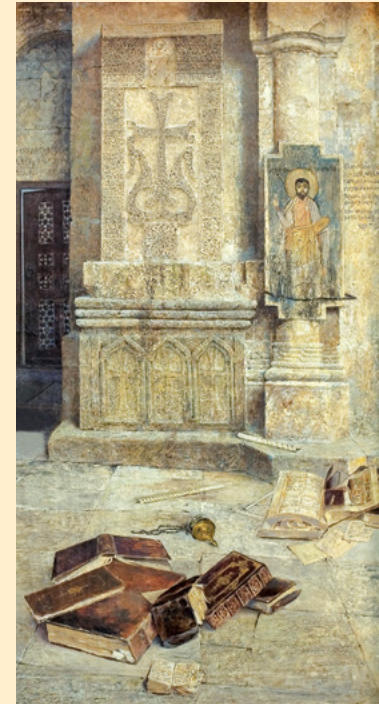




**“BECAUSE I LIVE,
AND YOU SHALL LIVE”**

(JOHN 14:19)



**THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
– THE FIRST GENOCIDE
OF THE XX CENTURY**

Holy Etchmiadzin
2013

Organizers of the Exhibition:



World Council of Churches
Armenian Inter-Church
Charitable Round Table
Foundation



Archives of the
Mother See of
Holy Etchmiadzin

ARMENIA – LAND OF BIBLICAL ARARAT

“And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat” (Gen. 8.4).



Hovhannes (Ivan) Ayvazovsky, “Noah descending from Ararat” (1889)

Sacred Armenia is the ancient country of covenant between God and the man. The Bible mentions about the covenant with Noah: when Patriarch Noah descended the Araratian valley, he built a stone altar and offered a sacrifice. And the Creator blessed Noah and his sons and set a rainbow in the clouds as a token of everlasting covenant between Him and the earth (Gen. 9. 12-17).



Martiros Sarian, “Armenia” (1923)

Armenian historian Movses of Khoren (5th century A.D.) talking about the genealogy of patriarchs and kings of Armenia, writes that Patriarch Hayk, forefather of the Armenian nation, was the son of Togarmah, who was Japheth's (one of Noah's sons) great grandson. According to Movses of Khoren, the main homeland of the Armenian nation was named after Patriarch Hayk and was called **Hayk-Hayastan**, which was later called **Armenia**, named after Patriarch Aram, one of Hayk's offspring.

The history of the ethnic origin of the Armenians embraced millennia. In the course of ancient times, the Armenian language, Armenian tribes and the Armenian nation were generated and formed in the Armenian highland. Therefore, the birthplace of the Armenian nation is the Armenian highland, which occupies a large territory and is located in central and northern parts of Western Asia. The Armenian highland

has borders with Small Caucasian mountain range in the north, with valleys of Northern Mesopotamia in the south, with the highland of Asia Minor in the west and with the Iranian highland in the east.



The existence of agriculture, metal working, town-planning, construction of temples, the presence of rock-images, ceramics and stone observatory (B.C. 6th - 3rd centuries, Karahounj, Metsamor) containing universal, cult, calendar, daily and mythical notions, as well as different expressions of lithographs and artistic perceptions are evidences of the ancient civilization in Armenia. The living witness of the centuries-old history of Armenia is the Armenian language, which is a separate and independent lingual branch in the Indo-European family of languages.



Armenian Alphabet (1976)

- 3rd millennia B.C. and the following epochs.

The evidence of high level ancient Armenian statehood is the Armenian-Hittite treaty (B.C. 1380), which is one of the first international treaties.

The territory of Armenia, within the borders of the Armenian highland (Greater Armenia and Lesser Armenia), was 400.000 square kilometers. However, in the course of centuries, foreign invaders conquered the majority of the Armenian territories. And now, the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh together form one-tenth of the historical Armenia in the north-western part of the Armenian highland.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

August 23, 1990

Declaration of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia was issued.

September 21, 1991

Voting of the declaration of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia was held.



Flag



Coat of Arms

Territory

29743 square kilometers

Capital City

Yerevan

State language

Armenian

Population

3.2 million (according to the index of permanent residents), 3 million (according to the index of existing residents)

Ethnic structure

Armenians (98%), Yezidis, Russians, Assyrians, Ukrainians, Jews, Kurds, Greeks and representatives of other nationalities

Religion

Christianity (Armenian Apostolic Holy Church), to which belongs the absolute majority of population

Bordering countries

Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey

ARMENIA AS THE FIRST CHRISTIAN STATE

**“Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed”
(John 20.29).**

After the Pentecost, the twelve apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, full of divine graces and spiritual authority given by the Lord, spread all over the world and established Christian communities, i.e. churches in different places.



St. Bartholomew the Apostle
(second half of the 18th century)



St. Thaddeus the Apostle
(second half of the 18th century)

In Armenia, the Holy Gospel was preached by two of our Lord Jesus Christ's twelve apostles - St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew. As the first Armenian illuminators, these two apostles are deemed to be the founders of the Armenian Church. They were martyred and buried in Armenia: Apostle St. Thaddeus - in Artaz province, and Apostle St. Bartholomew - in Aghbak province.



St. Thaddeus Monastery (2012)



St. Bartholomew Monastery (1913)

Later, churches and monasteries were built over the chapels dedicated to the first Armenian illuminators. Currently, the Monastery of St. Thaddeus is located in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Monastery of St. Bartholomew - in Turkey. Unfortunately, the Monastery of St. Bartholomew is totally ruined.

St. Bartholomew Monastery (2009)



Christian communities founded in the kingdom of Greater Armenia had their spiritual shepherds, who received ordination from the apostles and continued their sacred work by shepherding the flock of Armenian Christians.

As early as in the apostolic period, the Armenian Church established close relations with Churches in Palestine, Cappadocia, Mesopotamia and Syria.

In the 1-4th centuries, during persecutions organized by heathen kings and governors, numerous Christians were martyred also in Armenia, whose names are included in the Feast Calendar and Menologion of the Armenian Church: Princess St. Sandoukht, duchess St. Zarmandoukht, governors St. Samuel and St. Israel, duchess St. Vogouhee, commander St. Terentios, St. Mariam Huskanian, St. Anna Vormizdatian, St. Martha Makovterian, St. Vosky with four companions, St. Sukias with eighteen companions, and many other martyrs.

The total conversion of the Armenian nation took place at the beginning of the 4th century, thanks to the second illuminator of the Armenians - Gregory the Parthian, and King Tiridates III of Armenia.



St. Tiridates, King of Armenia (1836)

In 301, King Tiridates III declared Christianity as the state religion in the Kingdom of Armenia, thus making Armenia the first Christian state in the world.

St. Gregory the Illuminator baptized King Tiridates III, the royal family, governors and the whole Armenian army in the Aratsanee River. The history of the conversion of the Armenian nation and the following events was thoroughly presented by historian Agathangelos, contemporary of those occurrences.

“The Armenians and Christians, the Christians and Armenians are interwoven as integrity, union. The leaders of the Armenian Church and nation created an institution that would become the unassailable fortress of the Armenians. But the greatest merit of the Armenian Church, which should be highly evaluated is the issue of our self-defense and hence the defense of Christianity in general” (Catholicos Karekin I Hovsepian).

FOR THE SAKE OF THE FAITH AND THE HOMELAND

“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12.32).

In 311, Christian Armenia, for the sake of its holy faith and homeland, fought the first triumphant battle against Eastern Roman Emperor Maximianus Galerius.

