁴⁶ and Arak (Kepenek), murders were executed⁴⁷. The Armenian bishop and Dashnaks, encouraged the murderers, to commit murders and banditry. Thus, riot movements were expanding. As the government had urgent works on those days, the Armenians took the advantage of the government being busy, and they were bringing weapons and ammunition to the above mentioned places. This situation did not escape from the eyes of governor Servet Bey. Servet Bey, warned Armenian notables and bishop and that in case riot movement is not given up, the government will lay hands upon the situation. As a result the continuation of Armenian movements, not complying with the call of

⁴⁴ Today, **Kepenek** village of central town of Muş. In the Armenian Monastry located here, each year at the beginning of july they used to arrange fair.

Turkish people called Çanklı Monastery located within the boundaries of Yaygın subdistrict of Muş, Çanlı Church or Çengelli Church. This monastery, is Surb-Garabet Monastery described by Evliya Çelebi. In this monastery, a fair was being arrange in the middle of July.

⁴⁶ It was within the boundaries of Yaygın subdistrict of Muş. They used to arrange fair here in the middle of August.

⁴⁷ The most convenient and secure places for Armenian gangs were churches and monasteries. These gangs were protected by holy chiefs and church priests. Churches were used as the warehouse of weapons and bombs, at the same time.

the government, and shelving of the events of Kumus⁴⁸ and Sironik⁴⁹ villages by Dashnaks and Armenian leaders, leaving the guilty unpunished, the government deemed it necessary to end the turmoil and formed a gendarme unit consisting of 30 people. The commander of this unit, who was a young and honest lieutenant, Ahmed Bey, son of Galib Efendi, was assigned to arrange public order, to catch the gangs and to take the weapons. The Gendarme unit started towards Arak (Kepenek). 30 hours later, I learned that Ahmed Bey and 10 gendarme soldiers had been killed in front of Arak Monastery. How this murdering is executed is as here below.

Gendarme unit came to Arak (Kepenek) village in the evening. The commander wanted one or two guides from the villagers, to show the way to Monastery. The Armenians of the village gave two guides, and showed the way to the unit. The two Armenian guides, who were going for some time in front of the soldiers said, "This is your way, you can continue" and they returned to their village. Ahmed Bey did not insist on the accompany of the guides and when he saw nobody around the Monastery, he walked towards the monastery with his men, without hesitating. When they came to a distance of 200 m. The Armenians who were hidden behind the loopholes of the Monastery fired. Ahmed Bey who was walking in front of the unit and ten gendarmes were shot and martyred. The others, who were surprised from this unexpected

The funerals of the gendarmes who were killed, were taken to Muş by carriages. The Armenians, who were encouraged with this event, extended their attacks till Muş and in order to arise bloody turmoil, they began to attack to the city at nights. Old Van parliamentarian Papazian⁵⁰ and Armenian bishop were working insidiously to facilitate these riot movements. A lot of Armenian school teachers and intellectuals also participated in these massacres. It is absolute that the above mentioned honest, helpful Ahmed Bey, was killed as a result of ambush, that was secretly prepared by Armenians⁵¹

17. The annex of the letter written by Ministry of Interior Affairs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (26.9.1916) and the testimony with

fire, protected themselves, by taking shelter behind a small barrack belonging to the monastery. The Armenians who fired them, were shouting like "You dishonest, mean! These territories do not belong to you! From now on there is no bread for you in these territories, will you still stay here? Russian people came, know that these territories belong to Armenians! These territories are included in Armenia! Get out of here, otherwise we will kill you all!"

⁴⁸ A village of the central town of Muş. Its name of today can not be identified.

⁴⁹ Today, **Kırköy** of the central town of Muş.

⁵⁰ Vahan Papazian, who was a Parliamentarian of Ottoman State from Van, was born in Tebriz in 1876 and died in Beirut in 1973. Vahan Papazian, would be assigned as the chief of Hoybûn Association to be established in Beirut in 1927. See, Erdal İlter, Ermeni Propagandasının Kaynakları, Ankara 1994, p. 17.

⁵¹ Compare with Askerî Tarih Belgeleri Dergisi, Sayı:81 (Aralık 1982) Belge No.1815,1816,1817; Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-ı İhtilâliyyesi..., p. 175.

oath of Hulusi Bey, Director of Post-Telegraph Administration of Pervari town of Siirt Province on July 1, 1995 (26.6.1916)

Following the declaration of mobilization, on the first days of the year 1915, an Armenian woman. named Kis from Hiset (Kolludere) village, who served as a courier to Armenian gangs, found me and told me that, she had come from Ozim (Gümüsören) village. İshan, from Armenian gangs, had sent his regards to me his sincere friendship about my personality had not changed and still continued, I had to serve to the aims of Armenian Committee against a high salary and a great deal of goodness and in case that secret was disclosed, my family and I would be killed. When I asked her how I would serve the Committee, she told me that a decision had been taken for the establishment of an Armenian State consisting of six Eastern (Anatolian) provinces and I had to provide information on the following issues and inform them to the Armenians.

- 1. The measures taken by the Ottoman Government to prevent the establishment of this state.
- 2. Communications among state authorities on this issue,
- 3. What are the intent and plans of the government about Armenian Committees,
- 4. The deployment of the Ottoman Army in the above mentioned provinces.
 - 5. The areas taken under control.
- 6. All kinds of information related with mobilization.

Being afraid of these threatening offers, I did not say anything to anybody.

On another day, a person called Lame Markere from the Armenian spies of Lower Hişet (Ormandalı) village, approached to me and conveyed me the regards of İşhan and Lato residing at Ozim (Gümüşören) village and told me that one day Lato would come and speak to me.

This time. I thought to have Markere be caught; but he suspected and escaped. Again I kept silent. However, after a short time, when the intrigues of Armenians began to be dangerous, I informed everything happened to the government. After a while, great amounts of ammunition and stored food that were sent to Ozim (Gümüsören) village by Armenians, were found. They used to bring these stored food from Piroz⁵², Dentas⁵³, Hertovin-i Ulva⁵⁴ and Hertovin-i Sufla⁵⁵ villages which were called Nezarborum, and Keldânî⁵⁶ together with Armenian villages called Lower Hiset (Ormandalı), Malik⁵⁷ and Vilâs⁵⁸ and Hashır, which was the central town of Pervari. Local administrators, proved the crimes of Armenians at the end of the interrogations and informed the Siirt governor and the head of the district of this situation. However, the above

⁵² Today Tasdilek village of Pervari town of Siirt.

⁵³ Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁵⁴ Today Ekindüzü village of Pervari town of Siirt.

⁵⁵ Today Ekindüzü village of Pervari town of Siirt.

⁵⁶ Asuris of Eastern Church.

⁵⁷ A village of Pervari town of Siirt. Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁵⁸ Today, Çobanören village of Pervari town of Siirt.

mentioned government authorities did not conclude the interrogations in order not to cause confusion.

During these events, a gendarme unit that went to Ozim (Gümüşören) village to catch the deserted soldiers, was insulted by the Armenians. These Armenians also, escaped together with great amounts of weapons and ammunition, in compliance with the deserted, towards Müküs⁵⁹ subdistrict and Şatak⁶⁰. The Armenians of Hizan, Pervari, Satak (Catak), Karcıkan⁶¹, gathered at Ozim (Gümüsören) village. The date of these events coincided with the dates of Armenian revolution in Van. The Armenians at Ozim (Gümüşören) did not let any Moslem, gendarme and policemen in their villages and set up barriers. Meanwhile, they used to fire at the gendarmes and the authorities of the government who wanted to give advice to them. After a fight that lasted for three days, they obliged them to withdraw

The Armenian woman, that I mentioned at the beginning of my statement, called Kiş, repeated everywhere that the Armenians of Ozim (Gümüşören) would obtain the autonomy of Pervari one day. The Armenians of Pervari, under the command of Armenian Major Mecin, from Hashir⁶² village, fired at Pervari gendarmes who were going to be trained, and surrounded the above mentioned village. During the exchange of fire, a gendarme was wounded. The minutes related with this event, are in the possession of the

authorities of Pervari, Armenian Mihran, who was also named Lato, was a Colonel, Keldânî (Asurî) Nirson from Borem⁶³ village, and Mecin from Hashir village were majors. Mehr from Vilas village had the rank of a Lieutenant. The Christians of Siirt and Pervari had the some evil targets. The spies used to go to and come from the above mentioned villages. During the general mobilization, all Armenians, began to kill Moslems. Sheikh Mehmed Sıddık Efendi, Mufti of Van. was massacred near the bridge of Engil⁶⁴ village, while he was performing ablution. His servants also met with the same end. Five gendarme soldiers who were going to Sason⁶⁵ from Mus, were murdered. Sheikh Mehmed Efendi, son of Sheikh Abdullah Efendi from Cel Cemkan⁶⁶ village of Pervari, was killed without any reason by Keldânî executioners residing at Hertovin (Ekindüzü) village of Pervari on the hills of Herakolu mountain. With these executions, it was very clear that the purpose of Armenians, was to arise confusion in the country, by inciting the religious feelings of Moslems.

After the riot of Armenians of Van and the combat they made with Ottoman forces, the Christians of Pervari and all of the Armenians, escaped to the boundaries of Van Province by taking this opportunity; they established a regular regiment there and attacked at Pervari and Hişet (Kolludere) direction. At the end of this attack, which lasted for one day, a Moslem woman,

⁵⁹ Today, Bahçesaray subdistrict of Gevas town of Van.

⁶⁰ Today, Çatak town of Van.

⁶¹ Its name of today can not be identified.

⁶² Central town of Pervari of Siirt.

⁶³ A village of central town of Pervari of Siirt. Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁶⁴ Today, **Dönemec** village of Gümüşdere subdistrict of Van.

⁶⁵ A town of Siirt.

⁶⁶ Its name of today, could not be identified.

two men and a child were martyred. While the Armenians were withdrawing, they left two cases of knives, hand grenades and machine guns at the village.

The gendarmes and civilian authorities, who were sent to the villages of Gevaş town to provide stored food, were massacred by the Armenians. Almost half of the Moslems of Şatak (Çatak) town, including women and children, were put to the sword.

18. The testimonies with oath of Abdurrahman, son of Mehmed and Yusuf, son of Mehmed (1.7.1916)

We are originally from the people of Uçum⁶⁷, a subdistrict of Hizan town and. Nurs⁶⁸, Vavink⁶⁹, End⁷⁰ and Mezraa-i End⁷¹ villages, where the summer grasslands are. After the occupation of Şatak (Çatak) town by the enemy, the Armenians of Kevar⁷², Kutis-i Ulya⁷³, Kutis-i Sufla⁷⁴, Çaçvan⁷⁵, Seyfkar⁷⁶ and Adir-i

Ulya⁷⁷ villages which are located in the vicinity of our village, Sergis and under the command of Lato (alternately called Mihran), Gazar, Dilo who came Russia, came to Kutis-i Ulya. Here they made three written offers to the notables of the village. Among the notables of the village, there was the mullah known as Bedi-üz-zaman Said-i Kürdî.

They would choose one of the following three offers.

- 1. To surrender to the enemy,
- 2. To leave the towns,
- 3. To fight.

Nine hours after the arrival of the enemy, they attacked to our village with 600 people. They had hats and uniforms. We could not identify whether there were Russian soldiers among them. Only, the number of those who had poor appearance in the enemy army was quite a lot. Those could be Russian or Armenians who come from Russia. The enemy took the people of our village to Mezraa-i End. There were Abdurrahman, son of Hursid Bey among notables, his son Musa and his wife, with us. Their money and jewelry were seized. The woman and the girls were seduced. The next day about 33 men and boys and about 80 women, girls and children were taken to Müküs (Bahçesaray) in two groups. The group of women was left at Cacvan. All of the men were put to the sword that night. As they assigned me a task, I resqued from the massacre. When

⁶⁷ Today, Sağınlı subdistrict of Hizan town of Bitlis.

⁶⁸ Today, **Kepirli** village of Sağınlı subdistrict of Hizan town of Bitlis.

⁶⁹ Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁷⁰ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²¹ Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁷² A village of Sağınlı subdistrict of Hizan town of Bitlis. Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁷³ A village of Sağınlı subdistrict of Hizan town of Bitlis. Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁷⁴ A village of Sağınlı subdistrict of Hizan town of Bitlis. Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁷⁵ A villge of Sağınlı subdistrict of Hizan town of Bitlis. Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁷⁶ A villge of Sağınlı subdistrict of Hizan town of Bitlis. Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁷⁷ A villge of Sağınlı subdistrict of Hizan town of Bitlis. Its name of today, can not be identified.

they assigned me a task, they said like this: "We propose you money. Go to Mullah Said. Tell him to deliver us the Armenians who live there. Explain them that there is no advantage to fight for nothing. The country has already been occupied completely. Russian went till Aleppo. The Armenian country is established, tell them to come and submit themselves to us. Bring us information about the number and power of the soldiers there" These words were told to me by Dilo. I immediately set off. When I arrived at Caçvan, I saw that together with our subdistrict director and Mullah Said, our military forces consisting of gendarmes and Kurdish people had arrived. After an intensive fight that lasted five hours, our forces succeeded in rescuing the women group. The situation of the women was very miserable. The cheeks of the young girls were bitten and they did not have power even to walk. Most of the children were killed by stepping on them with boots. We were only two left from 33 men. Most of the women and children who were rescued died with the effect of the torture that they encountered. No women was left other than the wife of Abdurrahman, son of Hursid. It is impossible to count the oppression activities that we witnessed.

19. Testimonies with oath of Ali and Fethullah, sons of Hamid Bey from the notables of Hanianik⁷⁸ village and Selim, Mahmud and Yakub, sons Hacı Bey(14.4.1916)

In the middle of June, 1915, at dawn, the Armenians and Russian surrounded our village and told us to submit ourselves and nobody should have the village. When we rejected their offer and upon our first bullet, that we fired to defend ourselves, they attacked our village like wild animals. The screams of help were coming from everywhere. Our village turned out to be a slaughterhouse within one minute. We recognized Nisan, Murad, Oseb, Dikran, Zaho, Beyko, Sergis, Tangasal, Gazar, Mosis who were residing at the villages in the vicinity, among Armenians. The Armenians were killing the Moslems, while screaming "Long live Aram Pasha". We witnessed a horrible scenery. A woman, carrying her child on her breast was running for being saved. One of the gangs stopped her. Took her child and in front of the eves of the woman, which were opened wide with wilderness, pushed his bayonet into the body of the child and killed him. That gang, after this execution, killed his mother also. While we were escaping, the above mentioned Armenians were shouting, and saying "Don't escape, we will follow you everywhere, even till Damascus!".

20. Testimonies with oath of Tahsin, Sadullah and Bekir Efendi from notables of Hirit (Çökekyazı) village (3.7.1916)

Malazgirt town of Mus. In the examination we carried out, we could not meet with a village called Hanianik.

⁷⁸ The name of Hanianik, mentioned in the certificate, should be **Hanik**; However, it could not be identified whether Hanik village mentioned here is the village Hanik (Cukurtarla) of Ahlat town of Bitlis or Hanik (Dirimpmar) village of Nurettin subdistrict of

One morning, at four o'clock Turkish time; our village Hirit (Çökekyazı) was attacked by the enemy consisting of 10 Kazakhs, Russian infantry and the Armenians of the neighboring villages, who came from Simek⁷⁹ subdistrict direction. The enemy, that entered into our village, burned all of the houses. The Armenians and Russian killed all the men they caught, and imprisoned women and children in a place. Towards evening the enemy withdraw in the direction of Simek (Bölükyazı) subdistrict. Russian infantries and Armenians, burned the imprisoned women and children. Only one child was rescued from this massacre in a miraculous way, and the others were completely annihilated, they took away all the jewelry and furniture of the villagers after this horrible massacre.

On April 25, 1915, Akçan (Mercimekkale) Subdistrict Director Ahmed Nureddin Efendi, together with a squadron consisting of local forces and gendarme went to look for to Kumus⁸⁰ village of Muş, where the deserted Armenian people of Sironik (Kırköy) village took shelter. At night, the deserted people, with the help of villages, under the command of Ruben and Esro, who were the effective members of Dashnak Committee, surrounded the house where the soldiers were staying and fired at them. Among the gendarme, Mirza from Kaplıca⁸¹ and Mehmed Emin died. The others were suffocated at the same place.

21. Testimony of Çerkes Ağa from Halaç tribal Chieftains at Engesor⁸² village.

A gang consisting of Armenians and Kazakhs, occupied Engesor (Dalda) on June 15, 1915. Russian and Armenians who did not take into account the screams of the people, plundered the houses. To the objection of a few villagers, they responded with massacre. The first victims of the massacre are as follows: Cuma, son of İbrahim; Yakub, son of Ali; Murad, son of Hacı; Asım, son of Hami; Halil, son of Haydar, and from notables, Abdülhamid, son of Sheikh.

Those who were massacred from children and women: a twelve years old child, and his eight years old sister, Hatice, wife, son and daughter of Mahmud, son of Ali.

During this first occupation, if the villagers who took advantage of the darkness of the night and did not climb up the mountain, victims would be much more.

The second occupation of Engesor (Dalda) by Russian and Armenians, happened in February, 1916. A few people were rescued from the massacre during this occupation. Orphan Mecid, son of Tâbir, whose whole family was killed by the enemy, was accommodated at Siirt Orphans Dormitory by the commission.

22. Testimonies with oath of Devaz, son of Şeyho, Ömer, son of Mustafa and Tayyib, son of Abdülhamid from Kotum⁸³

⁷⁹ Today, **Bölükyazı s**ubdistrict of central town of Bitlis.

⁸⁰ A village of central town of Muş. Its name of today, cannot be established.

⁸¹ **Kaplıca** village of Çat town of Erzurum.

⁸² Today, **Dalda** village of Tatvan town of Bitlis.

⁸³ Today, Küçüksu subdistrict of Tatvan town of Bitlis.

On July 12, 1915, the squadron commander located at Kotum (Küçüksu), informed the notables that Russian and Armenians were approaching to the village. Upon this, preparations were made and a walk towards Bitlis direction had started. When the group came to Armenian village Tog⁸⁴ which was half an hour away from Kotum (Küçüksu), a few hundred Armenians and Kazakhs attacked. Nomads were obliged to become slaves. In spite of this, women, men and children were massacred in pains and pitilessly. Only 30 people could be rescued from these poor people.

