

Central Committee for the Liberation of the Armenian
Territories from Turkey

**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE GENOCIDE
PERPETRATED
ON THE ARMENIANS**

INFORMATION BUREAU PUBLICATION No 1

BEIRUT, 1965

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The current year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the atrocious massacres perpetrated on the Armenians in Turkey. Armenians all over the world have decided to commemorate the unforgettable memory of their glorious one and a half million martyrs.

In Lebanon a Committee has been formed, headed by the three Spiritual heads of the Armenian Orthodox, Catholic and Evangelical Communities, and representatives of the three Armenian political parties as well as independent notabilities. This committee will organize the commemoration of the 1915 genocide of the Armenian people.

After the end of the first World War, the details of the Armenian massacres were exposed to the World by prominent writers, historians and politicians such as Viscount Bryce, Arnold Toynbee, Henry Morgenthau, Dr. Lepsius, René Pinon, Naim Bey, Mevlanzade Rifat, Faiez Bey el Ghossein, Herbert Adams Gibbons, Mandelstam, Armin Theophyl Wegner, etc...

We can sum up what took place in 1915 by the following short extract from a Foreign Office letter dated October 3, 1918, and addressed to Lord Bryce by Robert Cecil, the Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom. «The Ottoman Armenians were systematically murdered by the Turkish Government in 1915. Two thirds of the population were exterminated by the most cold-blooded and fiendish methods...»

Before the genocide of 1915, the number of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire was 2,380,000 and today their number in Turkey amounts to about 85,000. More than 1,500,000 Armenians were massacred and the rest deported to the desert of Mesopotamia or elsewhere. The late Sir Winston Churchill in **The Aftermath** shows where the guilt for this organized nation-wide murder lies, «the Turkish Government began and ruthlessly carried out the infamous massacre and deportation of Armenians in Asia Minor». (page 430).

It was on April 24, 1915 that upon a secret order dated April 15, 1915 and signed by the Turkish Ministers Talaat, Enver and Nazem all the eminent and influential Armenian leaders of Constantinople, including editors, professors, clergymen, poets, composers, physicians and members of the Ottoman Parliament were arrested and sent to the interior without any sound reason. On the road to their exile, they were murdered by most fiendish methods. Lawyer Krikor Zohrab, member of the Ottoman Parliament and a great man of letters, for example, was dragged out of his carriage, and had his head crushed under rocks.

Next came the 300,000 Armenian soldiers loyally serving in the Ottoman army. Upon orders they were forced to give up all their arms and turned into labor battalions. Within weeks they were taken into isolated spots, forced to dig their own graves, and roped together to be shot in cold blood.

On June 11, 1915 the deportation of all Armenians was decreed. Armenian cities and villages were emptied of their native population. The 3000-year old Armenian fatherland was robbed of its native people. An entire nation was forced to walk thousands of miles to the desert. The great majority of the deported was massacred, many died of exhaustion, starvation and disease. According to the then American Ambassador to Turkey, «before the caravans started, it became the regular practice to separate the young men from their families, tie them together in groups of four, lead them to the outskirts, and shoot them.»

The American Ambassador to Turkey further states that «hundreds of children were bayoneted by the Turks and thrown into the Euphrates, and men and women were stripped naked, tied together in hundreds, shot and then hurled into the river».

The genocide of the Armenians was planned and carried out by the **Ittihad ve Terrake**, party of the Young Turks. Mevlanzade Rifaat an important Turkish writer, made known to the world the minutes of an extraordinary secret meeting of this Party which ruled over Turkey during the First World War. Dr. Nazim, the General Secretary of the Party, declared during the above notorious

meeting that, profiting from the World War, the Turkish government must exterminate every single Armenian living in the Ottoman Empire to get rid of the Armenian Question once and for all. Another Turkish official, Naim Bey in *Memoirs of Naim Bey*, published in 1920 in London, reveals a secret document signed by Talaat Pasha, war-time Ottoman Minister of the Interior, and dated September 16, 1915 stating that «the Government, by the order of the Jemiet (Committee), had decided to destroy completely all the Armenians living in Turkey». And to top it all, there was the Turkish government's declaration made by the Prime Minister of Turkey, Damad Ferid Pasha, on October 19, 1918, after the fall of the Ittihad ve Terrake government. In this official speech the Turkish Prime Minister unveiled the secret of the premeditated and organized genocide of the Armenians by the Ittihad ve Terrake Party. The Prime Minister also declared that the Red Book issued by the former government of the Young Turks contained falsehoods as to the disloyalty of the Ottoman Armenians.

The allied governments warned the Ottoman leaders that these «crimes of Turkey against humanity» would be punished and government members would be held personally responsible for their acts. However, no such thing happened. The genocide of the Armenian people was left without chastisement. The Armenians not only lost more than one million souls but also their 3000 year old fatherland.

While the Armenians are now mourning over their martyrs and claiming justice from a deaf World, Turks are

not showing the least sign of remorse, on the contrary, they boast of their sinister deed in such books as Cemal Kutay's **How Karabekir Annihilated Armenia** (Istanbul, 1956).

In 1916 Talaat had declared : «There is no Armenian Question anymore, since there are no Armenians». On January 6, 1946 with equal cynicism Prime Minister Sarajoglu said, «Not a single Armenian lives in the areas of Kars and Ardahan». Let us only note that the district of Kars alone, in the year 1914, had an Armenian population of 65,000.

However, the Turkish government was not able to annihilate all the Armenians. There are about 5 million Armenians living today : 2 millions in the Armenian Republic, one million and a half in the other union republics of the U.S.S.R., and the remainder is scattered all over the world, especially in the Middle East and the U.S.A. Armenians have everywhere reached positions of international fame. Let us give the examples of Anastas Mikoyan (president of the U.S.S.R.), prof. Victor Hampartsumian (President of the International Astronomical Association), Prof. Norayr Sissakian (President of the current session of the U.N.E.S.C.O.), Cardinal Gregory — Peter Agagianian (Prefect of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, the Vatican), Antranig Bedrossiants (President of the Soviet Atomic Energy Commission), composer Aram Khatchadourian, Ardem Mikoyan (co-designer of MIG-s), American writer William Saroyan, Marshal Ivan Bagramian Defence Vice-Minister of the U.S.S.R.), Paul Ignatius (United States Assistant Secretary of the Army), Rear-

Admiral Ivan Issakov, singer-composer-actor Charles Aznavour, movie director Rouben Mamoulian, world chess champion Tigran Petrossian and a multitude of other well-known scientists, historians, musicians, professors, artists, businessmen, etc...

The Armenians of the world, whose mouth-piece is in Lebanon under the name of Central Committee for the Liberation of the Armenian Territories from Turkey, claim the return of the Armenian territories now under Turkish occupation and a fair compensation for the human and material losses suffered by their compatriots in 1915.

We therefore appeal to the civilized world to help us in our struggle to achieve our aims. All we demand is justice and consideration of our rights under the light of the United Nations' declaration on genocide which clearly states, «genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law, which they undertake to prevent and punish.»



CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION
OF THE ARMENIAN TERRITORIES FROM TURKEY

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