In 451, Christian Armenia, headed by Vardan Mamikonian, commander in chief of Armenia, for the second time again struggled for the sake of the faith and the motherland. This time the Christian Armenians fought against Sassanid Persia. King Yezdegerd II, who was a follower of Zoroastrianism, decided to eliminate Christianity from Armenia and force the cult of sun and fire on all the people subject to him.



Grigor Khanjyan, “Vardananq” (1983)

The war of Vardan and his companions is a unique event in the history, when the whole nation – governors and peasants, soldiers and clergy, men and women – took weapons to defend their religious and national identity and freedom. This war fought for the sake of Christianity, which contemporary historian Yeghishe called “War of Armenians”, became a pan-national ordeal, which was overcome with dignity and made an indelible impact on the whole further history of the Armenian

nation. Though in military sense, the Zoroastrian Persians recorded triumph, they could not manage to oppress the rebellious spirit of the Armenians, make them abandon their faith and ruin Christian Armenia.

1036 people, who died a hero's death in the battle of Avarayr on May 26, 451, were sanctified by the Armenian Church as martyrs, who selflessly gave their lives for the sake of the faith and the motherland. In the course of centuries, for numerous Armenian generations those martyrs served as living models of love towards God and Church, motherland and nation.

Following the battle of Avarayr, the Persian court began to take revenge on the Armenian clergy. Armenian Catholicos Hovsep Haghosmetsee, bishops, priests and deacons were detained and exiled after having been tortured. All the exiled clergy were martyred in 454. The Armenian Church sanctified them, too, and established a special feast in the Feast Calendar in their memory.

The Christian Armenian nation continued its self-defence during following centuries as well. Battles for the sake of the faith and homeland were fought against the Arabs, Seljuks, Mongol-Tartars, later again, against the Persians and then Ottoman authorities....

"If we tried to write the history of those centuries -endless chain of excruciating martyrdoms, captivations especially by the Seljuks, Tartars and Turkmen tribes - it would become a terrible page in the history of human life, which perhaps none of the nations had ever faced" (Catholicos Karekin I Hovsepian).

The Armenian nation - the little flock of Christ - overcame the abolishing and destructive persecutions of foreign conquerors with the omnipotent power of firm faith in Resurrected Christ and with great love towards its small divine economy - the Land of Armenia.

THE BLOODY SUNSET OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul” (Mt. 10.28).

During the history of the Armenian nation, the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century were the most tragic and fateful phases. Persian, Arabic, Byzantine, Turk-Seljuk and Mongol-Tartar disasters were greatly overshadowed by the massacre perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire towards the Armenian nation, the forerunner of the world civilization in Western Asia. More than two million people that were the stronghold and luminary of Christianity in the Near East and Middle East, became the victims of unprecedented genocide.



The atrocities committed against the Armenian people of the Ottoman Empire during the World War I are defined as the Armenian Genocide. Those massacres were perpetrated throughout different regions of the Ottoman Empire by the Young Turkish Government.

In July, 1908, as a result of the revolution implemented by the Young Turks, Abdul Hamid II, ferocious Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, lost his authority and was dethroned in 1909. The Young Turks came to limelight in the 18th century with the motto of the French revolution “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity”. All the nations of the empire, no matter Muslim or Christian, joyfully learnt of the downfall of the “Red Sultan”. People thought that a new era would begin in the history of the Ottoman Empire; however, as

it turned out very soon, the Young Turks were disguised nationalists, who continued the policy of persecutions and massacres of the sultans preceding them. They were obsessed with the idea of amalgamating all the nations of the empire and creating a “pure” nation, and they believed that even mass extermination would not keep them away from implementing that idea.

Genocide is the organized killing of people for the express purpose of putting an end to their collective existence. Because of its scope, genocide requires central planning and an internal machinery to implement. This makes genocide the quintessential state crime, as only a government has the resources to carry out such a scheme of destruction.

PEOPLE MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



Mehmet Talaat Pasha



Ahmet Djemal Pasha



Ismail Enver Pasha



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
(Executing the Armenian
Genocide)

When the World War I erupted, the Young Turkish Government, hoping to save the remains of the weakened Ottoman Empire, adopted a policy of Pan Turkism - the establishment of a mega Turkish Empire comprising of all Turkic-speaking peoples of the Caucasus and Central Asia extending to China, intending also





to turkify all ethnic minorities of the empire. The Armenian population became the main obstacle standing in the way of the realization of this policy.

Although the decision of Armenian Genocide was adopted in 1911-1912, the Young Turks used the World War I as a suitable opportunity for its implementation.

There were an estimated two million Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire on the eve of the World War I. Approximately one and a half million Armenians per-

ished between 1915 and 1923. Another half million were either forcibly converted to Islam or found shelter abroad.

On 24th, 25th and 26th of April in 1915, the first phase of the Armenian massacres began with the arrest and murder of more than



700 Armenian intellectuals (among them more than ten famous writers) in Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire and provinces.



The second phase appeared with the conscription of some 60.000 Armenian men into the general Turkish army, who were later disarmed and killed by their Turkish fellowmen.

The third phase of the genocide comprised of massacres, deportations and death marches made up of women, children and the elderly into the Syrian deserts. During those marches hundreds of thousands were killed by Turkish soldiers, gendarmes and Kurdish mobs. Others died because of famine, epidemic diseases. Thousands of women and children were raped. Tens of thousands were forcibly converted to Islam.

Finally, the last phase of the Armenian genocide appeared with the total and utter denial by the Turkish government of the mass killings and elimination of the Armenian nation on its homeland. Despite the ongoing international recognition of the Armenian genocide, Turkey has consistently fought the acceptance of the Armenian Genocide by any means, including falsification of history, propaganda campaigns, lobbying, etc.

**SECRET LETTERS OF HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP
ZAVEN YEGHIAYAN, ARMENIAN PATRIARCH OF CON-
STANTINOPLE, ADDRESSED TO HIS GRACE BISHOP
GHEVOND DOURYAN, PRIMATE OF THE ARMENIAN
DIOCESE OF BULGARIA**



His Eminence Archbishop Zaven Yeghiayan

Constantinople, 25/7 June 1915
His Grace Bishop Ghevond
Douryan
Philippe

Armenians in Turkey now endure unprecedented troubles: we are in a situation that overshadows the Hamidian period – arrests, robbery, destruction and ruining of villages, assassinations in all the Armenian provinces and mass deportations instead of massacres. Indeed, you have more or less learnt of the troubles our nation faces, for this reason, I would like to make use of your position, and perhaps we could find a way out of this terrible situation. I would not like to write

directly to His Holiness – my letter may be caught by Russian authorities and published, thus making the condition of our nation even more bitter. For this reason, from now on sometimes I will write to you, so that you could communicate this information to the Catholicos as taken from an **accurate and true source** and ask for his assistance.