23. Testimony of Abdullah, son of Resul from Aleman⁸⁵ village.

When the villagers who left the village, returned, upon the withdrawal of the Russians, they found that all the houses were burned. The burned corpses of Şemo, son of Osman, Mustafa, son of Tahir and two women, who could not leave the village, as they were wounded, were taken out under the ruins. The corpses of other 10 patients could not be found.

24. Testimony of Nuh Bey, Commander of Light cavalry regiment

In February 1916, during the attacks of Russian, the following villages located in Muş valley, Dirhas⁸⁶,

Kolosik⁸⁷, Zigak⁸⁸, Varşhah⁸⁹, Üçtav⁹⁰, Zirket⁹¹, Tog, Marnik⁹², Gurd⁹³, Hiyoyan⁹⁴, Avzut⁹⁵, Kotni⁹⁶, Pav⁹⁷, Çapkis⁹⁸, Ağdad⁹⁹, Sipannan¹⁰⁰, Suspert¹⁰¹, Til (Korkut), Yekmal¹⁰², Norgah¹⁰³ were completely burned.

The same commander, stated that the Russian had gone to Kara Kilise¹⁰⁴. They were assigned to protect nomadic group During the withdrawal of Turkish units. At Hamzikân¹⁰⁵ village located in the vicin-

⁸⁴ A village of Tatvan town of Bitlis. Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁸⁵ Today, Örenlik village of Tatvan town of Bitlis.

⁸⁶ Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁸⁷ Today, Elmabulak village of central town of Muş.

⁸⁸ Today, Karakütük village of central town of Muş.

⁸⁹ Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁹⁰ Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁹¹ Today, Otac village of Korkut subdistrict of Mus.

⁹² Its name of today, can not be identified.

⁹³ A village of Akşar subdistrict of Bitlis. Its name of today can not be identified.

⁹⁴ Its name of today can not be identified.

⁹⁵ Today, Büvetli village of Korkut subdistrict of Bitlis.

⁹⁶ Today, Günkırı village of Çukur subdistrict of Bitlis.

⁹⁷ Today, Yamaçköy village of Cukur subdistrict of Bitlis.

⁹⁸ Today, Üzümveren village of Cukur subdistrict of Bitlis.

⁹⁹ Today, Yolgözler village of Korkut subdistrict of Mus.

¹⁰⁶ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁰¹ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁰² Today, Pınarüstü village of Korkut subdistrict of Muş.

¹⁰³ Its name of today, can not be identified.

Today, its name is **Karaköse**, which is the center of Ağrı Province. In the years when the Armenians were there, they have built a church made of black stones and during 1877-1878 Ottoman-Russia war and in the 1st World War, they tried to change its name to Kara Kilise (black church). At the end of the communications made in 1919, When General Kâzım Karabekir was the commander of XVth Army Corps of Ministry of National Defense, Kara Kilise was converted to Karaköse.

¹⁰⁵ Today, **Taştekne** village of central subdistrict of Ağrı.

ity of Kara Kilise (Karaköse), Kazakhs caught this group. While a great majority of Kazakhs were attacking the protecting unit, another squadron attacked on nomads, in order to create panic. Upon this attack, the nomads who were shocked, left their carriages and animals, and tried to save their souls. More than 3 000 women and children were killed with swords. In order to be rescued from the sudden attack of Kazakhs. Ottoman soldiers continued to walk at night also. Hundreds of old people and children, could not follow cavalrymen. These nomadic groups were attacked by Russian Kazakhs at Kılınç Gediği. On the other hand, Russian have sent a powerful cavalryman squadron to occupy this mountain pass. However this mountain pass was seized by Turkish units. The attack of the Russian was stopped. However, the end of the nomads who remained on the Russian side was unknown

25. Testimony of Abdullah, son of Şebab, from Bardik¹⁰⁶ village of Azakpur¹⁰⁷ subdistrict.

On February 18, 1916, it was learned from the nomads who came to Bardik village, that the Russian were approaching. They prepared to escape, and just before the villagers left the village, Russian were seen. Russian put the houses in the village on fire, without taking into account the screams of the villagers. They killed the residents of the village, including disabled and sick people. Abdullah and his two friends, took the advantage of the darkness of the night and saved their

souls. They were hidden among the bushes in the vicinity of the village.

26. Testimonies of İso, from Til (Korkut) village, Osman from Bitlis, Ferhad from Kotni¹⁰⁸ and Halid from Özkavak¹⁰⁹

The Armenian gangs, supported by Kazakhs were acting as advance guards during the Russian attack. These gangs were assigned to attack quiet villages and to create turmoil there. The residents of the villages were hiding in the pathways in order to get free from the follow-up of the gangs. However, they were found by the Russian soldiers and they were taken away. Healthy men, were set off to the inside of Russia as war slaves. Those who were taken under the command of Russian soldiers, have gone to the places they wanted to be. However, the Moslems who were taken away by Armenians and Kazakhs, were massacred absolutely.

The remaining began to walk in April 1916, under the direction of 30 guards. The sergeant and some guards were Armenians from Caucasia. The first day the walk continued, on the second day when they come to the path-way, the sergeant said to one of his men slowly in Armenian, "Let's kill these also".

Derbo, son of Haydar, who spoke Armenian, told to his friend the massacre directive that he had heard and said that instead of being killed like a mild person, it would be better to attack the guards.

¹⁰⁶ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁰⁷ Today Korkut subdistrict of Mus province.

¹⁰⁸ Günkiri.

¹⁰⁹ Özkavak village of Çukur subdistrict of Bitlis.

When they came to Sorkiyan¹¹⁰ stream, the smell of the dead bodies began to come. The bodies, cut into pieces, were laying among the rocks. Everybody felt that the death was coming. In spite of this, they attacked on the guards. Six slaves died, but the guards were killed also

27. Testimony of Seyyid Han, son of Yusuf Seydo who was the Chief of Seydan tribe.

In February 1916, the villagers who took shelter on Tifnik Karaköy mountains, were trying to reach Huyut¹¹¹. But they were attacked by a Russian squadron. Hundreds of women and children were massacred by the Russian swords. The group, after fighting many times with Armenian gangs, could reach the place they wanted to go.

28. Testimony of soldier Resul, cousin of Celâl Efendi who was the clerk of Muş Gendarme Regiment

In February 1916, I was wounded and taken as a slave by Russian. At Til (Korkut) village, where I was treated, Attorney-at-law from Muş, Armenian Hrant, whom I knew previously, took me to a house where 10 Armenian gangs were drinking. As I refused the drink given, the chief of the gangs got angry and branded my body with an iron stick, heated in the fire. The doctor, who was ready in time, upon my screams, saved me

from death. After I was rescued, I walked three days and arrived at Huyut (Kavakbaşı). I found that the Armenians had gone to Russia in small groups and the Ottoman soldiers were in their hands.

29. MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION (I)

Yusuf, cousin of Mercan, and daughter of Şakir from Hersan district has been killed and his house was burned.

Halid, son of Polad from Avih district, the grandmother of his wife Minnetî, and his seven years old son Çerkes, were killed by the Armenians, and 20 Turkish Lira was taken from her.

Abdullah, husband of Besi, daughter of Süleyman, from Zeydan district and her brothers Maruf and Reşid and a young girl called Feriha were killed by Armenians.

Abdülbaki, 18 years old son of Yadigâr, daughter of Hasan from Hamtos district, was taken away by the Armenians, who took her 10 liras and plundered her house.

Hezar, mother of Cemile, daughter of Bekir, from Avih district, was killed by the Armenians and her house was plundered.

Hayriye, daughter of İbrahim, from Mahallebaşı, was seduced by force, by the Armenian gangs, and later on this action was repeated by Russian many times. Her one lira, clothes, ornaments and other goods were taken away.

¹¹⁰ Its name of today, can not be identified

¹¹¹ Today Kavakbaşı subdistrict of Mutki town of Bitlis.

Mehmed Ali, sick husband of Kûy, daughter of Şero, from Mescid district, was killed by the Armenians.

Müştak and Hikmet, nine and four years old sons of Şöhret, daughter of Mehmed from Mermutlu district, were killed by Armenians by sword and furthermore they took her five liras and plundered her house.

Ali and Şakir of Hamâil, daughter of Abdülaziz who was originally from Ahlat town and residing at Hamtos district, were shot by Armenians, her grand-daughter, 10 years old Pakize, was killed after her ears and arms were cut and furthermore her daughter-in-law Hamâil was massacred also.

Safiye from Tatar Gazi¹¹² village, was passing from Bitlis, to go to Diyarbakır, was kidnapped by Armenians. Her husband Süleyman, her eight years old daughter Ümetullah and her newly born other daughter, were cut into pieces by the Armenians. Her son Abdülkerim was kidnapped and their goods were plundered.

Abdülmecid, husband of Fidan, daughter of Musa from Marnik¹¹³, residing at Hamtos district, was beaten and wounded by the Armenian and later on they have taken him away.

Subera, daughter of Amo, from Azad village, was kidnapped by Armenian gangs, her daughter-in-law Medine and 15 years old son Abdülbaki were taken away and their goods were seized.

Ali and Memi, brothers of Zarife, daughter of Süleyman, who was originally from Kerekoğlu¹¹⁴ village, and residing at Kömüs district, were killed by gangs and their goods were completely plundered.

Haso, husband of Abani, daughter of Hasan, who was originally from Dedeli¹¹⁵ and residing at Kuru Bulak district, her brother-in-law Süleyman, and his wife Harime were killed by the sword strokes of Russian and Armenian gangs, their 20 liras and goods were taken.

Old father İbrahim of Minnetî, daughter of İbrahim, who was originally from Ahlat town, residing at Kuru Bulak district, her brother Mecid, were put to the sword by Armenians, and their goods and 400 kuruş were taken.

İbrahim, hushand of Cemile, daughter of Hüseyin, from Taş district, and her 12 years old son Sayyad (Seyyid) were killed by raiders, their three liras were taken.

Halid, brother of Ziynet, daughter of Nuri, from Nâhoşnûd district, was killed by raiders and his 200 kuruş was taken.

Hasso, father of Gürnaz, daughter of Hasso, who was originally from Dedeli, residing at Kuru Bulak district, her brother, 15 years old Cemşid, her mother Amo, her 4 years old brother were killed and their goods together with their 12 liras were taken.

İzzet Efendi, who was the son Esma, daughter of Hacı Mustafa from Damascus, residing at Kızıl Mescid district, and who was working as a clerk at the

¹¹² Today, **Tatargazi** village of Karahasan subdistrict of Malazgirt town of Mus.

¹¹³ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹¹⁴ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹¹⁵ It could not be understood which Dedeli village it was.

court, was shot, his 15 liras and watch were taken and his furniture's were completely plundered.

Necmeddin, 10 years old son of Fatma, daughter of Mehmed Efendi, from Mabekor district, was killed by the Armenians. Her husband Ismail, has been sick for six months due to the wounds he has taken. 300 liras, and 60 gold liras at her head, all of her furnitures, five watches, 3 bracelets and her other goods were seized.

Ahmed, father of Kişemiş, daughter of Ahmed, from Zeydan district, was killed by the Armenians and his five liras were taken.

While Saliha, daughter of Memi, from Tatar Gazi village was passing through Bitlis, her brothers Hami and Hamza and her nine years old son Salih and six years old son Sabit, four years old daughter Sultan were put to the sword by the Armenians.

Said, son of Elmas, daughter of Abdülgafur from Tatar Gazi village, was taken away by the Russian, her husband was killed by the Armenians.

Hacı, father of Rabia, daughter of Hacı from Şirvan Şeyh¹¹⁶ village of Malazgirt, her mother Seray and daughter-in-law Leyla, her 10 years old brother Sabri and newly born brother Şebab, her aunt Horzi and her sister Cemile, were killed by the Armenian.

Şebab, father of Nuran, daughter of Şebab, from Malazgirt was killed by the Armenian.

The husband of Nigâr, daughter of Polad, from Avih district, was killed by the Armenian with the

¹¹⁶ Today, **Adıvar** village of Karaağıl subdistrict of Bulanık town of Muş.

strokes of a large knife, furthermore his 30 lira was taken and his house was plundered.

Two sons and one daughter, a total of three children of Fatma, wife of Davud, residing on Papir street of Kızıl Mescid district, the wife and sister-in-laws Fatma and Hadiye of bath attendant Nezir, two daughters and one son of Fatma and one son and one daughter of Hadiye, the wife, mother-in-law and daughter of Hasan from Kömüs district were taken away by the gangs. Habib Efendi, son of Kürüm and a child called Emrullah, who were taken as prisoners, were killed; 12 years old daughter of Hacı Rüstem, was raped at Alemdar Bridge.

Gürcü, daughter of Ahmed and wife of İbrahim Halil from Kömüs district, was raped by the Armenian. Abdülbaki, 17 years old son of İsa Efendi, brother-inlaw of Gürcü was kidnapped by the Armenian and his house was plundered.

The head of Ayşe, daughter of Sülin, from Aynel Bârid district, was cut through by the Armenians, her teeth were broken and her house was plundered.

The house of Yadigâr, daughter of Bayram, was plundered by Armenian gangs, her husband Polad Efendi was taken away.

Mehmed, husband of Cemile, daughter of Fevzi Bey from Taş district, and her brother-in-law Mikdad, were killed by the Armenian and Russians, their corpses and houses were burned.

A woman, called Hanım from Taş district was killed by the Armenian and her house was plundered.

Kişemiş, the niece of Sofu Veli, son of Receb, from Taş district, her daughter Hadiye and Cemile, her

nephews, 15 years old Said and 13 years old Hamid, seven years old Cemil and five years old Garib, were killed by the Armenian and Russians. Furthermore, his house was plundered and 60 lira of his wife Cemile, was taken

The head of Nasibe, wife of builder Mahmud, from Taş district, was cut, her 5 years old young son Şükrü was killed by the Armenian, her 10 years old daughter Cemile was massacfed after her eyes were carved.

Ali and Izzet, 15 and 17 years old sons of Rayise, daughter of Mustafa, from Avih district, her husband Hasan, were killed by the Armenian gangs. Resul's daughter named Kaile, and Hasso, son of Kılıç and his son Izzet, Sheikh Ahmed Efendi, Sheikh of Kazanan¹¹⁷, his wife Şemo, his servant Mehmed, Mehmed, son of Kırmızı Ahmed and his brother Mikdad, Zekiye, wife of Habib son of Aşir, İsmail son of Polad, his nephew Halid, Fethullah, son of plasterer Bulak, Hacı Ali, son of Bayındır, his son Yusuf were cut into pieces by the Armenian

Melek, 13 years old daughter of Şemseddin, son of Hacı Yusuf, and Zülfinaz; mother of Arafat, were killed by the Armenian. As Feride, daughter of Mahmud, son of Meşko was afraid, she became mad and hanged herself.

15 years old daughter and Peri 20 years old daughter-in-law of the brother of Maksut, son of Kasım, from Hersan district, were raped and every where of them were disabled wildly and their house was plundered.

An 80 years old Kurdish person, named Mehmed, who was a guest at Mehmed is home, son of Hasan from Hersan district was killed and the house was plundered.

Fatma, from Hizan and Ziynet, from Van who were at the house of Reyhan, son of Şemseddin, from Hersan district, were raped and later on they were killed by the Russians.

Tevfik, seven years old son of Batum, daughter of Yusuf, from Hersan district was taken away by the Russians and their house was plundered. Also the husband of Azize Neno, their neighbor, was killed.

Şefik, son of Şöhret, daughter of Mehmed, from Hersan district, was taken away by the Russian, their house was plundered, their 47 liras were taken.

Cihangir, husband of Güllü, daughter of Emrullah, from Avih district, was killed by the Russian, their 15 liras and 15 pilasters were taken.

Polad, 16 years old grandson of Ümmühan, daughter of Abdülgafur Efendi, from Avih district, was killed by the Armenians.

Bilâl, son of Mullah Veli zâde, son of Hasan from Kümes district, was killed by the Armenian and his house was plundered.

Osman Ağa, son of Kalkancı, from Kızıl Mescid district was wounded from his armpits by the Armenians with bayonet and he was imprisoned for 58 days. His 1,5 years old son Abdülbaki died from cold. The house of Osman Ağa, was plundered.

Halid, son of Feyzullah, from Kızıl Mescid district was wounded by a bullet, shot by Russians on

¹¹⁷ Kazanan village.

his chest and was subjected to torture; his house was plundered also.

Mustafa Efendi, son of Ömer Efendi, from Zeydan district, was imprisoned for two months and his house was plundered. 13 years old son Şevket, of this person was lost and no information was received about his end, meanwhile his 10 coins of 20 piasters, five liras and 50 piasters were taken.

27 coins of 20 piasters, 20 quarters of 20 piasters and one watch of Sheikh Yusuf Efendi, son of Süleyman Efendi, from Zeydan district, were taken by the Russians, his house was plundered and his ten years old son, Mehmed Nuri, was lost.

Mehmed, son of Reşid, from Sor¹¹⁸, residing at Hersan district was imprisoned for 60 days and was subjected to torture; his 50 years old mother, Nigâr Hanım was slaughtered. Hasan and Hüseyin, the nephews of Ahmed Ağa, living at the house of this person, and his daughter encountered with the same end and their corpses were thrown to the dogs.

Salih, son of Hüseyin, from Ahlat, residing at Kızıl Mescid district, was wounded from his head and arms by Russians, with sword. His 70 years old father was killed by sword and his house was completely plundered.

Upon the resistance of Ahmed, son of butcher from Ahlat, residing at Zeydan district, against the Armenians, who tried to rape his 16 years old daughter Ash, while he was trying to take refuge in the Ottoman units that night, he was killed wildly by the Armenians and his skin was stripped.

The house of Resul, son of Mahmud, from Hersan district was plundered and his 120 piasters were taken. Furthermore, he was imprisoned for one month and later on he was subjected to torture also.

Hasan, son of Hüseyin, son of Safrasor Ağa, was beaten and his house was plundered. He has been hospitalized for three months due to the wounds he has taken and later on he was imprisoned in a house where he lived in hard conditions.

90 years old father of Mehmed, son of İsmail from Taş district was killed, his body was cut into pieces by sword and his house was plundered. Furthermore, the son was imprisoned for two wonths.