At the beginning of April, the case of Van occurred, which caused the government to bomb the Armenian districts of the city devastating 300 houses and killing 500-600 people. Later, the city was seized by Russians and some local Muslims were massacred by Armenians. We do not know the details of those cases, however, the ministers told that changes in the governmental policy from April 10 onwards and the reason of such strictness was caused by the Armenians' behaviour in Van. In the same year, upon a decree of the headquarters, houses of numerous Armenians were ransacked in every corner of Turkey including the prelacy, churches and colleges, thousands of people were arrested for reasons of having weapons, keeping dangerous banned books, icons, etc. Besides, without being implicated in any crime, from almost every city and village thousands of outstanding Armenians, clergymen, intellectuals, rich people, party activists or those, who had some contacts with them, were exiled to areas inhabited by Muslims. More than 250 people were exiled from Constantinople to Changheri (Kastemuni province) and Ayash (Galatia), but compared

with Constantinople, the number of exiled from provinces was more. This was the outcome of a project – first, to disarm and terrify Armenians by exiling their leaders, then to demolish the nation fully. People that belong to the age group of 20-45 are already recruited, and they plan an elegy for women and children after having neutralized the others in this way. This elegy or the terrific project is the following: for closing the Armenian issue once and forever, it is necessary to deport the Armenians of six Armenian provinces mainly to the south, the part of Mesopotamia situated between Aleppo and Mosul, where now Arabic and Kurd Ashirates (**tribe that is subject to one chieftain**) reside. The commission that should implement this project has been already elected, and we think that if the nation's deportation has not begun yet, it will begin in a few days, though we think that the Armenian inhabitants of the unoccupied areas of Van and Baghesh have been already sent out. Can you imagine their condition? They will leave not only their properties, but also their lands under cultivation and all the belongings. Certainly, in the course of some months, they will die because of starvation and lack of acclimatization. We already have the example of the Armenians in Zeytoun and neighboring areas. As you could already have learnt, they are fully deported, a part – to Zor province, beyond Aleppo and the other part (1000 families) – to borough Sultanie in Gonia, where they are naked, hungry and without shelter. The place is marshy and epidemic diseases began causing death among them. All our applications for contacting or supporting them remained unanswered till date. And a special commission has begun to hand over their villages and properties to the Muslims.

This is a project to annihilate entirely the Armenian nation; this is a terrible crime without making noise, without naming it as a massacre. One needs to know that after recruiting people that belong to the age group of 20-45, male representatives at the age of 15-20 and 45-60 have also been reserved for military needs. Those, who paid **petel (compensation, a special tax for Christians in Turkey to be exempted from military service)** were exiled to different places or arrested on different pretexts, therefore, the Armenian deportees include exclusively elders, women and children, and they will have to pass through places, which were dangerous for life even in peaceful times. The Turkish voluntary groups and other criminals, and even gendarmes and government officials act freely in robbing them, raping and kidnapping women and girls. From different places we hear about cases of islamization, perhaps people have no other way out to save their lives.

Military courts act mercilessly everywhere: you have surely learnt from newspapers that 20 members of Hunchakian party were hung in Constantinople. This decision did not correspond to any law of the country. The same day, in Caesarea 12 people were hung for obeying the instructions of a secret assembly of Hunchakian and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Parties organized in Bucharest. Besides, 32 people were condemned to exile and obligatory hard work of 10-15 years,



His Grace Bishop Ghevond Douryan

they are mainly non-partisan, but honest merchants. In Cilicia, 12 people were also hung. Convictions occur every day - weapons, books, icons, etc. can suffice to be arrested for several years. There are many beatings to death - 13 people in Tigranakert, 6 people in Caesarea, and many other cases. And in some cases they do not even reach military courts but rather than are being killed on the way: 13 people, who were transported from Shapin Garahisar to Sebastia; priests of Biurk village together with five friends even with tied hands that were transported from Su Sheherk to Sebastia, etc. I no more remember other sufferings executed in the

process of searching everywhere weapons and party members. Every house, prelacy, church and college was ransacked; hundreds of women, girls and children are in prison today. Churches and monasteries are robbed, ruined and profaned. Primates are not spared, either. Archimandrite Parkev Danielyan, Primate of Bursa, Archimandrite Georg Touryan, Primate of Trabzon, Bishop Khosrov Behrikyan, Primate of Caesarea, Archimandrite Vaghinak Torikyan, Primate of Shapin Garahisar, Archimandrite Georg Nalbandyan, Primate of Charsanjak and others are arrested and submitted to military courts. Acting primate of Tigranakert Archimandrite Mekertich was beaten to death in prison, we do not have any news from other primates; perhaps most of them are imprisoned. Armenians in Turkey are now totally isolated: there is no correspondence and telegram communication.

Armenian villages neighbouring Van and Baghesh are ruined and robbed, Shapin Garahisar was slaughtered mercilessly at the beginning of this month, only several children are said to have survived. Unfortunately details reach us very late and with difficulties.

One can see that Armenians of Turkey live their last days, we do not have any method to prevent the death. If Armenians living abroad cannot manage to arouse the conscience of neutral states, in several months very few people will remain out of one and half a million Armenians; annihilation is inevitable...

(Signature)

Archives of Holy Etchmiadzin, ME-1, f.1, pp.1-4.

Constantinople 30/13 July 1915
His Grace Bishop Ghevond Douryan
Philippe

Since May 25, incidents have succeeded each other turbulently, and our nation reached the most bitter and miserable situation. Prior to that date, we have learnt only about the deportation of people living in several cities and villages of Cilicia, and some rumours about Karin. Today we exactly know that Armenians of all the towns and villages of Cilicia are fully deported and driven into southern deserts of Aleppo. Since May 1, inhabitants of Karin and then the entire province were sent out beginning with Samson and Caesarea to Tigranakert and Edessa, including all the Armenians living in Trabzon, Sebastia, Kharberd, Baghesh, Van and Tigranakert. All the people - from children to elders - are driven into deserts of Mesopotamia, from southern parts of Aleppo to Mosul and Baghdad. "Armenia without Armenians", this is the project of the Ottoman government. They have already begun to settle Muslims in the Armenians' houses and on the Armenian land. There is no need to mention that deportees can take nothing with themselves, because the government does not give permission. No transportation means are left in those provinces, since the military authorities have seized them all. Armenian deportees have to go on foot one-two months or more to reach the part of the desert, which is destined to be their tomb. We have already learnt that the road and waters of River Euphrates are full of cadavers of those wretched deportees, whose surviving family members are condemned to death because of the absence of shelter and means of subsistence.

Imagine what this policy of annihilating the Armenians will cost us and how it will threaten the existence of our nation. Therefore, please, hurry up to apply to wherever it is necessary and to find means to prevent it. Please, write to His Holiness and the Primate of the USA. All of our means are exhausted, our applications remain unheard. As to the ambassadors that are in the capital city, only the ambassadors of the USA and Bulgaria deal with our issue and try to bring relief to our bitter state. Their attempts are worth our gratitude; however, they are not enough to avert the danger unless the Turkish government is oppressed. The ambassadors of Germany and Austria, though being very mighty, are totally indifferent towards our pains.

I am sending this letter secretly to you. Please, in one of your letters inform me of the receipt.

(Signature)

Archives of Holy Etchmiadzin, ME-1, f.1, pp.1-2.

**“THEY HAVE CAST FIRE
INTO THY SANCTUARY,
THEY HAVE DEFILED BY
CASTING DOWN THE
DWELLING PLACE OF
THY NAME TO THE
GROUND” (Psalm 74.7)**

Parallel to the mass extermination and deportation of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, the Young Turks' Government intentionally and premeditatedly tried to abolish material evidences of the Armenian civilization as well.

According to the statistics, made up by the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople and presented to the Ottoman government, in 1912-1913 the total number of Armenian churches and monasteries in the territory of the Ottoman Empire was 2300 (including early Christian unique monuments that dated back to the 4th - 5th centuries).

During the Armenian Genocide, more than 2000 churches and monasteries were robbed, plundered, burnt and ruined, about 4000 clergymen were martyred, tens of thousands of Armenian medieval ornamented manuscripts and objects of sacred art were destroyed, church property was seized.



Vardges Surenyants, "Trampled on Sanctities" (1895)

During the Armenian Genocide, about 200 Armenian Catholic clergymen, 100 Armenian Protestant pastors, as well as 100.000 Catholic and Protestant Armenians were martyred.

“The Young Turks were well aware that in the course of centuries, the Armenian Church had served as a stronghold for the Armenian nation not only by protecting its rights before the world, but also by becoming a furnace of hope for the nation. And the Church would continue to be the furnace of that hope if headed by the clergy.

While exterminating the flock, they did not spare the shepherds, either. Indeed, the Armenian Church sacrificed all her clergy: beginning with primates of provincial dioceses, vicars and abbots, and ending with modest priests of villages fell victims to the atrocities of the Young Turks. Sometimes they were killed after terrible tortures and agony, which overshadowed the sufferings of ancient saints” (Hakob Sirouny).

The Young Turks' policy to destroy the historical-cultural heritage of the Armenian nation is still applied in the republican Turkey, since it is deemed as an undesirable witness of the Armenian presence.

According to the data of UNESCO of 1974, following 1932, out of 913 Armenian historical-architectural memorials, 464 totally disappeared, 252 were ruined and 197 needed to be thoroughly restored.

Armenian architectural constructions have been consistently exploded being used as a target during military trainings, and stones have been used as building materials. In some rural areas, they have served as barns, storehouses, as well as prisons. In most cases, Armenian churches have become mosques.

The eradication of the Armenian cultural heritage or its misappropriation is the continuation of the Turkish policy to commit genocide towards the Armenian nation.

For the sake of justice, we should mention that in 2005-2007, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey restored one of the pearls of the Armenian architecture - Holy Cross Church (915-921) on Aghtamar Island of Vana Lake. However, the restored church was not given to the

Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople, so that it could become an acting church; it was converted to a museum



Holy Cross Church (915-921)

THE FOLLOWING PHOTOS PRESENT SOME SELECTED ARMENIAN MEDIEVAL MONU- MENTS DESTROYED DURING AND AFTER THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

PHOTOS BY HRAIR HAWK KHATCHERIAN

Horomos Monastery
(10th -13th centuries)



Photos during 1900s and 2008

Bagnayr Monastery
(11th -13th centuries)



Photos during 1900s and 2008

Moosh, St. Karapet Monastery
(4th -18th centuries)



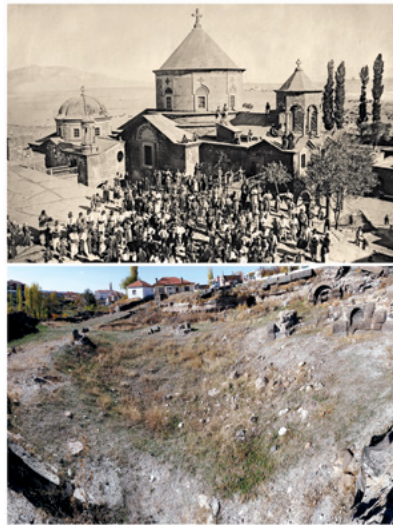
Photos during 1900s and 2010

Khtzkonk Monastery
(10th century)



Photos during 1900s and 2008

Tomaraza, St. Astvatzatzin
Monastery (1st - 19th centuries)



Photos during 1900s and 2008

Salnapati St. Grigor
Monastery (4th - 10th centuries)



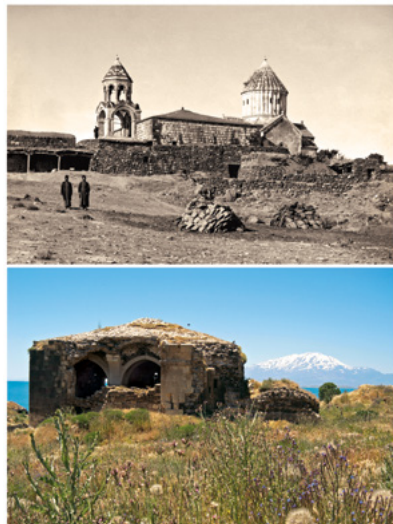
Photos during 1900s and 2010

Varag Monastery (653)



Photos during 1900s and 2012

Lim Monastery
(12th - 13th centuries)



Photos during 1900s and 2004

Tekor Monastery
(5th century)



Photos during 1900s and 2008

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND THE MOTHER SEE OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN

When the terrible news about the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Turkey reached the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin – spiritual center of All Armenians, His Holiness Kevork V, Catholicos of All Armenians, immediately sent official tele-



Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, 1910s



I.I. Vorontsov-Dashkov

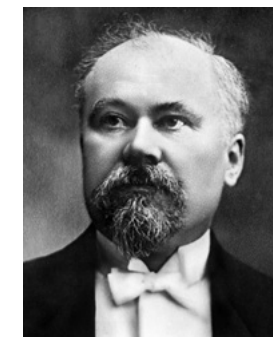


S.D. Sazanov

grams to Count Vorontsov-Dashkov, General Governor of the Caucasus, to Sazanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Empire, to King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy, to King George V of England, to Raymond Poincaré, President of France, to Woodrow Wilson, President of the USA.



King George V



R. Poincaré



King Victor Emmanuel III



The Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin – spiritual center of all Armenians, tried to do its best to assist, support and console its nation.

Around 60.000 survivors and 3000 orphans that had fled from the Ottoman Turkey settled in the territory of the Mother

See of Holy Etchmiadzin, and the Brotherhood members of Holy Etchmiadzin greatly assumed their care and treatment.

“It was in 1915. I went to Vagharshapat. I remember that I did my best to help my tortured nation – mothers, children and elders dying from famine and epidemic under the walls of the Cathedral. I did not paint anything during those and following years. Who can paint the death of his own son?” (Martiros Sarian).



His Holiness Kevork V, Catholicos of All Armenians, with his encyclicals addressed to the Armenian clergy and lay people to “help morally and materially” “for the benefit and redemption of our refugees”.



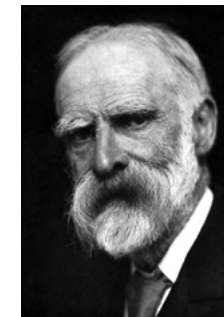
His Holiness Kevork V

The Catholicos of All Armenians, parallel to the support to Armenian refugees, took measures to seek the lost children of refugees, to open orphanages and new schools for deported children, to grant allowance to the orphans.

Catholicos Kevork V did all the possible and impossible – he called for help writers, scientists, businessmen, who worked incessantly to heal the wounds of the Armenian nation.

However, the Turkish project was relentlessly implemented, and only great states could solve that problem, but they limited everything to diplomacy

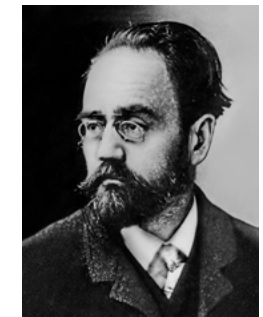
Unlike European political scientists, intellectuals and public figures expressed protest in defense of life benefits of the Armenian nation. They also made efforts to assist Armenian survivors.