Fatma, 17 years old daughter of Bedri, son of Hasso, from Ayn-el Bârid district, was raped and his house was plundered; he was imprisoned for three months, furthermore he was beaten and subjected to torture and his 400 piasters were taken.

The house of Şakir, son of Mehmed from Kızıl Mescid district was plundered.

Abdülhalim Efendi, son of Mullah İsa Efendi, who was a school teacher, from Avih district, was wounded from his head with a large knife. Furthermore, he was beaten and his ribs were broken and his eyes were carved. His 11 liras and also two watches were taken.

Şaban Efendi, who was a deputy judge at Bitlis court of appeal, husband of Emine, daughter of Musa Ağa from Mahallebaşı district, was murdered wildly by the Armenians. His 18 ornamental coins, each worth of five Gold Turkish liras, 50 liras, 150 pieces of golden jewelry, four belts, four pairs of golden earrings, 28

¹¹⁸ Today, Uludere village of Ahlat town of Bitlis.

banknotes each worth 100 para, were taken. Furthermore, his house was plundered and his 15 years old daughter Naciye was raped. His father Musa, and the niece of Emine Hanım, Gülperi were beaten and murdered. Emine Hanım was also subjected to torture.

Fidan, the mother in-law of Zülfiye, daughter of Sadık from Taş district, and her brother-in law, Kâmil were killed and their house was plundered.

Kâmil, husband of Ayşe, daughter of Abdullah, from Taş district, her three months old son Şerif and a women called Rukiye were killed in a horrible way, and their corpses were thrown to the dogs. Furthermore, their house was plundered, and meanwhile her five liras and 12 piasters were taken.

Faris, son of Münteha, daughter of Mullah Abdullah, from Taş district, was kidnapped, and no information was received on his end. Furthermore, Kadir, 10 years old son of Faris, and Tevfik, his 12 years old other son were killed. Another boy, called Şerif, was killed with stones and butt of rifle. The girls called Mennan, Kişemiş and Zeyneb were raped. Esad, the nep hew of Zeyneb, was killed with the strokes of sword and every thing in their house was completely stolen. They acted very savagely against the individuals of this family 119

Mecidiye, daughter of Ayn, from Adilcevaz, residing at Kızıl Mescid district, was wounded from her head and eyes with strokes of hammer.

Fatma, daughter of Mustafa, from Zeydan district, wanted to protect her honor, and due to this

reason, she was beaten at her head and many parts of her body. Furthermore, her left arm was broken, and her three liras and a pair of brackets were taken.

Hacı Ömer Efendi, a school teacher from Taş district, was tortured by the Armenians and Russian, his 70 liras, a watch and all his goods were seized.

Elmas, daughter of Fazil Mullah Ali Kadı zâde from Zeydan district, was kidnapped by the Russian and was brought to Kızıl Mescid district. Eyüb, six years old son of this woman, was killed.

Şükrü Efendi, husband of Hünkâr Hanım from Erzurum, residing at Kızıl Mescid district, was kidnapped, all his money was taken by the Armenians.

Kadri, son of brother-in-law of Ayşe, daughter of Ibrahim, from Ahlat, residing at Kızıl Mescid district was killed.

While Mehmed, son of Yakub, from Kızıl Mescid district, was going to the city, was wounded by a bullet on his left shoulder near Arap bridge. His wound has not been recovered yet.

Zeynep, daughter of Mehmed, from Kömüs district was wounded while the enemy was entering the city. Arif, 16 years old son of this woman was killed, Halid, 12 years old other son of her was wounded at six places of his body with the strokes of bayonet.

Abdülbaki, 19 years old brother of Abdülgani, son of Selim, from Kömüs district, was kidnapped while the enemy was entering the city, and later his skin was stripped. His father Selim was killed in front of the Kızıl Mosque, while he was leaving the province.

¹¹⁹ Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-ı İhtilâliyyesi..., p. 310.

Hanife, daughter of Halil from Hersan district was threathened with death and her 30 liras and jewelry were taken.

Nasibe, 15 years old daughter of Münevver, daughter of Veli, from Kızıl Mescid district, was kidnapped and deflowered by the Armenians while the enemy was invading the province. Her husband Mehmed Şirin was also kidnapped and his clothes were taken.

Ömer, brother of Sultan, daughter of Veli from Zeydan district, was killed near Tahşot while he was leaving the province during the invasion of the enemy.

The Russian and the Armenians who entered into the house of Sultan, daughter of Mullah Süleyman, from Kızıl Mescid district, took 10 liras, two watches, a belt and the bracelets by force from her husband, Hoca Yusuf.

Beyaz, six years old daughter of the brother-in-law of Dilber, daughter of Semo, from Avih district was killed, his 10 years old daughter Sultan, was deflowered.

Hakverdi, husband of Dilber, daughter of Mehmed, from Zeydan district, was first wounded with a bullet while the enemy was invading the province, later on he was murdered.

The above mentioned explanations have been made, by taking oath, before the commission, consisting of the following people who signed the attached minutes, August, 12, 1916.

Hakkı Bey : Acting Secretary in Bitlis.
M. Arif Bey : Acting Police Chief.

Ömer Hulusi Efendi : Arabic teacher in Military school.

Abdülhakim Efendi, son of Mullah İsa. Sheikh Yusuf Efendi, son of Hacı Melik. Yusuf Efendi, Sheikh of Kazâzlar.

30. MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION (II)

Haydar Efendi, 80 years old father of Kaleli zâde Dursun Efendi, from Hersan district, was cut into pieces and his house was plundered.

Naciye, 6 years old daughter of Saniye, daughter of Mustafa, residing at Mahallebaşı district, was killed 6 liras were taken from her mother, and Bekir, her brother was kidnapped

Hediye, 16 years old daughter of Reşid, from Adilcevaz, residing at Kızıl Mescid district, was deflowered by the Russian and the Armenians, during the invasion of the province.

Polad, 16 years old brother of Yadigâr, daughter of Şaban, from Avih district, was killed.

Izzet, son of Hasan, 50 years old brother-in-law of Zernisan, daughter of Sayyad, from Avih district and her neighbor Ali were killed and their 60 liras were seized.

Muhiddin, a grocer, husband of Kişemiş, daughter of Hoca Şaban Efendi, from Kömüs district was killed and his 30 liras were seized.

Osman, husband of Güllü daughter of Salih, from Karçıkan was killed and his 10 years old son Hacı was kidnapped.

Ali, 15 years old grandson of Bedo, daughter of Receb, from Kızıl Mescid district was killed.

Gülbeyaz, 8 years old daughter of Cevahir, daughter of Fehim from Avih district, and Behiye, her 4 years old daughter were killed and their mother was wounded with the strokes of the butt of the rifle. Their 20 coins of 20 piasters and one watch were taken.

Mercan, daughter of Abdurrahman, from Kömüs district, Rahmiye, 40 years old woman and Resul, her brother-in-law were killed. 60 liras of Resul were taken.

Fatma, 15 years old daughter of Hacer, daughter of Halid from Yako (Ünaldı) village was shot and her 5 liras were taken.

Arif, husband of Fidan, daughter of Andelib from Tatar Gazi district was kidnapped.

Sultan, 12 years old daughter of Tilli, daughter of Hasso, from Patnos district was killed.

Şükrü, a barber, husband of Gülsüm, daughter of Mehmed Efendi, from Kızıl Mescid district was killed, Mehmed Ali, her son-in-law, who was a grocer, was kidnapped and all of his money was taken.

Külhancı Salih, son of Leyla, daughter of İlyas, from Kızıl Mescid district was killed.

Hacı İsmail, father of Karaca zâde Abdülaziz, son of Hacı İsmail, from Kızıl Mescid district and his brother İshak were killed, their 600 liras were taken.

Sheikh Yusuf, son of Sheikh Abdülgani, from Taş district, was beaten by the Armenians; he was tortured and was threatened. His 23 liras, clothes of his wife and other goods were taken and his house was demolished.

Medine, daughter of Kalelioğlu Osman, son of Yusuf, from Hersan district was caught and beaten by the Armenians. Her son-in-law Halid, and her son Ali were slaughtered. Her house was plundered and her 14 liras were taken. Her neighbor Mullah Mehmed, his son Ziver, his daughter, his mother-in-law Hezar, the husband of his wife's sister, Resul, and İbrahim, who were guests at that time were killed. A person called Reşid, his wife together with their 6 children, who took shelter at Osman's house were murdered. Another person called Yusuf, his wife and their 6 children, from the same village, took shelter in a house near Osman's house, and they were also killed.

Hasan, 14 years old son of Musa, son of Maksud, from Hersan district, was shot by the Armenians, his 4 piasters was taken and his house was plundered. Ahmed, the son of Hasso, his neighbor, was cut into pieces by an Armenian gang with an axe, Salih, son of İbrahim and brother-in-law of Musa, was executed by shooting.

Hasan, son of Haydar, from Taş district was wounded from his head by a large knife and he was imprisoned for 3 months and his 67 liras were taken.

Hanife, Rahime, sisters of Sofu Halid, son of Ridvan, from Taş district, Resul, his brother, his nephews Yusuf, Cemil, Hamid and Horzi, were killed by the Armenian gangs with the strokes of sword, their golden jewelry worth of 120 liras, furthermore, 32 ornamental coins worth five gold Turkish liras, that each of them had, were taken and their house was plundered 120

¹²⁰ Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-i İhtilâliyyesi..., p. 311.

Yusuf, seven years old son of Polad, son of Sadık from Taş district, his wife and Nazlı, daughter of Rüstem her daughter Nasibe and Hadiye, her daughterin-law Sultan, were shot by the Russians and the Armenians, their 70 liras were taken and their house was put on fire

Old Hasan Ağa, from Van, residing at Mahallebaşı district was beaten, he was subjected to torture and his skin was stripped.

Abdülmecid and Abdülaziz, nephews of Hatib zâde Mullah Hamza, son of Mullah İbrahim from Hersan district were killed. Their 15 years old nephew and Mehmed, son of Mullah Ali, their wives, father and mother of Cevahir and Zeynep, their daughter Huri and Sabriye, were raped, and they were all murdered by the strokes of sword. A person called Fakı Mehmed, from Malazgirt, his two sons and two daughters, furthermore his wife were murdered wildly at the house of Resul Efendi. 55 liras of Mullah Hamza and the jewelry of his daughter were taken. ¹²¹

Mullah Resul, brother of Bedir, son of Süleyman, from Hersan district, was shot by the Armenians. His 7 liras and watch were taken. The jewelry of Yadigâr and Feride, his sisters, was seized.

Musa, husband of Reyhan, daughter of Ömer, from Zeydan district, was killed with the strokes of sword.

The head of Abdülhamid, son of Zülfinaz, daughter of İsa Ağa, from Taş district, was smashed and his 20 liras were taken.

Mehmed, son of Cevahir, daughter of Hacı Ali, from Hersan district was killed. His 40 pieces of golden ornaments, one silver belt, golden earrings and 23 coins of 20 piasters were taken.

The house of Kişemiş, daughter of Osman Bey, from Hersan district was put on fire by the Russian and Armenian gangs. Her daughter Ziynet, her younger daughter, 6 years old Aliye and her 7 years old son Mehmed Salih, were burned while they were alive. 15 years old son, of Osman the same person and her younger son, Necded were kidnapped.

Old İsmail, father of Ayn, son of İsmail, from Taş district, was killed by the Armenians. Furthermore, 13 liras and one watch of İsmail, who was imprisoned for two months, were taken.

Ali, 15 years old son of Mehmed, from Taş district, was wounded by the Armenians with a large knife at 3 places of his body. His uncle Kasım was burned at the house of the above mentioned person, while he was alive. His nephews Halid and Abdülkadir, together Rukiye, the wife of his uncle, were murdered. 20 ornamental coins worth five gold Turkish liras, two liras, a pistol and a watch of Ali, were seized.

Mehmet, 8 years old son of Hamid, from Ayn-el Bârid district was caught and wounded by the Armenians. His uncles, Faris and Ismail, were cut into pieces by sword.

Hanife, daughter of Zeyneb, daughter of Halid, from Ayn-el-Bârid district and Memi, his son-in-law were killed by the Armenians with the strokes of large knife.

¹²¹ Compare with, a.g.e., p. 311.

Kadriye, daughter of Cuma, from Zeydan district, her 4 years old son Hüseyin and 14 years old Mehmed were killed by sword. Her brother-in-law Emin was executed by shooting and her house was plundered.

Didar, daughter of Rcceb, from Mahallebaşı district was beaten by the Armenians and was subjected to torture. Her house was plundered. Furthermore, the furniture of Kâmil Bey, son of Sefer Bey which were left there as a trust, was plundered.

Kasım, the sick husband of Muhabbet, daughter of Hacı İsmail, from Taş district, was burned at his house while he was alive and his 20 liras were taken. Her brother was hung in front of his house, Rukiye, the widow of Halid and aunt of Muhabbet, was put to sword.

Gülçin, who was the daughter of Selâm and the wife of Birader zâde Mirza, İffet, who was the daughter of Abdurrahman and wife of Hacı Mehmed Birader zâde and another woman from Van, Mahbube, who was the daughter of İffet and Yakub and married to Dilan zâde Faris, Hano, who was the daughter of Ali and wife of Dilan zâde Polad, Ana, daughter of İsmet and wife of Barutçu zâde Osman, her young son Abdullah, Koşdu, daughter of Mullah Mahmud, son of Gül, Köse zâde Hasan and his son Süleyman and Senco, son of Şaban, from Kömüs district have been killed by the Russian and Armenians with the strokes of swords, large knives and bayonets.

Peren, daughter of Abdullah and wife of Hamza Çelebi zâde Haydar from Kömüs district, was kidnapped by the Armenians. Hamza Çelebi zâde Faris, son of Yusuf and Kudret, his wife, daughter of Ali Efendi, Sultan, daughter of Abdullah and wife of Halo, son of Hamza Çelebi zâde Ayo, daughter of Ömer Ağa and from the same family Cevahir, wife of Ahmed, were killed by the Russian. The house of Hamza Çelebi zâde Veli Çavuş was collapsed by a bomb thrown by the Armenian gangs. Meryem, daughter of Fethullah and wife of Nuri, was murdered also.

Reşid, son of Cafer, from Zeydan district, his brother Ali, his nephew Halid were killed. Mehmed Salih, son of Halid was kidnapped and his house was set to fire.

Fatma, wife of Nuri, son Osman from Zeydan district, and her six years old daughter Hürriyet, three years old son Abdülaziz were kidnapped and their house was plundered.

The wife and seven years old daughter of Ömer bin Mehmed, from Zeydan district, six years old and eight years old daughter of Resul bin Veli, were taken away. Sofu İbrahim and his wife, Asiye, two disabled old men were killed. 50 years old Mehmedoğlu Süleyman, son of Mehmed from Zeydan district, and his 100 years old mother Ümmühan were killed. Kişemiş, wife of Süleyman and daughter of Halil was wounded. Hamza, from Hizan was shot and his house was plundered.

Hafiz Yakub Efendi, son of Hacı Mahmud Efendi, from Zeydan district was murdered. Elmas, wife of Emin, son of Hasan was killed and her daughter Nadire, was wounded at 4 parts of her body.

Ömer, son of Veli, Halef, son of Haydar and his two sons, Halid, son of Nuri, Said, son of Hamza, Mikdad, son of Sadık, Didare, wife of Mahmud, and her daughter Güllü, Cevahir daughter of Hasan; Cevahir, daughter of Abdullah, 70 years old İrfan, from Melenze, Hacı Cündi, Abdülcelil, Zekiye, wife of Hacı Cündi, Ziynet, her mother Güllü, her three years old son Abdullah and four years old daughter Nuriye, Pembe, wife of Şükrü; Nadire, wife of Ahmed, Eşref, son of Habib and Faik, son of tailor Mustafa were killed.

Abdurrahman, son of tailor Pûrî was cut into pieces. Tevfik, son of Kazancı zâde İbrahim, eight years old son Dursun, son of Seyfullah Efendi, Bekir, son of Hamza, Mikdad, son of Zülkadir zâde Sadık, Halid, son of Mamagü zâde Osman, and son of Halid, Abdullah Tahinci zâde and Mehmed, seven years old son of Zülkadir zâde Kasım were killed and their houses were plundered.

Hakverdi, 70 years old son of Pûrî zâde Receb, was killed and his house was burned. Şükrü, son of İrfan Dizdar zâde and Musa, son of Gülşo, were killed. Reyhan, wife of Musa was wounded. Halid, son of Nuri Halid zâde was taken away and his wife was killed. Mehmed, son of Mahmud, from Gevar¹²², and his daughter Huri, was wounded.

İsa, son of Abdullah, from Zeydan district, Halime, wife of Çürük zâde Halid, Nuri, son of Şaban (head), his grandson Şemseddin Arif were killed. Tevfik, brother-in-law of Şaban was taken away and his house was plundered.

Pir Musa zâde Şevket, son of Habib Efendi, from Zeydan district was taken away. Selbi, daughter of Reşid Efendi and wife of Mustafa, Abdullah, brother of Kaleli zâde Mustafa was killed. Polad, sixty years old son of Halid from the same district, Rindi, 85 years old sister of Hacı Osman Nasır zâde, Müzik zâde Şemseddin, Nigar, wife of Fethullah, Hediye, wife of Budak zâde Mehmed, her seven years old and two years old daughters and her seven years old son, Selbi, wife Nâsır zâde İshak, Kudret, 80 years old mother of Nasır zâde Şemseddin Efendi, Kaleli zâde Süleyman, son of Sadullah were murdered and also their houses were plundered. Mother of Şükrü, son of Beşir Efendi, her 15 years old daughter Cemile, Fatma, wife of Kadı zâde Mahmud, Hazo, mother of Derviş, Hamo, wife of Mustafa, Kudret, wife of Hafiz were killed and also their houses were plundered.

The commission certifies the verification of the above mentioned explanations made before the Moslem public who stayed at Bitlis during the invasion of the enemy and who were subject to the wild behavior of Russian-Armenian gangs.

August 12, 1916.

Temporary secretary from Bitlis: Hakkı Bey. Acting Police Director from police organization: M. Arif Bey.