Lord James Bryce



Victor Berard



Anatole France



Woodrow Wilson

Sorrowful Catholicos Kevork V sent his encyclical letters of blessing and appreciation to foreign officials – Lord James Bryce (Great Britain), Leopold Favre (Switzerland), Anatole France and Victor Berard (France).

The Catholicos of All Armenians sent a letter of gratitude and best wishes also to Woodrow Wilson, President of the USA.

THE ARMENIAN ORPHANS

“Whosoever shall receive this child in My name receiveth Me”
(Luke 9.48).

Armenian orphanages are the benevolent and educational institutions which protected and sheltered the Armenian children who were orphaned as a result of the Genocide, that was perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire.

The orphanages were established at the end of the XIX century, primarily after the first Armenian Genocide of 1894 - 1896 in the regions of Western Armenia and Cilicia Armenia, and the Turkish cities of Constantinople, Izmir, Adabazar, Kesariya, Urfa, Diyarbakir and Mardin. Roughly 20 orphanages operated under the direction of Armenian and foreign charity and missionary institutions. During the times of 1915 and 1932, the number of Armenian orphans significantly increased to over 200,000, as a result of the Armenian Genocide.



During World War I, with the intention of soothing public opinion and misleading civilization, orphanages were opened by the Turkish government in the cities of Mardin, Urfa, Diyarbakir, Kesariya, Aleppo, and Adana as well as in the village of Antoura, Lebanon. Combined, the orphanages cared for 3,500 Armenian orphans who had survived the massacres carried out by Turkey. Yet the Young Turks continued with their inhumane scheme of annihilating an entire nation, turning the young orphans into Turks by force, or starving them to death. By the end of the war, 1,350 of the 2,000 orphans in Antoura died from the unbearable conditions.



During the war over 5,000 Armenian children were saved by the orphanages in the inner provinces of Kharberd, Sebastia and Malatia, which were operated by several international missionaries: Swiss missionary Mr. Jakob Künzler and his wife; and the Danish missionaries Karen Marie Peterson, Karen Jeppe,

and Maria Jacobsen, who opened the Bird's Nest Orphanage. After Turkey was defeated in 1918, the children of the orphanages were taken into the care of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the American Committee for Relief in the Near East (Amercom) and other orphanage organizations.

During the war, many Armenian orphans escaped death, finding shelter in Arab and Kurdish as well as Turkish families. It was essential that they be found and returned to their native people. This challenging effort of collecting the orphans was mainly undertaken by Amercom, AGBU, the "National Foster Care Organization" founded in Constantinople, and others.

Sending expedition groups to the depths of the Anatolian, Syrian and Mesopotamian deserts, they would often pay a ransom to free the Armenian children who were kept in the houses of strangers. Around 150,000 Armenian orphans were gathered, 60,000 placed under the guardianship of Amercom, 40,000 of them with the "National Foster Care Organization" of Constantinople, 15,000 of them went to AGBU and 5,000 of them were under the custody of Armenian and foreign charitable institutions: "Lord Mayor's Fund Orphanage", "Friends of Armenia", "Danish Women's Union", "Armenian Association in Switzerland", "Howard Karagyozyan Organization", "Kelekian Orphanage" and others.

Approximately 30,000 orphans were under the guardianship of the Armenian government. The orphans were mostly sent to different regions in Turkey, to newly formed Arab countries, the Republic of Armenia and Greece. The number of the orphans in Turkey from 1918-1921 was estimated at around 70,000. Subsequently, as a result of the extension of the Kemalist movement, the orphanages in Turkey were transferred to the Arab countries in the Near East and Greece.

Most of the orphans in Armenia had escaped from Vaspurakan in 1915 and its surrounding areas, and Taron during the Turkish invasions of 1918 and 1920. Their number reached more than 50,000 and 35,000 of them took shelter in Alexandroupoulos, Greece. Amercom supported

some of the orphans but the majority of the needs were taken care of by the Republic of Armenia, and later the government of the Soviet Armenia, where no efforts were spared to assist the orphans to develop their skills in crafts and agriculture.

In Greece there were around 20,000 Armenian orphans in the orphanages of Athens, Corfu, Corinth, Cephalonia and Serres. Here great efforts were also made by Amercom, and the orphanage in Corfu was managed by the British based "Lord Mayor's Fund". By the second half of the 1920's Amercom had started reducing their orphan care efforts. Some of the orphans were then transferred to Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt, and the orphans in Corfu were sent to Canada.

In the village of Begnins near Geneva, Switzerland, the missionary Pastor Kraft Bonnard opened "The Armenian Home" for the orphans, and in France, the School-loving Armenian Women's Association took care of 117 orphans. There were many orphanages in Arab countries. In Palestine the orphanages sheltering the Armenian orphans were founded in 1917 after the British had captured the city. Later, 5,300 orphans from Kharberd were sent there; 250 orphans were transferred to Armenia from Jerusalem in 1923; and 40 orphans were sent to Addis Ababa to study music, and to form the royal chamber orchestra at the request of the heir to the Ethiopian throne, then Crown Prince Ras Tafari.



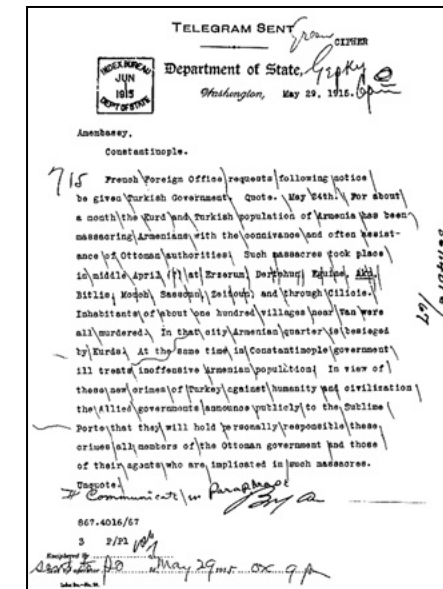
The first orphanages in Lebanon and Syria were opened immediately after war, but the number of the orphans there significantly increased to around 20 thousand after the annihilation of Cilicia in 1923. There were orphanages in Aleppo, Jibal, Maameltein, Ghazir, Jounieh, Beirut, Saida and Damascus.

During their operation, the orphanages produced their own periodicals ("The Star of the Orphans' World", "Home", "Orphan's voice", etc.) which included extended articles on their everyday life, education, etc., a testament to the significant role and impact the orphanages had on Armenian society. The Armenian orphanages played an essential role in saving thousands of Armenian children from abandonment and death. The majority of the orphanages were permanently closed in 1928-1929.

Listed in the "Armenian Question" encyclopedia.

CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY AND CIVILIZATION

Various documents have been preserved on the organized massacres and deportations of the Armenian nation in foreigners' memoirs, diaries, in the press of the time and especially, in Armenian, German, American, Russian, English, French, Austrian, Turkish, as well as in Church archives. All the archive materials completing one another reveal the true face and purposes of the Young Turks' Government, as well as basically assert the fact of the Armenian Genocide. The first international reaction on the Armenian Genocide was the joint statement made on May 24, 1915 by France, Russia and Great Britain.



France, Great Britain and Russia Joint Declaration

May 24, 1915

Telegram Sent

Department of State, Washington

May 29, 1915

Amembassy [American Embassy],

Constantinople.

French Foreign Office requests following notice be given Turkish Government. Quote.