School teacher: Ömer Hulusi Efendi, Mullah İsa zâde Abdülhakim Efendi, Hacı Melik zâde Sheikh Yusuf Efendi, Yusuf Efendi, Sheikh of Kazâzlar.

31. MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION (III)

The mosques that were collapsed in Bitlis:

Meydan Mosque

Burned

¹²² Today, Yüksekova town of Hakkâri Province.

Kızıl Mescid Mosque : Demolished

Hatuniye Mosque : Brought into the form of

a stable

Hoca Bey Mosque : Burned
Serefiye Mosque : Burned
Mermud Mosque : Demolished
Sheikh Hasan Mosque : Burned
Sultan Arah Mosque : Demolished

Sultan Arab Mosque : Demolished Farisiyye Mosque : Demolished Great Mosque : Burned

Alemdar Mosque : Demolished
Kureyş Mosque : Demolished

Gökmeydan Mosque : Burned
Çehâr Sanduk Mosque : Burned
Taş Mosque : Demolished

Kuru Pınar Mosque : Burned

Medresses:

Gökmeydan Medresse : Demolished
Gazi Bekye Medresse : Demolished
Kerafiye Medresse : Demolished
Şerefiye Medresse : Demolished

Dervish lodges:

Küfrevî Dervish Lodge : Burned

Sheikh Emin Efendi Dervish Lodge: Demolished Sheikh Abdullah Bedahşânî Dervish Lodge: Burned

Places to which pilgrimage is made:

Sheikh Abdullah Bedahşânî: Burned

Veli Şemseddin : Demolished Sheikh Babu : Demolished Sheikh-ül-Garib : Demolished

Schools:

Gökmeydan Primary school, High school in the vicinity of Mermutlu, Primary school at Kızıl Mescid, Primary school at Çarşı Başı. All of these schools were burned.

Inns:

Merchants' inns at Pazar, Inn of Hamza at Aşağı Kale were burned.

Official Buildings:

The inner parts of Government Hotel, buildings belonging to police gendarme building, buildings of municipality were destroyed.

Police stations:

Mahalle Başı, Çarşı Başı, Kuru Pınar, Saparkur, Kömüs and Zeydan police stations were collapsed completely.

Bridges:

Arap Bridge, Alemdar Bridge, Sefer Bey Bridge, Diyadin Bridge, Şor Pınar Bridge, Hatuniye Bridge were collapsed.

Baths:

Paşa Bath, Han Bath and Orta Bath were collapsed.

Warehouses:

The military warehouse, in the vicinity of Gökmeydan, was burned, the one near the municipality was collapsed.

Vineyards-Gardens:

All of the vineyards at Zeydan, Kömüs and Hersan districts were destroyed, fruit-trees and other trees were broken down. The windows of all of the shops at marketplace were burned, the roofs of some of the shops were collapsed.

- 1. The house of Cafer zâde located at Mahallebaşı was collapsed and more than 20 women and men died in this house (The photographs of this event are available).
- 2. In the house of Ahmed from the same district, Ali and Abdullah from Taş district, both of them were 12 years old, were killed, Kerim, son of İlyas, was slaughtered (the photograph of this event is available).
- 3. On the way to Mahallebaşı, more than 15 people, men and women were murdered (The photograph of this event is available).
- 4. A 15 years old girl, called Fatma, from Antep was raped. Furthermore, two fingers of her left hand were cut (The photograph of this event is available).

The houses which were burned:

The house of Sıvacı zâde Abdülgani: Zeydan district.

The house of Resul Efendi, clerk at court: Zeydan district.

The house of Süleyman, the brother of this Person: Zeydan district.

The house of Tahinci zâde Hakverdi: Zeydan district.

The house of Mullah Musa zâde Reşid: Zeydan district.

The inn of Hacı Hamza: Aşağı Kale direction of Zeydan district.

The house of Saatçı zâde Mehmed Efendi: Hersan district.

The house of police officer Halef Efendi: Hersan district

The house of Hala Ali zâde Osman Efendi: Hersan district.

The house of Tahtavî zâde Mahmud Efendi: Hersan district.

The house of Derviş Efendi, son of Merchant Resul zâde Receb: Zeydan district.

The great house of Hacı Mehmed Salih Efendi: Taş district.

The house of (Butcher) Beşir Efendi: Taş district.

The house of Lawyer Mustafa Efendi: Taş district.

The house of Mecid, son of Polad Efendi: Taş district.

The house of Bekir, son of Ahmed Efendi: Taş district.

The first floor of the house of Barutçu zâde Yasin: Taş district.

The house of Derviş Ağa zâde Sadık: Taş district.

The great house of Hacı Hasan zâde Resul Efendi, son of Hacı Bedir Ağa having a firm structure: Taş district.

The house of Osman Efendi, son of Hacı Mehmed: Taş district.

The hosue of Police officer Arif Efendi, son of Murad Ağa: Taş district.

The house of Yasin Efendi, son of Faris: Taş district.

The houses of Sheikh Abdülmecid and Sheikh Nazif: Zeydan district.

The house of Pabuçcu Bedir: Taş district.

The house of Hankulu zâde Bapir: Hersan district.

The house of Müzik zâde Cevher: Hersan district.

The house of Halil Bey: Hersan district.

The house of Köse zâde Bayram: Taş district.

The caffee of Müftüzâde Sadullah.

The house of Cafer: Zeydan district.

The house Hacı Rüstem: Zeydan district.

The house of Cafer zâde Eyüb: Zeydan district.

The house of Merchant Yakub zâde Süleyman (at Gök Meydan): in the vicinity of Taş district.

The house of Kâkî zâde Ahmed in the vicinity of Kalbur: down below Zeydan district.

The house of İsa, son of Abdüssamed, in the vicinity of Kalbur: down below Zeydan district.

The house of Yunus, son of Hacı Hasan, down below Zeydan district.

The house of Mecid, son of Bekir: Zeydan district.

The house of Kâkiî zâde Abdürrezzak, son of Hamid: Zeydan district.

The house of Halil, son of Gülsenem: Zeydan district.

The house of Fakih Hasan: Zeydan district.

After the evacuation of Russian units from Bitlis, the province was in a miserable appearance. Against the wildness of Russians, nobody could detain himself from rebelling against it. During the invasion of enemy units into Bitlis, the Moslem public was subject to a horrible massacre without making any difference of age and sex. After these events, only 882 persons could survive. These people, however, were piled up in the rooms that could contain 10 to 15 people, as 60-70 people. The other residents of the province, were imprisoned in the government building and at Kızıl Mescid district.

Various tortures were made to the people, the civilian servants who were arrested, were left hungry for many days. All of foodstuff was seized and only dry bread was distributed to Moslem public who were left in the dark. If a small amount of women are left exempt, all young, even old women were raped and young girls were deflowered.

Among them 18 were closed in a house and dissipation festivities were arranged with them. Among

them again, six of them were found as being caught to syphilis. These tortures continued till the Turkish units entered into the province. These unlucky people were forced to swear to their religion and to curse their nationality.

The arm of Aslı, 16 years old daughter of Ahmed, son of a butcher from Ahlat, who defended herself against those who wanted to rape her, was cut with a sword and she was killed near Arap bridge with the butts of rifles. A lot of children were killed by smashing their heads or by treading under boots, piles of human goods and organs consisting of head, arm, leg, the hair of women, carcasses of young children, bloody shirts, etc were found in the gardens of the houses. A lot of people died of hunger or lost their conscious. The mosques of Hatuniye, Şerefiye, Kızıl Mescid, Kuru Pınar were burned, collapsed or brought into the form of a stable. Seven fountains and water conduits of Hersan district and Mahallebaşı district were completely destroyed.

The furniture, kitchen utensils, facilities and tools belonging to government or private persons were plundered by the Russian and the Armenians, and some of them were sold to tradesmen from Iran, and some of them were sent to Russia. The end of the Moslem public of the villages in the vicinity, has been the same.

August 27,1916

Chief of Correspondence office in Bitlis:Hakkı Bey.

The second Officer of the Police Organization in Bitlis¹²³: M. Arif Bey.

¹²³ Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-i İhtilâliyyesi..., pp. 312-314; Kara Schemsi, Turcs et Arméniens Devant L'Histoire, Genève 1919, pp. 67-68.

CHAPTER TWO

OPPRESSION IN VAN PROVINCE 124

1. Testimony with oath of Salim Efendi, son of Sadullah¹²⁵ (2.6.1916)(A police officer of Van, now appointed to Mardin)

Upon the approach of Russians towards Van, the Armenians residing at the provinces and villages in the vicinity, began to riot against Ottoman Administration and make enemy-like demonstrations. At the same time, they did not obey the instructions of the administration on tax payment, and they participated in the approaching Russian army. They were reaching the villages, attacking on the passengers, killing all of the Moslems they meet with on their way, massacring the wounded soldiers who were returning to their villages on leave

After a short time, the Armenians of Van, rioted openly against Ottoman Government¹²⁶. They began to attack on soldiers, gendarme and police officers with their weapons on the streets of the province. They used to kill all of the Moslems they caught, fire at the

¹²⁴ During the First World War, Van province, consisted of Van center and Hakkâri Sanjak. During Republican era, Van was separated from Hakkâri Sanjak and has been brought into a province by itself.

¹²⁵ Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-ı İhtilâliyyesi..., p. 299.

¹²⁶ Van Armenians rioted on April 13-14, 1995. "Immigration Law" would pass after this date, on May 27, 1915.

persons they see at the windows or in front of the houses of Moslems.

This situation continued for 27 days. Even if after the occupation of the province 127, the Armenian continued their barbarism, wickedness and insolence. They were running after those who escaped and killing them in the middle of the street. Hundreds of Moslems, men, women and children who remained in the province have been subject to torture by these Armenian gangs and massacred. Same Moslems who escaped towards Bitlis on board of three sailboats, were martyred at Adilcevaz 128 subdistrict, around Parkat 129 by the Armenians 130 Police officers Celâl Efendi, Haşim Efendi and Mustafa Efendi who accompanied these immigrants, were wounded during struggles and they could come to Bitlis.

The residents of the villages of Timar¹³¹ subdistrict, such as Zeve¹³², Molla Kasım¹³³, Şeyh Kara¹³⁴, Şeyh Ayne¹³⁵, Ayanıs¹³⁶, Zorova¹³⁷and Pakiz¹³⁸, were

Van city, will be invaded in the middle of May, 1915 (May 16/17) by Russian Kazakh regiment and Armenian units.

¹²⁸ Adilcevaz, was a subdistrict at that time.

massacred by the Armenian gangs, like the residents of other villages.

Before the occupation of Van by the Russians, six gendarmes, Sheikh Ağa Efendi Rıza Maho, Hoca Hasan Efendi, deputy president of Accounting Department of Van, and his family consisting of six people, secondary school teacher Rasim Efendi and his family and furthermore some other people had been martyred by the Armenians of Van. Lieutenant Hüseyin Efendi, was attacked at his house and his daughter Nadide, was raped and wounded. Other young girls and women were raped also and hundreds of houses were burned together with those who lived inside these.

2. Testimony with oath of Mehmed Tufan Efendi (4.6.1916) (Son of major Esad Efendi, Deputy judge at court)

The Armenians in Turkey, have brought the independence idea, as a fixed idea for a long time, and have tried to take out a part of the Empire with all the possibilities they had.

The Armenians, without concealing their aims and desires, after the declaration of General mobilization¹³⁹, began to put forward their revolutionist ideas, by transforming these aims into operation. The Armenian committees, that had been organized previ-

¹²⁹ Today, **Esenkıyı** village of Göldüzü subdistrict of Adilcevaz town of Bitlis.

¹³⁰ Compare with Mehmed Hocaoğlu, Arşiv Vesikalarıyla Tarihte Ermeni Mezâlimi ve Ermeniler, İstanbul 1976 p. 632; Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-ı İhtilâliyyesi..., p. 304; furthermore see, Hüseyin Çelik, Görenlerin Gözüyle Van'da Ermeni Mezalimi, Ankara, without date, p. 12.

¹³¹ A subdistrict of central town of Van.

¹³² Today, Zeve is a ruin of village and a cemetery of martyrs.

¹³³ Today, Mollakasım village of Timar subdistrict of Van.

¹³⁴ Today, Gülsünler village.

¹³⁵ Today, **Otluca** village.

¹³⁶ Today, **Ağartı** village.

¹³⁷ Today, Yemlice village of Timar subdistrict of Van.

¹³⁸ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹³⁹ As of July 30,1914, partial mobilization has been inaugurated in Turkey, in the beginning of August, the mobilization has been generalized.

ously, began to be active and have been the guides and couriers of the Russian units. These Armenians called the Russian and made them to come on November 22, 1914 to the management center of Şikefti¹⁴⁰ subdistrict at Hakkâri region, which was Dir¹⁴¹ village.

While the Russian were occupying Dir village, the Armenian gangs killed all the men at the Kurdish villages on their way and put thousands of children to sword.

Together with young women, more than 400 Kurdish girls were raped, old women were killed.

Before the occupation of Başkale¹⁴², that was the administration center of the region, by the enemy, the Armenians came to this town on November 30, 1914 and began their wild activities. The Armenians, under the chairmanship of Oseb, son of Haço, declared so-called a martial law at church and imprisoned more than 200 Moslems on whom previously they applied all kinds of torture to take out their money, in the stable section of the church.

The Armenian Committees, under the command of Garabet Efendi, who was a judge at court, entered into the houses of Moslem and Jewish people and plundered all the goods and furniture they found. Like the house of Sheikh Taha, Sheikh Yusuf, Seyyid İbrahim and Ali Efendi, all of the houses of civil servants and public were plundered in the same way by the Armenian pillagers. The goods and furniture and jewelry,

worth of 300 liras belonging to people were taken away. Furthermore, they plundered the food warehouse of the official commission who blocked some of the goods for the mobilization, the goods of Süleyman, son of Nuril and those at the shops of other Moslem merchants. Süleyman, son of Nuril was taken to the church and subjected him to torture there, and at the end, they branded his body with a hot iron to give 5.000 liras. Stolen goods were distributed among Armenian Committees.

The enemy remained 13 days in Başkale. During this period, the Armenians showed all kinds of despising behavior towards Moslem, even they arranged dissipation festivities at the mosques.

The roads were full with the corpses of women whose breasts were cut, abdomens were opened up, children who were cut into pieces, young girls who were raped and men whose eyes were carved.

It is not possible to explain the wilderness made by the Armenians one by one.

3. Testimony with oath of Fehim Bey, son of Kahraman Bey from Muradiye (10.6.1916) (Now, he is residing at Külat¹⁴³ village)

In May 1915, the Russian-Armenian units consisting of Armenians in majority, occupied Bayezid¹⁴⁴

¹⁴⁰ Today, Albayrak subdistrict of Başkale town of Van.

¹⁴¹ Today, subdistrict center (Albayrak) of Başkale town of Van.

¹⁴² Başkale town was then a subdistrict of Hakkâri Sanjak.

¹⁴³ Today, Gökay village of Hizan town of Bitlis.

¹⁴⁴ Eastern Bayezid. The central town of Ağrı Province. It was occupied by Russian units on November 3, 1914. Eastern Bayezid was a Sanjak at that time.

and 300 villages of Abağa¹⁴⁵ subdistrict of Muradiye. They massacred the Moslems they met on the way, even those who surrendered. As we knew that even if we surrendered, we would have the same end like our co-religionists, we decided to immigrate to Erciş together with the residents of the villages around Muradiye.

While we were leaving our village to go to Ercis, 10.000 Moslems from Abağa subdistrict which was rescued from Armenian oppression, took shelter in Muradiye. We left the region on the same day. Later on, a few women, with tears on their eyes and children who rescued and joined us, told us that the remaining people of Abağa subdistrict who had taken shelter in Muradiye, had been massacred by the gang of Russian citizen Aram, who was engaged in commerce at Bayezid

During our walk, we learned from Salih Bey, who was the head man of Kömüs¹⁴⁶ village told us that the people of his village and the villages in the vicinity had been massacred by the Armenian gang of Aram, from Van, and the children had been burned in the bakeries while they were still alive. On the way, together with Salih Bey we saw Ekice¹⁴⁷ village, consisting of 80 houses, and Kömüs (Balaklı) village, consisting of 100 houses, were completely burned by the Armenian gangs. Everywhere there were the corpses of women and men who were killed in a horrible way. A few

women and children who rescued from Kömüs (Balaklı) village massacre, joined us and told us that, all of the residents of their village, were pitilessly killed and burned by the Armenians.

4. In the testimony with oath of Mullah Mehmed, son of Abdurrahman from Kızıl Kilise¹⁴⁸ village of Muradiye town

Those told by Fehim Bey, were confirmed. To those that was told by Mullah Mehmed, Salih Bey, added that, who was one of the residents of Kömüs (Balaklı) village, had hidden himself in a well in order to be rescued from the death. The one who organized Kömüs (Balaklı) village massacre was the gang of Aram, from Van.

5. Testimony with oath of Basri Bey, Commander of Gendarme unit of Siirt (23.6.1916)

Last year, on the first days of May, I went to Taramak¹⁴⁹ village of Müküs (Bahçesaray) subdistrict, as the head of my unit due to my task. The Armenians of this village, did all kinds of oppression and pressure that could not be told, against the Moslems. We entered into the village covered with the corpses of men and women and also set on fire, towards evening. Among the corpses, men whose ears and noses were cut and eyes were carved, children whose heads were cut and

¹⁴⁵ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁴⁶ Today, **Balakli** village of central subdistrict of Muradiye of Van.

¹⁴⁷ Today, Sağlamtaş village of Timar subdistrict of Van.

¹⁴⁸ Today. **Yakıncak** village of central subdistrict of Muradiye of Van.

¹⁴⁹ Today. Yaylakonak village of Gevaş town of Van.

bodies were cut into pieces, were seen. However, the corporals of a young woman and a girl impressed us very much. The abdomen of the woman was cut with a knife, the baby taken out was suffocated and was put again in its place. The girl who was hung from her feet, was, covered with holes all over. After the Armenians and Russians had committed these executions, made canonically unclean the religious buildings and burned them.

6. MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION (I)

The source of the Armenian riot in Eastern Anatolian region, is based on the murder of four Armenian beggars, who were sent from Iran especially by Russian ambassadors, by Kurdish people. Like others, who opposed this riot movement, Rafael, who was a teacher at Gevas school, was also killed by the members of the Committee.

At the end the investigations carried our at site, it came out that the Armenian riot movement had began upon the murder of a woman from Ağcakale village. This woman who was returning to her village from Van, after doing her shopping, was attacked by the Armenians of Asbasin¹⁵⁰ village on the way and she was killed. Her goods were sent to Havasur¹⁵¹ committee.

Hacı Musa Bey from the notables of Karçıkan¹⁵² and Hacı Yusuf Ağa from Karkar¹⁵³, who was known as a helpful person, and their seven friends who were returning to their villages, were murdered by the members of the committee who laid an ambush behind a barricade on the way.

Sergeant Mehmed, from Hizan was attacked on Aht mountain and his head was smashed by stones.

Three shepherds, who were serving the sheep merchants from Aleppo, to take the herd that they had purchased to Saray¹⁵⁴, were murdered at Kirs¹⁵⁵ village of Havasur (Gürpınar).

Apart from these, a lot of well-known Moslems were martyred. A passenger from Yedi Esbisad¹⁵⁶, at Kozluca¹⁵⁷ village; Abdullah Efendi, Kâmil Çavuş from Muradiye, at Tasmali¹⁵⁸, Cafer Bey from the notables of Karçıkan, while he was walking at Derebey district in Van: Ismail from Pakiz¹⁵⁹ village, by the farmers of Kalecik¹⁶⁰, İsmail Bey from Zivistan¹⁶¹, at Keşişoğlu¹⁶² village, while he was returning to Van; Tevfik Efendi,

153 Karkar was registered in the yearbook of Van province dated

1315 (1899) as a subdistrict of Gevas town. Karkar, is seen among

the towns of Van in "Memâlik-i Mahrûsa-i Şâhâne'ye Mahsûs Mükemmel ve Mufassal Atlas" dated 1325 (1909). Today, Daldere village of central subdistrict of Gevaş of Van. 154 Today, Özalp town of Van province.

¹⁵⁵ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁵⁶ Today, Yukarı Gölalan village of Erçek subdistrict of central town of Van.

¹⁵⁷ Kozluca village of Erçek subdistrict of central town of Van.

¹⁵⁸ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁵⁹ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁶⁰ Kalecik village of the central town of Van.

¹⁶¹ Today, Elmalık village of Gümüşdere subdistrict of central town of Van.

¹⁶² Today, **Bakacık** village of the central subdistrict of Van.

¹⁵⁰ Today, Cavustepe village of Gürpinar town of Van.

¹⁵¹ Today, Gürpinar town of Van.

¹⁵² It was a town of Van. Its name today, can not be identified.

head of Finance department, from Norduz¹⁶³, and the gendarmes accompanying him, Nuri and İbrahim at Asbaşin (Çavuştepe) village, Sheikh Mehmed Sıddık Efendi, Mufti of Van, while he was on duty at Havasur (Gürpınar), were killed.

In December 1914, a gendarme unit consisting of eight people, were killed at Pelli¹⁶⁴ village of Gevaş. Ismail Hakkı Efendi, substitute judge of Gevaş, together with the gendarme soldier Sayyad (Seyyid) who was accompanying him, were killed at Atalan¹⁶⁵ village.

In March 1916, while soldier Bişar, from Diyarbakır, was going to his village leave, on leave, at an Armenian house, called Yedi Kilise, where he was invited to stay at night, was killed treacherously, together with seven people.

a. In the testimony with oath of Mehmed Hulusi Efendi, Deputy Mayor, he stated that during the first occupation of Saray (Özalp) area by the Russian, the Armenian gangs, had attacked to Köprü Köy¹⁶⁶, where 200 people were living. Women, men and children were massacred and all of the houses were burned.

The corpses of the soldiers who came from Erzurum and wanted to pass Van lake from Keşiş¹⁶⁷ village to Ebriren¹⁶⁸ village, were taken out from the coasts of

Van lake. As the roads were closed due to Armenian riots and the telegram lines were cut, Şatak (Çatak) area was surrounded by the Armenians.

b. Halid Efendi, Commander of Baçerge¹⁶⁹ border protection unit, said that there were huge massacres executed around Dir (Albayrak) while they were following the enemy. Women were raped, children were suffocated.

Yaplan (Sheikh Hamid), Alilan at Gevar (Yüksekova); Sheikh Gazalî, Sheikh Abdurrahman Gâzi, Hindi Baba, Mullah Kasım in Van; Kurandeşt at Şatak (Çatak); Arvâsî at Müküs (Bahçesaray); Mir Hasan Veli, Hacı Zive, Hacı Ham tombs and medresses at Gevaş, were demolished by Armenians.

c. Nigâr Hanım, wife of cavalryman sergeant Osman, son of Mirac, who was in the province, during the occupation of Van. in her testimony with oath as a witness: indicated that women and children who were in panic due to the invasion of Russian into the province, escaped from the city to save their souls. Nigâr Hanım, with her daughters, Refika, 10 years old, Şefika, five years old, her son, 12 years old Kemal, six vears old Celâl and one and a half years old Cemil, whom she took with her, were not able to walk any more. Nigâr Hanım who arrived at Surbaş¹⁷⁰ village, together with her children, passed the night among the bushes near the village. At dawn, she saw the armed gangs were wondering about and killing the people they met and she was very afraid. It was her turn. She recognized Ruben who was the cashier of accounting

¹⁶³ Today, Yalınca subdistrict of Gürpınar town of Van.

¹⁶⁴ Today, Alacabük village of Reşadiye subdistrict of Tatvan town of Bitlis.

¹⁶⁵ **Atalan** village of central subdistrict of Gevaş of Van.

¹⁶⁶ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁶⁷ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁶⁸ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁶⁹ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁷⁰ Its name of today, can not be identified.

office of Van, among executioners. With his help, Nigâr Hanım rescued her children. The daughter of Hoca Hüseyin Efendi, who was a civil servant at the Finance office of Van, and other 15 women died as they were deflowered

7. Testimonies with oath of 32 people from Van, who are at Ma'murat-ül-Aziz¹⁷¹ at present (17.6.1916) (The names of these people are written in the Minutes)

Before the occupation of Van, the people who were killed by Armenian gangs, are as follows: Gendarme mailman Sayyad (Seyyid) and his two friends at Atalan village; Hurşit Ağa, and son of Ata Bey from Vostan¹⁷², at his house, Lieutenant Süleyman Efendi, who was the detachment commander at Erciş, together with gendarme soldiers at Nabat¹⁷³ village; Hamza, son of Alay Bey from Adilcevaz, Said and Abdurrahman, sons of Hacı Ali and their five friends at Şeyh Kara (Gülsünler) village, Gendarme Hamid and his friends at Şuşanis¹⁷⁴ village; Camuşcu zâde İsmail, Cebeci zâde Hacı Yakub and his son Halil, Derviş, son of Beşir, Hacı Latif zâde Hacı Şerif, Hertüşlü zâde Mustafa, Hacı Rifat, son of Topçu, Kaya Çelebi zâde Mahmud and Yusuf, from the notables of Van; Kahraman zâde Bekir.

Şakir and Şükrü from the Notables of Erciş, Mahmud Sıddık Bey from Bargiri¹⁷⁵ were massacred.

All of the residents of Hıdır¹⁷⁶, Zeve, Şeyh Kara (Gülsünler), Amik(Amuk)¹⁷⁷, Ayanıs (Ağartı) and other villagers were massacred, women were raped and young girls were taken to inside of Russia.

Hüseyin Efendi, son of Kadik (from Norşin district) of Van and his wife Zeliha Hanım, gave testimonies which verify the statements of above mentioned Nigâr Hanım.

8. Testimony of Reşid , son of Tradesman Ali from Topçu Oğlu district of Van

During the first panic, a great majority of the public, went to Hoşab¹⁷⁸ direction where the division Halil Bey was located. But, before reaching the desired location, a group approximately consisting of 80.000 people, was attacked by Russian and the Armenians at Şahmanis¹⁷⁹ village. Only about 2.000 of them, were taken to Hoşab (Güzelsu). During the two months in which they were imprisoned as slaves, they were subjected to every kind of torture and transgression. Meanwhile, the city of Van was rescued by Turkish

¹⁷¹ Today, Elazığ Province.

¹⁷² The old name of Gevas town of Van.

¹⁷³ Today, Comaklı village of Erçek subdistrict of the central town of Van.

¹⁷⁴ Today, Kevenli village of the central town of Van.

¹⁷⁵ The old name of Muradiye town of Van.

¹⁷⁶ Today, Hıdırköy of Timar town of Van.

¹⁷⁷ It was a village of Timar town of Van. It was located between Timar and the mouth of Marmit Suyu (Karasu). It was a Turkish village. Its name of today can not be identified.

¹⁷⁸ Today, Güzelsu village of Güzelsu subdistrict of Gürpmar town of Van.

¹⁷⁹ Today, **Topçudeğirmeni** village of Yalınca subdistrict of Gürpınar town of Van.

army. Upon this news, the natives of Van who took shelter in Diyarbakır, Bitlis and Karçıkan, came to Edremid¹⁸⁰ village, which was an hour away from Van and to Engil¹⁸¹ and Atalan villages located in the north of Van. The number of these people was about 15.000. As a result of the sudden attack of the Russian and the Armenians, these people and 2.000 Turkish soldiers were killed with machine guns and shrapnels. Among them only 1.000 succeeded in escaping and rescuing.

9. Testimonies of Abdi and Reşid Mullah, from immigrants of Gevas (1.7.1916)

After the evacuation of Van and Gevaş, an Armenian and Kazakh unit, consisting of 500 people, directed by Haço, Monk Sergis, Onnik, Hako and Parso from Horotis¹⁸² village, surrounded Karkar (Daldere) village of Gevaş. They fired at the significant buildings. They massacred men and children, raped women. Only a couple hundred of villagers could rescue with great difficulties.

10. Testimonies of Tahir, son of Halid and Mahmud who migrated to Mezraa-i Şeyhan¹⁸³ (20.6.1916)

When it is learned that the center of Sanjak would be evacuated, all of the people of the village began to walk towards a place where the Turkish Administration still continued. When they arrived to Kasır¹⁸⁴ village, it was seen that the bridge was closed by the Armenian gangs among whom there were: Haço, Mardiros, Bakdo, Berzo, Sergis, Haro, teacher Garabet and Mıgirdiç.

In spite of the begging of the crowd, the brigands did not let anybody pass the bridge. They searched the women till their private parts. After they plundered everything they had with them, they attacked girls. They were equipped with Ottoman and Russian rifles, and they fired at men intensively. Most of them died, the others escaped with great difficulty and took shelter on Kuru Salan mountains. We observed that 121 people, most of them were women and children, had been killed with the bullets of the brigands.

11. Testimonies of Yusuf Kenan and Abdülhakim, from the immigrants of Müküs (Bahçesaray) (19.6.1916)

Last year on August 30, the Russian gangs came to Gevaş and Şatak (Çatak), the Armenian gangs came to Müküs (Bahçesaray). The women, old people and children, who could not escape, were massacred completely. In the Armenian gang, Kirkor, and teacher Ga-

¹⁸⁰ Today, Sarmansuyu village of Gümüşdere subdistrict of central town of Van.

¹⁸¹ Today. **Dönemeç** village of Gümüşdere subdistrict of central town of Van

¹⁸² Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁸³ Today Ünlüce village of Bahçesaray subdistrict of Gevaş town of Van.

¹⁸⁴ Today, **Sevindik** village of Güzelsu subdistrict of Gürpınar town of Van.

rabet, Vahan from Par¹⁸⁵ village, Artin from Kinekas¹⁸⁶ village, Kevork from Müküs, Minto Sembat, Hayastan, ironsmith Naro, Haçik Muhik, Dikran and Bedros were seen. These brigands especially attacked on women and raped them in a disgusting manner.

12. Testimonies of Abdülmecid, son of Halid and Resul, son of Osman from Lahyan¹⁸⁷, immigrants of Müküs (Bahçesaray) (19.6.1916)

The testimonies of these people are the same with the above mentioned testimonies. In their testimony, they indicated that among the Armenian executioners, there were Lato from Ozim (Gümüşören) village of Pervari, Haço, Oseb, Şirak from Müküs, Sergis, Nişan, Garabet, Vahan and Artin, from the neigh bouring villages.

13. Testimony of Abdullah (19.6.1916)

After the evacuation of Van, Gevaş and Havasur (Gürpınar), Armenian villagers, under the leadership of Vartan, bishop of Ahtamar Church who came from Van and Tuluncian Simon, attacked on Kurdish villages such as Verandanis¹⁸⁸, Horavil¹⁸⁹, Der¹⁹⁰, Zikoh¹⁹¹,

Karkar (Daldere), in hundreds of groups. Plundering, seducing and execution followed one another. About 200 young girls were taken to Van to satisfy the bestial emotions of the Armenians and Russian. Only very few of them could endure this attack. Only about 200 residents of the plundered and burned villages, could take shelter on Ağırof mountain. After a period, these poor people, thinking that they would find Turkish administrators, went to Müküs (Bahçesaray). However also the Armenians located there, attacked again on these miserable people. Only a few people could rescue also from this massacre in a miraculous way.

14. Testimonies of Salih and Ali, son of Halid from Serir¹⁹² village of Satak (Catak) (19.6.1916)

All of the residents of Sortekin¹⁹³, Arçkanis¹⁹⁴, Mezraa¹⁹⁵ and Pars¹⁹⁶ Armenian villages, surrounded Serir village at early hours of the morning. From 60 persons of the village, only 15 men, could escape. The others were killed. Women were kidnapped and the houses were plundered.

¹⁸⁵ A village of Bahçesaray subdistrict of Gevaş town Van. Its name of today can not be identified.

¹⁸⁶ A village of Bahçesaray subdistrict of Gevaş town of Van. Its name of today can not be identified.

¹⁸⁷ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁸⁸ Today Kurultu village of Gevas town of Van.

¹⁸⁹ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁹⁰ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁹¹ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁹² Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁹³ A village of Çatak town of Van. Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁹⁴ Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁹⁵ Its name of today can not be identified.

¹⁹⁶ There were two villages, called Pars. These seem the villages of Başkale town of Van and Özalp town of Van . Their names of today are **Yurttepe** (Başkale) and **Bağrıaçık** (Özalp). We could not determine which was meant.

15. Testimonies of Abdülhamid and Hangir from the Immigrants of Darnis-i Ulya¹⁹⁷ and Darnis-i Sufla¹⁹⁸ (19.6.1916)

The Armenian gang, consisting 5.000 people who came from Erzincan, Kahnemiran¹⁹⁹, Sidan²⁰⁰, Kagaziz²⁰¹ and other places under the leadership of Committee President Leo, who was originally from Havasur (Gürpinar), gave orders to Darnis-i Ulva (Yukarı Narlıca) and Darnis-i Sufla villages to send 500 liras and 50 girls and added that Russian had seized Istanbul, there had been no Sultan of the Ottoman Empire any more and added that there had been no solution for them except being Armenians. Hopeless Moslem public began to collect the requested 500 liras. These brigands, after massacred 10 Muslems, staying at a house at Kahnemiran (Uzuntekne), one night they surrounded the above mentioned two villages. Their leaders, were Mesrob, from Sidan, Simon, from Kagaziz, Bartik from Surengen²⁰², Bedo from Sokan²⁰³. They burned the houses and by screaming "Long live Armenia", and attacked on the people. Only 50 people, out of 320,

197 Today, Narlıca village of Çatak town of Van.

could be able to rescue from the massacre by taking advantage of the darkness.

16. Testimonies of Mahmud, son of Kotas and Behlül, son of Said from the notables of Sokan (Çatakdibi) village of Şatak(Çatak) town (19.6.1916)

Sokan (Catakdibi) village had a population of 680 people. One night, the Armenians and the Russian attacked suddenly to the village. Nobody could prevent them. Because the Moslem people had no weapons. The executioners burned the houses. When the situation became calm, a lot of women and children, died under the swords of Kazakhs and short, curved daggers of Armenian rebels. At dawn, they gathered those, who could rescue from the night execution in a house. Girls and young women were taken to an unknown direction. At lunch time, they burned the house in which they had imprisoned the villagers. Only 21 of these miserable people could rescue from this massacre miraculously. We saw Sahak, from Satak (Catak), Oseb, Artin, Hovik and Simon and the Armenian villagers, whose names we could not remember among the executioners. They especially attacked young girls and did every kind of oppression.

17. Testimonies of Mustafa and Esad from the immigrants of Avzini²⁰⁴ village of Şatak (Çatak) (20.6.1916)

¹⁹⁸ A village of Çatak town of Van. Its name of today, can not be identified.

¹⁹⁹ Today, Uzuntekne village of Catak town of Van.

²⁰⁰ A village of Çatak town of Van. Its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁰¹ A village of Çatak town of Van. Its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁰² Its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁰³ Today, Çatakdibi village of Kırkgeçit subdistrict of Gürpınar town of Van.

²⁰⁴ Today, Ağaçlık village of Çatak town of Van.

The population of our village was 500. The Armenians and the Russian attacked to the village and they plundered and massacred. Only 30 people could rescue from the massacre. The end of the others are not known.

18. Testimonies of Sheikh Enver and Mullah Reşid from the religious leaders of Alan²⁰⁵ village of Karçıkan town (7.7.1916)

It was learned that about a 100 cavalrymen and a reinforced infantry unit were approaching to the village. The villagers set off to be away from the village. But the residents of the Armenian villages, called Pelli²⁰⁶, Tankas²⁰⁷, Azerkuh²⁰⁸ and Prons (Gökçimen) cut their ways. They attacked on the women, and the Russian unit entered into the village. The houses were put on fire. The disabled such as old, sick and children were killed pitilessly. Kazakhs walked on those who tried to rescue. Very few of them could succeed in saving their souls.

19. Testimony of Yusuf Ziyaeddin (20.6.1916)

In the beginning of March, 1915, the Russian Kazakhs attacked with the help of Armenians of Gevas town to the villages called Arkanis²⁰⁹ Havins²¹⁰, Var-

lts name of today, can not be identified.

koz²¹¹, Norevan²¹², Berho²¹³, Tarvis²¹⁴ and Bahik²¹⁵, each having a population between 100-150, gathered the men in a house and burned them. Young women and girls were kidnapped.