May 24th

For about a month the Kurd and Turkish populations of Armenia has been massacring Armenians with the connivance and often assistance of Ottoman authorities. Such massacres took place in middle April (new style) at Erzerum, Dertchun, Eguine, Akn, Bitlis, Mush, Sassun, Zeitun, and throughout Cilicia. Inhabitants of about one hundred villages near Van were all murdered. In that city Armenian quarter is besieged by Kurds. At the same time in Constantinople Ottoman Government ill-treats inoffensive Armenian population. In view of those new crimes of Turkey against humanity and civilization, the Allied governments announce publicly to the Sublime-Porte that they will hold personally responsible [for] these crimes all members of the Ottoman government and those of their agents who are implicated in such massacres.

Unquote.

R.G. 59, 867.4016/67

Please, find below some more documents on the Armenian Genocide out of thousands of archive materials:



US CONSUL LESLIE DAVIS DESCRIBING ARMENIAN "DEPORTEES" PASSING THROUGH THE HARPOOT PLAIN ON THEIR WAY TO DER ZOR

"All of them were in rags and many . . . almost naked . . . emaciated, sick, diseased, filthy, covered with dirt and vermin . . . driven along for many weeks like herds of cattle, with little to eat . . . There were few men among them, most of the men having been killed by the Kurd before their arrival at Harpoot. Many of the women and children also had been killed and very many others had died on the way . . . Of those who had started, only a small portion were still alive and they were rapidly dying . . . Many Turkish officers and other Turks visited the camps to select the prettiest girls and had their doctors present to examine them . . . Several hundred of the dead and dying scattered about the camp . . . the body of a middle-aged man who had apparently just died or been killed. A number of dead bodies of women and children lay here and there . . . Old men sat there mumbling incoherently. Women with matted hair and sunken eyes sat staring like maniacs. One, whose face has haunted my memory ever since, was so emaciated and the skin was drawn so tightly over her features that her head appeared to be only a lifeless skull. Others were in the spasms of death. Children with bloated bellies were on the ground wallowing in filth. Some were in convulsions. All in the camp were beyond help".

United States Official records on the Armenian Genocide 1915-1917, pp. 644, doc. NA/RG59/867.4016/392.

CONFIDENTIAL TELEGRAM, AMBASSADOR MORGENTHAU TO SECRETARY OF STATE

Constantinople, 16 July 1915

"Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eye witnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion. Protests as well as threats are unavailing and probably incite the Ottoman government to more drastic measures as they are determined to disclaim responsibility for their absolute disregard of Capitulations and I believe nothing short of actual force which obviously United States are not in a position to exert would adequately meet the situation. Suggest you inform belligerent nations and mission boards of this."

United States Official records on the Armenian Genocide 1915-1917, pp. 55, document NA/RG59/867.4016/76.

AMERICAN CONSULATE

No. 71 COPY

Harpoot, 24 July 1915.

HONORABLE HENRY MORGENTHAU, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, CONSTANTINOPLE.

SIR:

I have the honor to further supplement my reports of June 30th and July 11th (file no. 840. 1) in regard to the expulsion of the Armenians from this region, or, to speak more correctly, the wholesale massacre of these Armenians, as follows...

...It has been no secret that the plan was to destroy the Armenian race as a race, but the methods used have been more cold-blooded and barbarous, if not more effective, than I had at first supposed...

...It seems to be fully established now that practically all who have been sent away from here have been deliberately shot or otherwise killed within one or two days after their departure. This work has not all been done by bands of Kurds but has for the most part been that of the gendarmes who accompanied the people from here or of companies of armed *tchetehs* (convicts) who have been released from prison for the purpose of murdering the Armenian exiles...

...I do not believe there has ever been a massacre in the history of the world so general and thorough as that which is now being perpetrated in this region or that a more fiendish, diabolical scheme has ever been conceived by the mind of man...

...It would be that even if all the people had been allowed to perish on the road. As the greater part of them, however, have been actually murdered and as there is no doubt that this was done by order of the government, there can be no pretense that the measure is anything else but a general massacre...

I have the honor to be sir,

Your obedient servant,

(signed): Leslie A. Davis

Consul

Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/269. United States Official Records on The Armenian Genocide 1915-1917. Compiled with an Introduction by Ara Sarafian, London, 2004, pp. 461-462.

**HENRY MORGENTHAU'S REPORT OF HIS CONVERSATION
WITH TALAAT PASHA**

8 AUGUST, 1915

"I argued in all sorts of ways with him but he said that there was no use, that they had already disposed of three quarters of them, that there were none left in Bitlis, Van, Erzeroum, and that the hatred was so intense now that they have to finish it. I spoke to him about the commercial losses and he said they did not care, that they had figured it out and knew it would not exceed for the banks etc. five million pounds. He said they want to treat the Armenians like we treat the negroes. I think he meant like the Indians. I asked him to make exceptions in some few cases which he promised to do."

United States Diplomacy on the Bosphorus: The Diaries of Ambassador Morgenthau 1913-1916, p. 298.

**NO. 79/P.-A
CONSTANTINOPLE
SEPTEMBER 30, 1915**

**DEPORTATION OF THE ARMENIANS
TO THE INTERIOR OF THE ASIA MINOR**

COUNT TRAUTTMANSDORFF TO BARON BURIAN

All the rumors coming from the Armenian sources and the interior of the Asia minor tell about unprecedented cruelties which are committed during the deportation of the Armenians. We agree that taking into account the sources, these rumors could be exaggerated, but unfortunately they are confirmed by the reports of the representatives of the banks and their branches, the German officers and many others.

The eyewitnesses tell about horrible events which take place during deportation of the villages inhabited by the Armenians. Similar reports we receive from our employees of the consulates in Damask and Trabizond. Most men have been killed, women and children have been sold to the Turks for a song. Those, who started to the interior of the country, got to the destination less than the tenth in number, because many died from deprivation, diseases and emaciation. Today nobody can deny that the Turks have used the accusations in treachery as a pretext for the extermination of the Armenian race and have chiefly succeeded in doing this. With great satisfaction Talaat bey has recently told me that hardly any Armenians were left in Erzerum, for example. All the rumors testify that the measures implemented by the government against the Armenians have taken more lives than the massacres committed by Abdul Hamid...

HHSIA PA XII 209 Nr 79/P.-A, Österreich-Armenien 1872-1936, Faksimilesammlung Diplomatischer Aktenstücke, Herausgegeben und Eingeleitet von mag. Dr. Artem Ohandjanian, Band vi, 1914-1915, Wien, 1995, ss. 4754-4755.

**M. MARCEL CACHIN, DEPUTY OF SENA TO MR. ARISTID BRIANDE,
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER**

PARIS, DECEMBER 19, 1915

According to the stories of reliable eye-witnesses, the massacres in their cruelty exceed the massacres of 1894-1895, and the year 1915 filled Armenia with blood...

...In 1915 one million of these unfortunate people were exterminated by Enver pasha, the former student of Berlin military academy with complicity of German officers and consuls. The foreign affairs committee of the chamber was informed by respectable Mr. Aharonyan about the new attempt of extermination of the whole nation. The tragic story of this prominent Armenian was confirmed by the reports of American and Swiss missionaries and consuls, and they are involved in the last book of honorable lord Bryce.

... Nobody could remain indifferent to the martyrdom of this nation subjected to extermination. Despite these present misfortunes France will protest against these terrible crimes once again in accordance with its noble and tender traditions.

A.M.A.E., Guerre 1914-1918, Turquie, tome 887, ff. 244-245v). A. Beylerian, les grandes puissances, l'empire ottoman et les armeniens dans les archives francaises (1914-1918), p. 148.