20. Testimonies of Mullah Abdi, from the notables of Kesan (Ergeçiti), Nakşibendi Sheikh of Arvas²¹⁶, Selim Han, son of Hacı Bey and Ali, son of Hamid Bey (14.4.1916)

The Russian and the Armenians invaded Reşadiye²¹⁷ village of Aşnak²¹⁸. They deflowered the girls in front of everybody, they burned the children while they were alive, they carved the eyes of men. We recognized among the gangs, Apre from Norkuh²¹⁹, Bizinik, bishop of Ahtamar church, Mirbek and Oseb, Bedros from Arpit²²⁰, and Iso from Anzak. These executioners, closed 15 the most beautiful girls of the

²⁰⁶ Today, Alacabük village of Reşadiye subdistrict of Tatvan town of Bitlis.

²⁰⁷ Its name of today, can not be identified.

lts name of today, can not be identified.

²⁰⁹ Today, Işınlı village of Çatak town of Van.

²¹⁰ Today, Atmaca village of Timar subdistrict of Van.

²¹¹ Today, **Yetişen** village of Kocapınar subdistrict of Erciş town of Van.

²¹² Today, **Esenpinar** village of Timar subdistrict of Van.

²¹³ Today, Alacayar village of Çatak town of Van.

²¹⁴ Its name today, can not be identified.

²¹⁵ Its name today, can not be identified.

²¹⁶ Today, **Doğanyayla** village of Bahçesaray subdistrict of Gevaş town of Van.

²¹⁷ Reşadiye subdistrict of Gevaş town of Van; now it is the subdistrict of Tatvan town of Bitlis.

²¹⁸ Today, **Budaklı** village of Reşadiye subdistrict of Tatvan town of Bitlis.

²¹⁹ Today, **Yolaşan** village of Van-Gürpınar town.

²²⁰ A village of Gevas town of Van. Its name today can not be identified.

village in a room and began to drink and after they had undressed the girls stark naked, they made them dance with the screams "Dam Moslems" and "Long live Armenia". They urged them to pray and while they were performing namaz, the brigands took the advantage of this situation and they attempted to deflower them. When the girls rejected and resisted there was a fight. At the end the Armenians and the Russian killed these poor girls.

21. Testimony of Firdevs Hanım, wife of Şerif, residing at Abbas Ağa district of Van (?.6.1916)²²¹

While the enemy was entering Van city, Firdeys Hanım and her neighbors, were gathered in the house of retired officer Mehmed Ali Efendi. The sounds of firing rifles and screams began to be heard. After they plundered the houses, they were burning them. The fire was coming closer to the house of Ali Efendi. About 15 armed people, rang the door of this house. They called Ali Efendi and ordered him to give money to them. Ali Efendi, after hesitating for a moment, obeyed the order. The brigands, after taking the money of Ali Efendi, they killed him and his 80 years old sister. His wife also, after being seduced, had the same end. My husband Şerif Efendi was shot at his head and fell down on the ground. In spite of my screams full of pain, my 16 years old son, Ahmed, was massacred. The brigands stabbed a pregnant woman and after killing all the men

in the house, they took the women to Hatuniye district. There they cut the penis of a 15 years old boy and put it in his mouth and after this torture, they killed him. The brigands killed all the people they met without any pity.

They took the women, previously they had taken to Hatuniye district, to American Institution²²² On the way, they met a woman walking together with her 15 years old son and her baby. The boy was suffocated, the woman after being raped was killed with her baby. From the American Institute where there were a lot of immigrants, the Armenians and the Russian chose the most beautiful women and took them away, not to return them any more. None of the women could protect their honor. Among the women who were raped by force, they killed the wives of two sons and daughter of Fevzi Ağa from Molla Kasım village and the daughter of İbrahim Ağa from Ayams (Ağartı) village. The 15 years old daughter Zeliha of İsmail Ağa from Göllü²²³ village, died, for being raped too much. Lots of Moslem immigrants have been the victims of the torture applied on them.

²²³ Today. **Göllü** village of Timar subdistrict of Van.

²²¹ Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-ı İhtilâliyyesi..., p. 303.

In the beginning of XXth Century, the total number of American Institutes within Ottoman State, when schools, churches, or phantry, hospital, dispancary, house-kinder garten are considered separately, was about 310. At the central subdistrict of Van, there were three American hospitals and dispancary. See also, Adnan Şişman, Osmanlı Devleti'nde XX. Yüzyıl Başlarında Amerikan Kültürel ve Sosyal Müesseseleri, Balıkesir 1994.

22. Testimony of Lieutenant Şükrü Efendi, son of Timur, who was originally from Van(?.6.1916)

I was at Gevas, while the Russian were withdrawing from Van. Upon this withdrawal news. I went to Van to help my family. When I saw the corpses of my family among the corpses who were killed by the Russian and left behind while they were withdrawing. I was horrified. There were corpses whose bodies were tied and the heads were separated from their bodies and men nailed on walls. Retired Lieutenant Mehmed Efendi, who was originally from Divarbakır, 80 years old Rüstem Efendi, from the notables of Van. and his 15 years old son Necib, had been massacred on Bitlis highway passing from Edremid (Sarmansuyu) village. The corpses of 15 boys were on the highway. They had no wound traces. They died because of hunger. Their mothers had also been killed or they were kidnapped. The roads were full with the corporals of men and women. The Armenians had attacked the immigrants between Engil (Dönemec) and Edremid villages and they had plundered and killed them.

23. Testimony of Dervis Ağa, one of the members of village council of Menderis, village (26.6.1916)

The houses at Kömüs (Balaklı) village were burned, the people were massacred, the women were

raped. Yunus, who was on old man, and his wife were subjected to torture. The wife of the Head official of the district, Mehmed Bey; Fatma Hanım, Lali, daughter of İsmail Ağa, had been killed after being subjected to torture. The wife of Süleyman Ağa died, because she was raped too much. The women, whose babies were taken from their laps, were taken away to an unknownn direction.

24. Testimony of Latife Hanım, wife of Supply officer Hasan Fahri Efendi, from 1st Battalion, 97th Regiment (28,6,1916)

During the first invasion of Van by Russian units and the Armenian gangs, only a small potion of the people could go away from the city. As there were no transportation vehicles, the majority of the people stayed in the city, and they thought that the forces invading the city belonged to a civilized nation and they would show respect to the lives, and honor of the unprotected people. The situation was not as they thought. The Armenians which constituted the advance force of the enemy, did not prevent the occupation, their evacuation and putting on fire. The people, who were in panic, gathered at the major houses of the city. The men were arrested, the women were taken to the buildings of the American Institutes. More than 10.000 people were gathered there. The Armenians and Kazakhs chose a woman every night and took her out. Most of the women who were taken out, were killed, after being raped.

²²⁴ A village of Albayrak (Şikefti) subdistrict of Başkale town of Van. Its name today, can not be identified.

Reyhan Hanım, wife of Gendarme sergeant Mahmud, and Piruze Hanım, wife of Nasır Efendi (from Selim Bey district of Van), have also told these hateful events that the people were subjected to.

25. The testimony with oath of 30 years old Sükrü, son of Hüseyin, who resided at Nevşan district of Van and at the moment he is at Nusaybin²²⁵, about the malfunctions made by the Armenian and the Russian gangs to the prosecutor of the town and exemining magistrate (1.7.1916)

The Armenians had a great hate against the Ottoman Government and Turkish people for a long time. They were trying to cease the existence of the Ottomans and they were serving for this purpose since many years. In the context of this goal, they tried to plant the seeds of enmity among various elements of the empire. They had set up revolutionary committees in Van, Erzurum, Bitlis and Diyarbakır provinces with the incitement of Russian government. In the revolutionary Armenian organization in Van province, there were three committees called Dashnak, Hunchak and Armenakan. Their leaders were Aram Pasha, İshan and Vremian. These people, began to equip themselves with rifles, cartridges, bombs, dynamites and other explosives that they had brought from Russia in order to apply their plans. They had also organized armed Armenian gangs and attempted to dig underground tunnels at Moslems districts of Van. One of these gangs,

upon the instruction of a brigand, known as Şirin, went to Timar (Gedikbulak). The other, under the command of Sergis (the elder), activated at Şatak (Çatak) and the third one, under the command of Sergis (the younger), went towards Havasur (Gürpınar). Furthermore, a separate group that showed its activity in Erzurum, Bitlis and Diyarbakır, had been formed. Following the general mobilization, the number of the gangs in Van, was increased too much together with the gangs that came from everywhere and participated them.

The gang of Şirin, seized Hişt²²⁶ village and killed all the Moslems there. Gendarme major Ahmed Bey, and a subordinate officer and the gendarmes who came to the place of the event were killed also. After these executions, the gang attacked Göllü village where the Armenians killed all of the Moslem people without making any difference between age and sex, with tortures not ever heard till that day. The young girls at the above mentioned village were raped in disgusting ways. The abdomens of the pregnant women were opened up and their uterus were cut into pieces in front of the eyes of their parents. The breasts, noses, and ears of lots of women were cut. Newly born and a little older babies were boiled in the boiling water by these barbarians and later on their mothers were forced to eat them. Territorial forces commander Edhem Bey who came to Göllü, was also subject to the attack of this gang and together with his four men, they were martyred.

²²⁵ A town of Mardin.

²²⁶ It was a village of Yalınca subdistrict of Gürpınar town of Van. Its name of today, can not be identified.

The residents of Bahanis²²⁷, Zorova (Yemlice), Köprü Köy²²⁸ and Zeve villages were killed pitilessly, in a barbarian way and in an unbelievable manner. All of their property was seized by the gangs.

The gangs of Sergis (the younger) and Sergis (the elder), behaved pitilessly in an unbelievable way towards the Moslems in their field of operation. As the Moslem people had no weapon to defend themselves, they were killed by these brigand gangs who did every kind of cruelty without making any difference whether they were women or children.

A gendarme in Van, was killed in the middle of the street by Sergis (the younger). Everyday one or more Moslems were the victims of Armenian wilderness.

Hamid Ağa Barracks in Van, was seized by the Armenians who killed the guards and blew up the building by dynamite, on April 18, 1915.

The Armenians behaved pitilessly and in an unbelievable manner towards Moslems for 27 days. Within this period, they fired drumfire against Moslems districts, bombed and with the help of underground tunnels, they blew up the houses of Moslems. Actually, the Armenians reached an agreement with the Russian and through the assistance of the members of the Committees, by informing all of the military operation of the Turkish units to the enemy, they made espionage in favor of them. The head of the gang, Şirin went to Russia later on and he guided the Russian army

that invaded Van. Russian also got rid of the Moslem public in a systematic manner. Only five percent of the people could rescue from this massacre.

26. Testimony with oath of 55 years old, Reşid, farmer from Liva²²⁹ village

This person, after making the same statement with the previous witness, about the establishment of Armenian Committees and gangs, their purpose and their wild behavior against Moslem public, added the following:

The Armenians of the gang of Aram Pasha, killed in a horrible way, Captain Halil Efendi, from Ercis, Lieutenant Halid Efendi, corporal Alican and Ahmed and Mehmed who were accompanying them, and a soldier who had come to the center of the province on the road.

Şemo, from Yazık²³⁰ village, his sons Hüseyin, Kulcan and their friends were killed by the above mentioned gang on the way going to mill which was half an hour distance from the province and their corpses were thrown to the river. Like these, Mullah Ali, from Çobanoğlu²³¹ village and his friend Hayri, were attacked by the Armenians on the way and they were killed. A lot of Moslem villages were burned by the Armenians and the residents were put to sword. Before the arrival of the Russian, the Armenians killed

²²⁷ Today, **Alnıak** village of Güzelsu subdistrict of Gürpınar town of Van.

²²⁸ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²²⁹ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²³⁰ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²³¹ Today, **Çobanoğlu** village of central town of Van.

the residents of Hıdır (Hıdırköy), Molla Kasım, Şeyh Ayne (Otluca) and Şeyh Kara (Gülsünler) villages, the headman of Pirsolan²³² village, Nuro, were gathered in a house with about 150 men, women and children and by pouring kerosene on them, they were burned while they were alive. After the invasion of Van by the Russian, the Armenians began to destroy the Moslems and the remaining of the people, escaped from the city. But the Russian, in cooperation with the Armenians, followed these who escaped and migrated and killed all the Moslems they met on the way. The young girls were deflowered and were taken to Russia. The men and old women were killed or burned

27. Testimony with oath of immigrant Feyzullah Efendi, son of 52 years old Hasan Dünbüloğlu, residing at Edremid district of Van (21.6.1916)

These testimonies verify the statements of Şükrü and Reşid, on the issues such as the wilderness made by the Armenians at various sections of Van Province and on the establishment of gangs, Feyzullah Efendi, who gave the testimony, added the following:

During the general mobilization, some of the Armenians, escaped to Russia to fight in the service of Russian army as volunteers. The others, established armed gangs to attack the Moslem villages, where the adults were called for military service. These gangs were killing women and children, were raping young girls, burning houses and villages, doing all kinds of

horrible, unbelievable things. The Armenians of Van, attacked suddenly the Moslems, who were not anxious of anything and were doing their business. They killed all the Moslems, they met on the road pitilessly. They did not make any difference such in this massacre, as whether they were Moslem women, men and old.

Immigrant Sıdkı, son of Hasan, 27 years old, whose profession was grocer, and who was residing at Norşin-i Ulyâ district of Van and 50 years old Hurşid Efendi, son of Hüseyin, an artilleryman lienteyant of territorrial forces, repeated the previous statement.

28. Testimony with oath of 32 years old Yusuf Efendi, son of Mahmud, who was chief telegrapher of Province and at the moment he is working provisionally as Postal and Telegraph Director at Nusaybin town and residing at Selim Bey district of Van (29.6.1916)

The task of the revolutionary committees that were established in Van Province and whose major chiefs were Ishan, Aram, Vremian and Papazian, was to kill all of the Moslem passengers they met on the roads. In this context, the first two of these, have personally killed Hacı Musa Bey and Hacı Yakub Ağa from the notables of Reşadiye²³³, subdistrict of Vostan (Gevaş) town. These brigands, cut the ears and noses of their victims and cut the penis of both of the corpses later on and put them in their mouth. The members of these committees, were always holding secret meetings at Ahtamar monastery at Vostan (Gevaş) area, at the vil-

²³² Today, Sürüyolu village of central subdistrict of Muradiye of Van.

²³³ Now. **Resadive** subdistrict of Tatvan town of Bitlis.

lages of Erçek subdistrict and Körzut²³⁴ village of Muradiye town. They were meeting at the monasteries and houses of the Armenian district of Van, suitable for this purpose. When the mobilization was declared and the soldiers moved to go to various fronts, the insolence of the Armenians did not recognize any limit.

I left Van, when the Russian passed the border. After Van was invaded, I listened from the neighbor women who succeeded in coming Bitlis, the following: About 25 men from our district, who took shelter in a house with their families, have been encountered with the attack of about 100 Armenians, who cut 13-14 years of children into pieces in front the eyes of their parents, who dragged the men along the ground to the garden and shot them with gun after lining them up in order. The women were taken to the house of Ziya Bey at Halil Ağa district where French Consul was residing. Young women were separated in one side and were taken away by these brigands.

CHAPTER THREE

OPPRESSIONS IN ERZURUM PROVINCE

1. MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION (I)

The commission that was appointed to examine the Russian and the Armenian oppression at site, walked about Tercan²³⁵ town where torture had been applied by Moscow forces.

The commission arrived at Kurukol²³⁶ that had become a ruin, on June 6, 1916. Here the commission interrogated 70 years old Kına Mehmed Efendi who was residing at neighboring Mezgeyik²³⁷ village, told to the commission that the enemy, especially the Armenians, had done every kind of cruelty that could be thought of. The head of his brother, İsmail, was split into pieces with bullets. Merd, son of Sabit and 65 years old Hasan, son of Dursun, were martyred with rifle. Izzet Hatun, wife of Hasan, son of Dursun was wounded from her right hip with bayonet.

Terbüsek²³⁸ village was visited by the commission on the same day. A few old men and women remained in the village. From them, Head Hüseyin and Musa, son of Haydar, told that the Armenians and the Kazakhs had seized almost all their animals, money and stored food and other valuable goods. The enemy had sent all powerful men to Erzurum. The Russian and the

²³⁴ Today, Uluşar village of Muradiye town of Van.

²³⁵ A town of Erzinean.

²³⁶ Today, Kurukol village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

^{23°} Today, **Cakmaklı** village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²³⁸ Today, Yalınkaş village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

Armenians especially insulted women. They would keep the doors of their houses open and the women would not put on their undershoots. About 20 women died as they could not bear the torture. Suna, wife of Mikdad Bey, whom the commission found as bedridden, had given 35 liras, that was all her wealth, to protect her honor, but but even that donation, could not rescue her from the animal-like actions of the brigands. The answer of the Russian Commander, to whom she went to complain, was to force her to go to bed. 239

Seki²⁴⁰ village which remained under the occupation of the enemy was presenting a ruin scenery. From 40 houses, 12 of them were in a situation to be stayed in. All of the valuable goods of the village were taken away by the Armenians and the Russian and the men were banished to Erzurum. Here the point that attention to be paid, the Russian commander Arslan Bey, was originally a Moslem from Kazan. Thanks to him, here the number of the raped women was a few. Zeynep, wife of Murad, son of Timur; Havva, wife of Mehmed, son of Ahmed; Güllü, daughter of Mehmed, son of Yağız; Zekiye, daughter of Sakir, son of Beşir; Fehime, wife of Refet, son of Beşir, were subjected to torture. 25 years old another woman, was killed by a bomb as she opposed to be raped. The eyes of Hıfzı, from Yavi²⁴¹ who had a child from an Armenian woman, without being married, were carved with bayonet, with the permission of his wife and then he was cut into

pieces. His wife and his 15 years old daughter were taken away by the Armenians. Arslan Bey, who did not want to hurt the Armenians, was contented with the advice that he gave to the villagers to be closed in their houses, and sometimes he used to send infantry units to help them. 242

The Armenians destroyed 27 houses completely also at Göktaş²⁴³ village. The commission interrogated the persons called Reşid, Mahmud, Hasan, Sergeant Mevlüd and Sergeant Hüseyin who were there, during the occupation. The enemy sent 14 young men, to Pasinler²⁴⁴; among them 4 could be able to escape. The young men, who could escape told that they were forced to work at fortification and road construction works.

Only three slices of bread were given to every five persons. Among them, two died because of hunger. Again from this village, two young men, one was 14 years old, the other was 35 years old, were killed with bayonets with an excuse they had fired at the enemy. Women, even eight years old girls were raped. Hediye, who was the daughter-in-law of a person called Mail, was taken to the Russian positions by force. Later on she was obliged to submit the animal-like desires of the enemy soldiers. Hediye succeeded in taking shelter at

²³⁹ Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-ı İhtilâliyyesi..., pp. 289-290.

²⁴⁰ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁴¹ Today, Yayı village of Cat town of Erzurum.

²⁴² Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-i İhtilâliyyesi..., pp. 290-291; For the orijinal of the certificate see, Arşiv Belgelerine Göre Kafkaslar'da ve Anadolu'da Ermeni Mezâlimi, I, 1906-1918, pp. 583-584.

²⁴³ Today, Göktaş village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁴⁴ A town of Erzurum

Edebük²⁴⁵ village during the withdrawal of the enemy. The villagers recognized Antranik, son of Aleksan from Kötür²⁴⁶, with a nick name Antranik Pasha,Nişan, from Çıknız²⁴⁷; Olos, son of Armenak Tako; Sahak, son of Mosik and others among the Armenian rebels. The enemy took with them nine years old Mehmed, grandson of Reşid, son of Ahmed. All of the beehives and private houses were destroyed, the mosque was used as a stable.²⁴⁸

The commission met with Mehmed Bev. one of the rich men of Kurukol at Alirik²⁴⁹ village. Mehmed Bey said that the Armenians and the Russian took all their animals and jewelry. Furthermore, the enemy destroyed the house of this person and killed two of his relatives, called Ahmed and Mecid. They also suffocated the wife of his uncle with a rope. The Armenian gangs under the command of famous brigand, known as Antranik Pasha, did their known wickedness in this village also. They deflowered eight years old Fatma, daughter of Mullah Şükrü Efendi, nine years old Nigår, daughter of Sakir, son of Binbaşı, and seven years old Münevver, daughter of Ali Mustafa from Sılık²⁵⁰ 20 years old Esma, the granddaughter of Yasin, the daughter of Emir Han; 25 years old Haznur, who had two children, one eight years old, the other five years old, were chosen, because of their beauties, to be as

tools for the ugly purposes of the Armenians; and during the withdrawal of the enemy, they were taken away with them. A person called Süleyman, son of Ali, was martyred with the strokes of sword. 60 years old Ahmed, son of Küçük Ömer, was killed by treading under feet. The Commission took the photographs of a woman, whose left arm was cut with bayonet, an old man who was wounded at his food with a pistol, and the girls who were raped²⁵¹

Parsinik²⁵² village also has been the scene of oppression. The Commission observed that, an old man called Fehim, son of Musa, had three knife strokes, immigrant Halil oğlu had been slaughtered by the Armenians. As usual, all of the goods of the villagers were seized by the Russian, the mosque and the cemetery were demolished and destroyed. The commission established that the enemy always omitted the Kurdish villages, only attacked on Turkish villages.

At Pelegöz²⁵³ village, Medical Doctor Major Rifat Bey from 29 th Division, explained to the commission that, in a combat held on the hills of Kursan²⁵⁴ village on March 14, 1916, as Ferid, son of Kibar from Gümüşhâne and Grandük, son of Grandük Kellemit from Baghdad, from 5th Regiment, 1st Machinegun battalion; Ahmed, son of Hüseyin of Görele²⁵⁵, from 12th Regiment, 2nd Artillery battalion; Hasan, son of İsmail

²⁴⁵ A village of Tercan.

²⁴⁶ Today, **Bağpınar** village of Terean town of Erzincan.

²⁴⁷ Today, Yaylayolu village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁴⁸ Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-ı İhtilâliyyesi..., pp. 291-292.

²⁴⁹ Today, **Beşgöze** village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁵⁰ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁵¹ Compare with Ermeni Komiteleri'nin A'mâl ve Harekât-i İhtilâliyyesi..., p. 292.

²⁵² It was a village of Tercan; its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁵³ Today, Güzbulak village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁵⁴ Today, Fındıklı village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁵⁵ A town of Giresun.

of Imam Kullu²⁵⁶ village, from 5th Regiment, 1st Battalion. 1st squadron, were wounded, they could not be taken away and were left in the vicinity of Il Aldi²⁵⁷ and Ciğerkum²⁵⁸ villages, and in spite of all their entreaties of these miserable men. Russian officers and soldiers, passing by, did not help them and these wounded soldiers remained on snow with blood all around them, at the countryside for 20 days and later on, the Russian authorities gave permission with difficulty for them to be taken to the village, provided that they should not be hospitalized at Russians hospitals. The villagers, who were afraid of the cruelty of the Russian, took bread and milk to them, at night by taking all of the provisionary measures. After a very long time, they got the permission to move to the village, provided that they should not be hospitalized at Russian hospitals. These soldiers remained at the village till June 3, 1916, when the Ottoman troops reentered into the village. The appearance of these four wounded people were tragic. They had lost weight so that they could be deemed as corpses and as their diseases were not cured, they were in fatal stage.

The Interrogation Commission, found Zarif Bey Kom²⁵⁹ in ruins. The building of the Administrators, was a newly constructed two storey building. It had two fronts and its was cost 1.000 Liras. The Russian and the Armenian gangs had brought this building in a way

²⁵⁶ Today, **İmamkullu** village of Bakırdağı subdistrict of Develi town of Kayseri.

that could not be settled in. All of the buildings and the goods of those who live in cities, were plundered. These miserable people became poor. The commission took the photograph of above mentioned building.

The commission arrived Mama Hatun, which was the center of Tercan town on June 10, 1916 and observed that four fifth of the houses had been destroyed by the enemy. Out of 280 houses, only 64 were rigid. The mosque was converted into a church and some of its important parts were destroyed. A bell was hung on its minaret. The Moslem people were subject to all kinds of cruelty. The houses were plundered, the women and young girls were raped by force. Among those who were raped women there were the families of Edhem, son of Bayram, deceased Gendarme Sergeant Cemal, Hüseyin, son of Dede and Bekir Efendi and furthermore Kiraz Hatun.

Fatma Hanım, who wanted to save her honor, could only reach her goal by committing suicide. The Russian and the Armenians who were furious against this self-defense of Fatma Hanım, got their revenge by demolishing her house, and her brother-in-law's house. About 40 young men were taken as prisoners and sent to Erzurum. No news could be received from them till now.

The commission observed that the residents of Humlar²⁶⁰ Kom, were subject to every kind of plunder, cruelty and rape by the Russian and the Armenian gangs.

²⁵⁷ Today, **Elald**ı village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁵⁸ It was a village of Tercan. It is name of today, can not be identified.

²⁵⁹ Kom is an equivalent of small settlement area.

Today, **Beskaya** village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

The Armenians of Vartik²⁶¹ village joined in the Russian army immediately at the beginning of the invasion. During the invasion of the village, a few hundred of Armenians were settled in the Moslem houses which they furnished with the furniture of Moslems; they demolished the mosque and the pulpit.

There were only three houses to be lived in at Şorlar Kom. Ömer Ağa and Merik Ali Koms were found empty and in ruin by the commission.

Topal Osman²⁶², Hüseyin Efendi and Tuzla Koms were almost demolished completely. There was nobody in these koms.

On June 12, 1916 the Commission made visits to Vartik (Beğendik) village, Tuzla (Salim), Zaza Vartik, Aktaş Karacaviran, Zelgo Koms and Kışlak village. The first of these villages was in a condition that could not be lived in.

The residents of Zaza Vartik suffered too much from the Armenian gangs. Their houses were burned and demolished and their furniture were taken away, their agricultural tools were destroyed. They raped women and young girls in front of their parents. Süleyman, son of Servet; Durak, son of Mustafa; Mahmud, son of Süleyman; Dursun, son of Sergeant Mustafa; Mail, son of Mustafa; Rüştü Mehmed, Mustafa from Bayburt, were killed as they wanted to protect the honor of their family. Fethiye Hanım, wife of Mustafa, who wanted to protect her honor, was killed with bay-

onet. The daughters of Osman, son of Mencu, Nuriye and Peluka, who were both 12 years old; 10 years old daughter of Arif, Kudret; the wives of Osman and Hasan, and another young woman, were subject to out of humanity treatment for three months by the Armenians and the Russian. Even old women were subject to this unlucky situation. After these tortures, those who could survive, told these disgraceful events, with tears in their eyes, before the police chief. The young people from the same village were imprisoned and sent to Erzurum.

The enemy who always implemented destruction plan, burned Aktaş village and plundered. The young men were taken as prisoners, the houses were demolished and all of the money and goods of the Moslem people were plundered. The old people about 60 and 80 years old, were beaten and tormented to give their last piasters to the Armenian brigands. Edhem Ağa, the head of the village, was killed with the strokes of the butt of the rifle. İsmail Ağa, son of Karahan, was obliged to give his wealth in the amount of 50 Liras, under the fatal knife of these barbarians, and 15 years old girl, called Zübeyde, was deflowered in front of everybody.

The enemy plundered the property, money and animals of the residents of Hogik²⁶⁵ village, and turned the inside of the mosque into ruin. The commission, could only find 98 houses in which it could be lived, in the village which had 210 houses. The mosque was converted into a stable by the Russian and the Armenians. At the end of the invasion, 16 young men

²⁶¹ Today, **Beğendik** village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁶² A village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁶³ A village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁶⁴ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁶⁵ Today, Gökçe village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

who remained at their village, were taken as a prisoners.

Kabunduruk²⁶⁶ and Mustafa²⁶⁷ Koms, like the other Moslem villages, were destroyed. The Armenians took all of the goods, furniture and animals and sent 19 villagers to Erzurum. No news could be received from them.

Eyüb Oğlu Kom²⁶⁸, was turned into a ruin by the Russian and the Armenians who killed Hasan, son of Hançer; Dursun, son of Hüseyin; Mehmed, son of Hasan; İsmail, son of Hasan; Ali, son of Hüseyin; Mahmud, son of Hasan with torture.

Yusuf, son of Saylam, from Söğütlü²⁶⁹ Kom had the same destiny.

The enemy destroyed 32 houses at Serçeme²⁷⁰ Kom, 20 houses at Çiftlik²⁷¹ village. Furthermore, they took away everything they seized at the village. 26 people were taken as prisoners from the village. Osman, son of Mustafa; Seyyare, daughter of Durak; nine years old Aşir, son of Mustafa and six years old daughter of Mullah Mustafa were put to sword.

Durak, son of Mehmed; Hüseyin, son of Ridvan and Güli son of Zeynel from Mustafa (Mustafabey) Kom, gave their souls with bayonet.

Ovacık village also was destroyed and burned. Only 20 houses remained rigid. The daughter-in-law of Zaza Ali was raped and her 70 years old brother-in-law, who wanted to protect her, was killed.

Pekeric²⁷² village, has been the scene of every kind of oppression. The commission that came to the village on June 14, 1916, could not find anything, except the ruins. The mosque and the cemetery were demolished, all agricultural tools were destroyed. The Russian and the Armenian gangs plundered all the goods in Moslem houses and taken away all of the animals. When they entered into the village, they killed six years old Emrullah, from Karacay²⁷³ and seven years old Mahmud in front of the door of the church. and later on they exhibited their heads that were separated from their bodies to the public. They continued their executions by killing Ahmed, son of Fettah; Merik Ahmed Efendi, Kaya, son of Ako, Mehmed from Cede, Mullah, son of Memi, Sergeant Mehmed; and his son Osman, Haydar Ağa, Halil, son of Hafiz; Hayri, son of Dellal and his seven years old son Hakkı; Zihni, son of Mustafa, nine years old Mevlüd and his four years old brother Eyüb, sons of Yusuf; the mother of Mevlüd from Altıntaş²⁷⁴, 15 years old daughter of Sheikh Beşir; Fatma the sick daughter of Hoti Mustafa, four and eight

²⁶⁶ Today, **Koçbaba** village of Çiftlik subdistrict of Aşkale town of Erzurum.

²⁶⁷ Today, **Mustafabe**y village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁶⁸ Today, **Eyüpoğlu** village of Çiftlik subdistrict of Aşkale town of Erzurum.

²⁶⁹ There are three Söğütlü villages of central subdistrict of Erzurum, and of Ilica and Ovacık subdistricts. It could not be identified, which one was meant.

²⁷⁰ Today, Eskipolat village of Ilica subdistrict of Erzurum.

²⁷¹ Today, Çiftlikköy of central subdistrict of Erzurum.

²⁷² Today, **Hakbilir** village of Bozoğlak subdistrict of Kemah town of Erzincan.

²⁷³ Today, **Karaçay** village of Tercan town of Erzincan.

²⁷⁴ Today, Altıntaş village of Aşkale town of Erzurum.

years old daughters of Bahri from Kars, namely Naime and Esmer.

Later on, 500 Russian and the Armenians, raped 150 women who were hidden in Ahmed Bey's house at Pekeriç (Hakbilir) village, through torture. Among them, there were the wife of Ahmed Bey, 12 and 14 years old two daughters of Mustafa, daughter of Selim, from Karaçay; seven years daughter of, Mullah Şükrü. İzzet Hatun, wife of Sergeant Arif and four other women were killed by beating. The head of the village Mullah Şükrü and his friends, showed the corporals of these miserable martyrs, which had no head.

The Russian and the Armenian gangs who plundered the house of 90 years old Dursun Ağa, from the notables of the village, threatened him with death to give them money. Miserable Dursun Ağa, who had no money left to give, was hung down into a well, with his feet tied. The brigands who could not obtain anything with this torture, had beaten him terribly and left him near the well in half-died position.

June 14, 1916 Legal Adviser of Erzurum Province Kemal. Ilıca Town Director Şükrü.

2. Testimonies with oath of Mehmed, son of Bulmaz; Hüseyin, son of Mehmed; Hacı İbrahim, son of Ahmed and Hasan, son of Yusuf, from the immigrants who came to Tadım²⁷⁵ village from Hınıs (5.6.1916)

We are from Molla Kulac²⁷⁶ village which is an hour away from Hinis. During the invasion of our territory by the Russian, The Armenians called Vahan and Aleksandr Asoyan, who were from the same village with us, together with certain amount of cavalrymen attacked suddenly to our village. These people, had already proved that they were from the leaders of Dashnak Committee, through their despot-like and pitiless behaviors. First of all they suffocated more than 20 children, they cut the abdomens of some of the pregnant women with knife and put the children that come out on the top of their bayonets and showed them to their fathers. They called their assistants to swear to the died women. Vahan and Aleksandr, after promising that they would release us at night, they themselves and their assistants chose a beautiful woman for each of them, from the notable families. Later on, they imprisoned 12 women and 28 children in a house. After the midnight, observing the drunkenness of these Armenians was still continuing, with the help of one of my friends, we were able to rescue the imprisoned women and children and leaving all our property at the village, we escaped. Now, in our village, where there were 250 Moslems, only 35 people were left. We are all in poverty.

²⁷⁵ Today, Tadım village of the central subdistrict of Elazığ.

²⁷⁶ Today, **Mollakulaç** village of central subdistrict of Hims town of Erzurum.

3. The oppression executed by Russian at Eleşkirt²⁷⁷ town's Arap²⁷⁸ village. Testimony with oath of Riza, son of Süleyman, who is residing at Orta Til²⁷⁹ village temporarily and who is originally from Arap village of Eleşkirt (3.6.1919)

On December 30, 1914, the Russian occupied our town. On January 1, 1915, a gang, consisting of 200 Kazakhs and 70 Armenians, under the leadership an Armenian, called Abramayis, surrounded our village. We, through the mediation of an Armenian, told them that we would deliver our village, rather than shedding blood. The gang entered into the village. First they took our weapons and later on they took away our 500 cattle and 2,000 sheep. When we demanded receipt against the cattle and sheep that they took away, the commander of the Russian unit, stating that our souls also belonged to them, dismissed us. On the second day of the occupation, the Armenians entering into our house. attacked to our wives and daughters. When we complained about it to Russian commander Haydarov, we got the answer stating that the Armenians and Kazakhs would behave as they wished. Two hours later, he called us again and said "I am also a Moslem like you. The Armenians will behave as they wish. Do not stay any more in this village, save your wives and daughters, you are going to lose your everything". After these words he gave two Russian Moslems from Kazan to protect us.

Within the two days we remained in the village, the Armenians and the Russian deflowered 23 girls, and performed fatal torture to the women. My three sisters who were among them, after being the tools of animal-like desires, were arrested. There was a pregnant woman, about 35 years old, called Hazalo, in our village. The woman was caught by one Kazakh and three Armenians. Two of the Armenians were from Garib (Gapir)²⁸⁰ village, one was from Hanzır²⁸¹ village of Eleşkirt, an Armenian called Mihran. The poor woman was going to deliver her baby at that moment by chance. The abdomen of the woman, who was forced to lie down, was cut by Mihran and the fetus was hung on the branch of a tree. I and the other residents of the village, were the eyewitnesses of this horrible scene.

4. Testimony with oath of Ali, from the immigrants of Hmis town, residing at Tadım village (5.6.1916)

I am from Hinis town, which is six hours away from the combat area. A group of Armenians, living in our town and members of the Dashnak Committee, at the beginning of the clashes, established a gang to make every kind of destruction in Turkey. Among them, I recognized Bertabek Arakel, from Kara Çoban village, Sergis, son of Monk, from Kopal²⁸² village; Kirkor

²⁷⁷ A town of Ağrı.

²⁷⁸ Today, Öztoprak village of Eleşkirt town of Ağrı.

²⁷⁹ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁸⁰ Today, Gözaydın village of Eleşkirt town of Ağrı.

²⁸¹ Today, **Yücekapı** village of Eleşkirt town of Ağrı.

²⁸² Today, **Palakçayırı** village of Eleşkirt town of Ağrı.