**REPORT OF WANGENHEIM, GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN THE OTTO-
MAN EMPIRE TO THE REICHSKANZLER BEHTMANN-HOLLWEG**

JUNE 17, 1915

Deportation of the Armenians from their homes in the vilayets of eastern Anatolia, and their resettlement in other regions is implemented cruelly...

... It becomes obvious that deportation of the Armenians arises not only from military necessity. The internal minister Talaat bey told about it honestly to doctor Mortsman, who is employed at the empire embassy now. Talaat said: "the Sublime Porte intends to make use of the world war for cleaning the whole country from internal enemies, the local Christians, so that foreign countries won't hinder doing it by their diplomatic interference. This measure will serve to the interests of all allies of Turkey, especially the Germans and so the latter will be able to consolidate"...

Politisches Archiv des Auswartigen Amts des Kaiserlichen Deutschlands (Politarchiv). A-19743, ia Turkei 183. nr. 7122, r 14086.

**FROM THE AMBASSADOR IN CONSTANTINOPLE
(WANGENHEIM) TO THE REICHSKANZLER
(BETHMANN HOLLWEG)**

Report pr. 07/12/1915 p.m. A-21257 Pera, 7 July 1915 1 Enclosure

The expulsion and relocation of the Armenian people was limited until 14 days ago to the provinces nearest to the eastern theatre of war and to certain areas in the province of Adana; since then the Porte has resolved to extend these measures also to the provinces of Trapezunt, Mamuret-ul-Aziz and Siwas and has begun with these measures even though these parts of the country are not threatened by any enemy invasion for the time being. This situation and the way in which the relocation is being carried out shows that the government is indeed pursuing its purpose of eradicating the Armenian race from the Turkish Empire. In this respect I would like to add the following to my previous reports: On 26 June, according to reports by the Imperial Consul in Trapezunt, the

Armenians in that area were ordered to depart within five days; their possessions were to remain behind under the supervision of the authorities. Only the sick were excepted; later an exception was granted for widows, orphans, old people and children under the age of five years, also for the sick and for Catholic Armenians.

According to the latest reports, however, most of the exceptions were revoked once again and only children and those who were not transportable remained behind; the latter were brought into hospitals.

Altogether, this involved about 30000 people in the Vilayet Trapezunt alone who were to be deported via Erzindjan to Mesopotamia. A mass transportation of this kind to a

destination many hundreds of kilometres away, without sufficient means of transport, through areas that offer neither accommodation nor food and which are infested with epidemic diseases, in particular by typhus fever, is bound to claim numerous victims, in particular amongst the women and children. Besides this, the route for the deportees led through the Kurd district of Dersim, and the Vali of Trapezunt made an open declaration to the Consul, who had pointed out such observations



out to him at my instructions, that he could only guarantee the safety of the transport as far as Erzindjan. From that point onwards, they are letting the deportees practically run the gauntlet through bands of Kurds and other highwaymen. For example, the Armenians who had been expelled from the plain of Erzerum were ambushed on the way to Charput whereby the men and children were butchered and the women carried away. The Imperial Consul in Erzerum claims the number of Armenians killed there to be 3000. In Trapezunt, masses of Armenians have converted to Islam in order to avoid the threatened deportation and to save themselves and their belongings. Apart from the material damage incurred by the Turkish state as a result of the deportation and expropriation of a hard-working and intelligent element of the population, for which the Kurds and Turks who are preliminarily taking their places do not constitute worthy substitutes, our trade interests and the interests of the German welfare institutions existing in those parts of the country are also being severely damaged. Furthermore, the Porte does not realise the effect that these and other enforced measures, such as the mass executions here and in the country's interior, are having on public opinion abroad and the further consequences for the treatment of the Armenian question in future peace talks. In order to effectively counteract any possible later invectives on the part of our enemies, as if we were jointly to blame for the rigorous Turkish actions, I have considered it my duty to point out to the Porte that we can only approve of the deportation of the Armenian people if it is carried out as a result of military considerations and serves as a security against revolts, but that in carrying out these measures one should provide protection for the deportees against plundering and butchery. In order to lend the necessary weight to these objections, I have summarised them in the form of a memorandum which I have personally handed to the Grand Vizier on 4th inst.; I later sent copies of this memorandum to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior.

Wangenheim DE/PA-AA/R14086
www.armenocide.net

**CONSUL OF FRANCE IN SALONIKA SEON TO DELCASSE, FOREIGN
AFFAIRS MINISTER
T. N. 110**

SALONIKA AUGUST 20, 1915, 18:30
(RECEIVED: 20:55)

Communication

I have received information from various reliable sources that the armenians are pursued not only in Constantinople, but in the vilayets, too.

The number of Armenians killed in the empire reaches 200000, and if this state of affairs lasts long, the nation will be entirely exterminated...

(A.M.A.E., *Guerre 1914-1918, Turquie, tome 887, f. 179*). A. Beylerian, *les grandes puissances, l'empire ottoman et les armeniens dans les archives francaises (1914-1918)*, p. 58.

**REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT ON THE MASSACRES OF THE ARME-
NIANS**

? DECEMBER, 1915

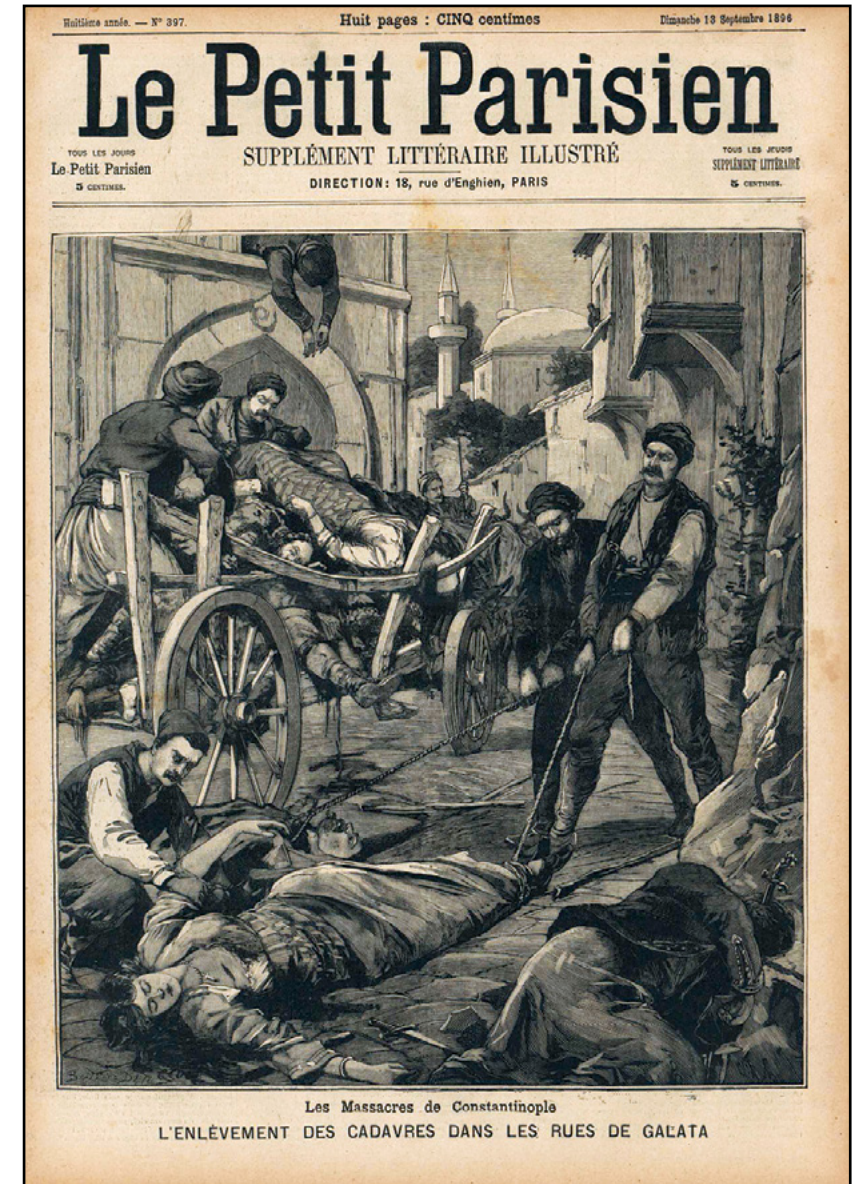
...The number of Armenians, who disappeared, were killed, forced to become islams, abducted during deportation of the Armenian population in Armenia and vilayets of Armenia, exceeds 500000.