Tokaz and Manuk from Kara Köprü²⁸³ village, Misak Sergisian and Vahan Hazhazian, from Kahkik²⁸⁴ village, Hurşid Bekesian, from Ağcamelik²⁸⁵ village, Misak, from Duman²⁸⁶ village, Murad, son of Doctor Agob and Dikran, from Harami²⁸⁷ village, Saru Kâhya, from Kozlu²⁸⁸ village, Kesper Hilhilian, from Yeni Köy²⁸⁹.

One day, while I was at the back of the frontier line in the town, I learned that the Moslem's who were residing at the places which were occupied by the enemy, had been subjected to torture. For this reason, together with my family and other about 150 other residents of the village, in spite of the freezing cold and snow, leaving all our goods and wealth behind, we set off, to be able to rescue from the massacre. When we came to a place which was four hours away from Hinis, we were surrounded by the Armenians. They separated the men who will be able to use weapons and killed them in front of the eyes of their wives. About 20 Armenians and Russian who came later on, after raping the women of a family in spite of the cold weather, cut

²⁸³ Today, **Karaköprü** village of Karaçoban subdistrict of Hınıs town of Erzurum.

their organs and killed them. When the sun set, the Armenians and Russian, went away taking the women with them, and forgot me by chance in a tied up position. After encountering with many difficulties, I could be able to unfasten my ties and I was able to go to a village where where there were Ottoman soldiers.

5. Testimony with oath of Muhiddin, son of Göğeş, from Eleşkirt town, residing at Sinel²⁹⁰ village of Elazığ (1916)

Originally I was from Kara Kilise (Karaköse) town, and I was a tradesman. Last year (in 1915), when the town was occupied by the Russian, an Armenian and Kazakh gang, under the command of Ohan from Hanzır (Yücekapı), came to my house and kidnapped my two single sisters and the wife of my martyred brother. When I applied to rescue them to those who kidnapped them, they arrested me also and tortured me for a time. In order to rescue my honor, I gave 255 liras in cash, all my goods of my shop in the amount of 300 liras and at last my furniture, in the amount of 120 liras through the mediatorship of my neighbor Haçatur. In spite of these, the miserables could not reach their freedom. At the end of entreats, I was able to rescue and go to Malazgirt²⁹¹.

My two sisters were found in one of the Armenian villages of Eleşkirt, which was evacuated by the Russian and the Armenians upon the arrival of Ottoman

²⁸⁴ Today, **Göller** village of Halilçavuş subdistrict of Hınıs town of Erzurum.

²⁸⁵ Today, **Akçamelik** village of Halilçavuş subdistrict of Hınıs town of Erzurum.

²⁸⁶ A village of Köprü subdistrict of Hınıs town of Erzurum.

²⁸⁷ Today, **Bellitaş** village of Karaköprü subdistrict of Hınıs town of Erzurum.

²⁸⁸ Today, **Kozlu** village of Pazaryolu subdistrict of İspir town of Erzurum.

²⁸⁹ Today, **Yeniköy** of Karaköprü subdistrict of Hınıs town of Erzurum.

²⁹⁰ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁹¹ Today, Malazgirt town of Muş, Malazgirt was a subdistrict of Bulanık town at that time.

forces, after a few days. They were killed at the end of the torture to which they were subjected. The wife of my brother, was kidnapped by the Armenians and the Russian.

CHAPTER FOUR

OPPRESSIN IN TRABZON PROVINCE

1. Testimony with oath of 40 years old Besim, son of Alemdar, son of Mehmed, from İspilâ²⁹² of Maçka county

Two days after the occupation of Trabzon, the enemy occupied Macka at the same time with our village. On the eve of the occupation, my family and I went first to Mülaka²⁹³ village and later on to Zanha²⁹⁴ and Zanoy²⁹⁵ villages. While I was at Zanoy village, the Russian soldiers raped a 12 years old girl, from Soldoy and furthermore, the daughter of Osman Efendi, tax officer of Hathayur²⁹⁶

This vileness of the Russian soldiers, urged us to leave the above mentioned village and to take a shelter at Hortokup²⁹⁷.

As regards to our village İspilâ; on the day when Russian entered into the village, the Armenian gangs who followed-up the same objective with them, killed Hasan, son of Alemdar, Deli Balta Hasan, Mehmed, son of Eyüb, and Osman, son of Hacı Ahmed by torture. The Armenians deflowered the 12 years old daughter of Mustafa, son of Eyüb and after cutting the arms of Hasan Ağa, burned him while he was alive.

²⁹² Today, **Ocaklı** village of Maçka town of Trabzon.

²⁹³ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁹⁴ Today, Çeşmeler village of Maçka town of Trabzon.

²⁹⁵ Today, **Akmescit** village of Macka town of Trabzon.

²⁹⁶ Its name of today, can not be identified.

²⁹⁷ A village of Maçka town of Trabzon.

The Armenians again, plundered the houses of the Moslems and after carrying out various tortures, imprisoned the residents of this village. Russian also participated in the burning and demolishing of Moslem houses.

The mosques of Cevizlik and Haçavera²⁹⁸ villages, and furthermore Orta Hisar mosque in Trabzon, were converted into churches.

One day, when I was in Trabzon, Hasan Efendi, one of the police officers of the city, was hung upon the incitement Greeks, who killed Hikmet Efendi, son of Aldı Kaçtı, the police officer of Haçavera (Yeşilyurt) village, in a barbarian way. A lot of other people, have been the victims of the meanly plans of these Greek people.

2. Testimony with oath of Fatma, wife of Mehmed, son of Salim and daughter of Ali Osman from Kalafka²⁹⁹ village of Yomra subdistrict.

It was the first day of April. Everybody was in preparation of migration, seeing that the Russian were approaching to our village. I went to he house of Mehmed Ağa, son of Kolan, the head man of Dirona³⁰⁰ village, to ask what he was thinking to do. He answered that his sister Hatice and he would act together when the enemy ceased fire at the village. I stayed at their

house compulsorily, actually there were many people that I was acquainted with. Among them, there were, Hasan, son of Kolan, from Dirona village, his wife Ulviye, his daughter-in-law, Hüsniye his brother Ali and his wife Zeliha, his relative Mehmed and his wife Gülfem and their 17 years old daughter Güllü, his mother-in-law and Emrullah, son of Kolak and his wife Zakire, sister of Mehmed, son of Kolak, Emine and her daughter Ayşe and her daughter-in-law Emine.

The next morning at 3 o'clock the enemy occupied the village. A Kazakh squadron consisting about 150 soldiers came to the house where we were and took us all with men and women to a place that was a quarter hour away from the village. Three Greek women who were accompanying them, were acting as translators to them. We had the day there. Towards the evening, the Russian separated men from women and took them to an unknown place. They took us to another place which was half an hour distant from that place.

At night, they raped Emine, 18 years daughter of Ali, son of Pasli, from Dirona village, in front of our eyes. The baby of Hatice, her sister, was thrown into the air by the Russian and was cut into two pieces with a sword. The Russian killed the other children. Emine, wife of Hasan, son of Kolak, and her 8 years daughter Sükriye and other lots of Moslem women whom I do not know the names, were dishonored meanly. One of the Greek women, who could not endure these wildly behavior and wanted to interfere in favor of the innocent, was immediately killed by the Russian with the strokes of butt of the rifle and bayonet.

²⁹⁸ Today, **Yeşilyurt** village of Maçka town of Trabzon.

There are three villages called Kalafka of Yomra town of Trabzon. Kalafkaarduçlu (Gülyurdu), Kalafkahatipli (Kömürcü) and Kalafkaiskenderli (Taşdelen). It could not be identified which Kalafka village it was.

³⁰⁰ Its name of today, could not be identified.

By taking advantage of and the darkness of the night, I was able to succeed in escaping from this area to the plain and the pitiless behavior of the Russian. In the middle of the night, I got up from the corner where I was crouched, and came to Komera³⁰¹ village where the Ottoman soldiers were located.

There, I learned that the younger daughter of Zehra, daughter of Hurşit Pash, Nadiye, sister-in-law of Hacı Hatun, wife of Osman İskenderoğlu, and her daughters Binnaz and Meryem had been killed, after being raped.

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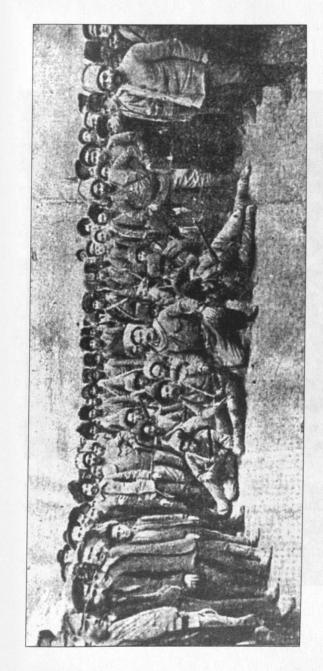
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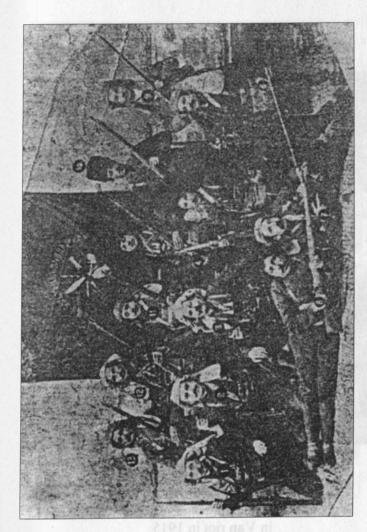
ANNEXES PHOTOGRAPHS, LISTS, MAPS



A group from Armenian Hunchak Volunteer Regiment (1915).



A group of Armenian gang officers who fought against Ottoman Army at Caucasia front and known by their cruelty.



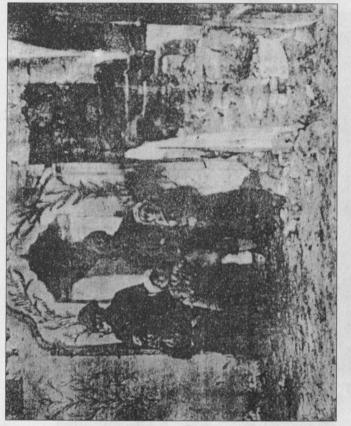
A group of Van Dashnak gangs who participated in Van riot in 1915.



A group of Armenian gangs who participated in Van riot in 1915.



Two wounded old women and a Moslem girl raped by the Armenians (From Erzurum oppression)



The mosque of Göktas village and three small girls who were raped by the Armenians (From Erzurum Oppression).



A Moslem woman who was tried to be dishonored by the Armenians in Bitlis, and whose two fingers were cut.



A group of Zazavanik women who were raped by the Armenians (From Erzurum oppression).



Permission certificate given to Lato, from Van, one of the Armenian rebels, by the Commander of Russian Army. The translation of the certificate is as follows:

"The second Armenian territorial Forces.

It is a certificate explaining that four days of permission is given to Lato Raşoyanis, the Chief of Müküs gang, by the commander of the second Armenian Territorial Forces to go to and come back from Van and he is carrying a rifle with No.106300 and mauser type revolver.

June 18, 1915 Stamp The Second Armenian Territorial Forces"

The population of Moslems and the Armenians in Bitlis, Erzurum and Van provinces as of May 14, 1914*

In 1914, Bitlis Province was consisted of Siirt, Genç and Muş subdivisions; Erzurum province was consisted of Erzincan and Bayezid subdivisions; and Van province was consisted of Hakkāri sub-division.

BİTLİS PROVINCE							
	%	Muslims	%	Armenians			
Central town of Bitlis Province		38.701		19.123			
Ahlât town		10.190		9.708			
Hizan town		11.624		5.023			
Mutki town		12.462		4.110			
Central town of Sürt sub-division		27.649		2.630			
Eruh town		22.677		1.890			
Pervarî town		6.415		1.326			
Şirvan town		15.181		1.169			
Garzan town		14.541		4.332			
Central town of Genç sub-division		24.467		1.603			
Çapakçur town ²		11.292		734			
Kulp town ³		15.252		3.573			
Central town of Mus sub-division		30.254		36,316			
Bulanık town		16.372		14.662			
Sason town ⁴		7.454		6.505			
Malazgirt town		30.929		4.438			
Varto town		14.539		1.990			
Total of the province:	70.8	309.999	27.2	119.132			

ERZORE	M PROV		0/	A
	%	Muslims	<u>%</u>	Armenians
Central town of Erzurum		83.070		34.542
Province		1		
Pasin town		56.403		10.046
Bayburt town ⁵		64.289		12.025
İspir town		40.015		2.920
Tercan town ⁶		36.153		7.401
Tortum town		28.320		1.224
Keskim town ⁷		36.122		6.193
Kiğı town ⁸		35.572		14.609
Narman town		28.684		556
Hinis town		33.525		8.229
Central town of Erzincan sub-		53.898		16.291
division				
Pülümür town ⁹		11.755		511
Refahiye town		23.307		1.270
Kuruçay town ¹⁰		11.466		2.649
Kemah town		20.742		4.741
Central town of Bayezid sub-		20.952		2.619
division ¹¹		!		
Eleşkirt town		23.368		5.624
Diyadin town		19.640		904
Tutak town		23.873		1.070
Kara Kilise ¹²		22.142		3.195
Total of the province:	82.5	673.297	16.7	136.618

EDZUDUM DDOVINCE

^{*} Tableaux indiquant le nombre de divers éléments de la population dans l'Empire Ottoman au 1er Mars (14 March, 1914), Constantinople 1919.

¹ Today, Yanarsu subdistrict of Kurtalan town of Siirt.

² Today, the center of Bingöl Province.

³ Today, Kulp town of Diyarbakır Province.

⁴ Today, Sason town of Siirt Province.

⁵ Today, Bayburt town of Gümüşhâne Province.

⁶ Today, Tercan town of Erzincan Province.

⁷ Today, Yusufeli town of Artvin Province.

⁸ Today, Kiğı town of Bingöl Province.

⁹ Today, Pülümür town of Tunceli Province.

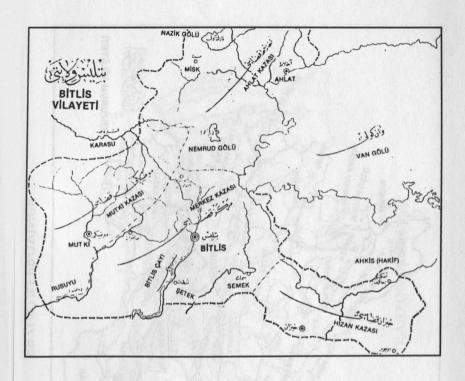
¹⁰ Today, İliç town of Erzincan Province.

¹¹ Today, Ağrı Province.

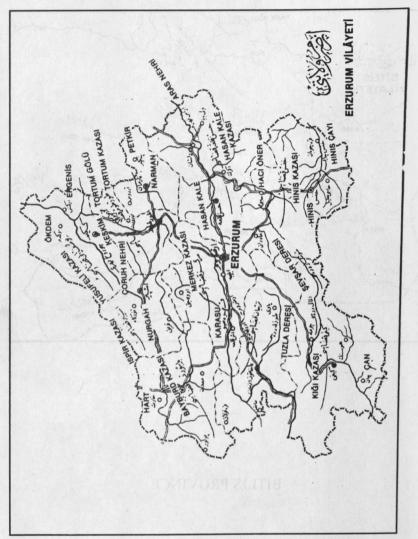
¹² Today, Karaköse, which is the central town of Ağrı Province.

VAN PROVINCE						
	%	Muslims	%	Armenians		
Central town of Van Province		45.119		33.789		
Erciş town		27.323		8.083		
Çatak town		8.132		4.292		
Adilcevaz town ¹³		10.820		4.849		
Gevaş town		18.123		10.520		
Central town of Hakkâri sub-						
division		21.848		3.461		
Çölemerik town ¹⁴		7.450		296		
Mahmudî town ¹⁵		10.230		528		
Şemdinan town ¹⁶		9.873				
Gevar town ¹⁷		12.771		959		
Hoşap town ¹⁸		7.691		1.015		
Total of the province:	69.1	179.380	26.1	67.792		

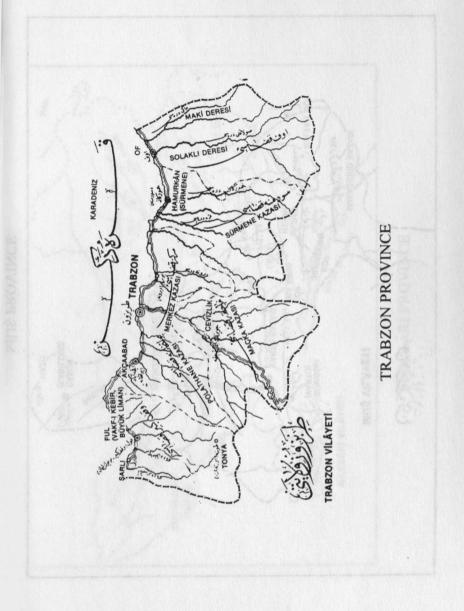
Today, Adilcevaz town of Bitlis Province.
 Central town of Hakkâri Province.
 Today, Özalp town of Van Province.
 Today, Şemdinli town of Hakkâri Province.
 Today, Yüksekova town of Hakkâri Province.
 Today, Güzelsu subdistrict of Gürpınar town of Van.

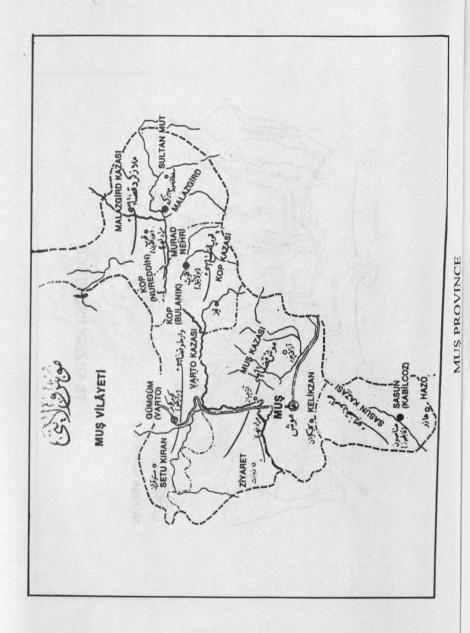


BITLIS PROVINCE



ERZURUM PROVINCE





HAKKÂRÎ VÎLÂYETÎ

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