Arrests are constant in Constantinople, the arrested are sent away from the capital without any guarantee of their security. They are merchants born in vilayets and settled in Constantinople for a long time. Some Armenians succeeded in getting permission for abandoning the Ottoman territory by paying large sums, which sometimes exceeded 100000 francs, to the Turkish and even the German officials.

The entire Armenian population in Turkey was finally condemned to death and this verdict was implemented in the empire according to the German method. Neither Germany, nor Austria did any attempts to stop their ally, their ambassadors in Constantinople come to nothing more than making memoranda, they didn't make a step, and they will show the pieces of paper for justifying themselves on the day of giving account. The consuls of these two powers to the u.s.a. state that "it is an internal affair of Turkey". Moreover, German officers are dubious owners of the supreme class in the whole ottoman territory, they admitted measures implemented by the civic and military authorities. They couldn't justify evil deeds of the gendarmes and the army...

(A.M.A.E., *Guerre 1914-1918, Turquie, tome 887, ff. 250-254 v*). A. Beylerian, *les grandes puissances, l'empire ottoman et les armeniens dans les archives francaises (1914-1918)*, p. 151.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ILLUSTRATED ON THE PAGES OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS DURING 1896-1923ss



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Vingtième Année

DIMANCHE 2 MAI 1909

Numéro 563



MASSACRES DE CHRÉTIENS EN TURQUIE

LA DOMENICA DEL CORRIERE

Si pubblica a Milano ogni Domenica

LETTERE DEL ABBONATE: VIA MONTENAPOLEONE, 12 MILANO

ANNO XI. - Num. 90. 16-23 Maggio 1909. Centesimi 10 il numero.



I massacri nella Turchia asiatica: migliaia di armeni bruciati vivi dai turchi in una chiesa cattolica di Adana.

(Disegno di A. Beltrame)

SEPTEMBER 27, 1915

THE DEPOPULATION OF ARMENIA

THE shocking news of the massacre, torture and deportation of Armenian Christians makes a special appeal to American sympathy and helpfulness. From numerous and reliable sources in Turkey it seems certain that this is not a matter of local disorders or petty oppression, but a systematic effort to extirpate the Armenian race. Thousands of families have been driven from their homes to starve upon the roads. Towns and villages have been divested of their inhabitants. Many are being put to torture to force them to renounce their Christian faith. Women are interned in the harems and children are sold as slaves.

These outrages cannot be excused on the ground of military necessity, for the regions devastated are in some cases beyond the reach of any possible Russian invasion and the Armenians have not manifested any disposition to revolt except where, as at Van, they have been driven to it in self-defense. It looks as tho the Turks, despairing of maintaining their supremacy, were resolved to crush out the Armenians so as to forestall forever the establishment of an autonomous Armenia in case the Allies conquer Turkey.

But this is something in which we have a deep interest, for American money and American lives have been spent for the uplift of the oppressed peoples of the Ottoman Empire. The American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions has been at work in Turkey for almost a century and has expended some twenty million dollars. There are now maintained in Turkey ten American colleges: Robert College, Constantinople; Constantinople College for Girls; Syrian Protestant College, Beirut; International College, Smyrna; Anatolia College, Marsovan; Euphrates College, Harpoot; Aintab College; Central Turkey College, Marash; St. Paul's College, Tarsus; and Teachers College, Sivas. In these institutions and other schools there are over 40,000 pupils, a large proportion of whom are Armenians. It is not too much to say that the Armenian people owes its racial consciousness and ideals chiefly to American influence, altho our missionaries and teachers have always been careful to discourage any insurrectionary movements. Thousands of Armenians have sought refuge in America from Turkish tyranny and have become good citizens of our country. The present distress and imminent danger of the Armenians in Asia will cause widespread concern in the United States.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1915

(546,7)

TALES OF ARMENIAN HORRORS CONFIRMED

Committee on Atrocities Says 500,000 Victims Have Suffered Already.

NATIONAL PROTEST URGED

Suggestion That Germany and Austria Be Held Responsible—Outrages on Americans.

Professor Samuel Train Dutton, Secretary of the Committee on Armenian Atrocities, made public yesterday a preliminary statement of the committee outlining the result of its investigation of the terrible conditions existing among the Armenians. The committee says that the reports concerning the massacre, torture, and other maltreatment of Armenians of all ages abundantly are confirmed by its investigation.

Other members of the committee besides Professor Dutton are Cleveland H. Dodge, Arthur Curtis James, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, John H. Mott, Frank Mason North, James L. Marton, William Slogans, D. Stuart Dodge, and others.

The statement issued by the committee yesterday is as follows: "A sub-committee has thoroughly investigated the evidence and has just made public, have been examined with utmost care. This testimony covers hundreds of pages, and the character and position of the authors and the possibilities of utterance carry absolute conviction.

"The witnesses examined include Armenians, Greeks, Bulgarians, Italians, Germans, Turks, Englishmen, Americans, business men, travelers and officials of great variety and rank. Not a single statement can be questioned as to the facts reported. These all agree in the declarations that from Smyrna on the west to Persia, and from the Black Sea to Arabia, a propaganda of extermination of non-Muslims is now being carried on by the Turkish Government far surpassing in ferocity and exceeding in destruction anything done by Abdul Hamid during his long career of massacre and extermination.

"The statements examined, many of which are in the possession of the committee, cover hundreds of towns and cities in which in many instances all of the Armenians have been killed outright, often after horrible torture, or sent to the desert to die of starvation, and that, too, with diabolical cruelty. The extensible deportation of men, women, and children toward Mesopotamia is usually but a form of marching these starving, helpless, and frequently naked refugees out into the mountains to be outraged and butchered, sometimes by their guards, and sometimes by the Kurds who gladly co-operate in the work of destruction.

"Included among these refugees and victims are pupils and graduates from the American schools and colleges, teachers and professional men who have taken degrees in American and European universities, men and women who have represented the brains and enterprise of the country for a generation or more.

"The plan of procedure, which is identical in all parts of the country, seems to aim at the complete elimination of all non-Muslim races from Asiatic Turkey, and already that aim is in fair way of accomplishment so far as the Armenians are concerned.

"In several places American property has been seized. Americans searched, imprisoned and expelled from the country, their letters and telegrams, even from United States Consular offices, intercepted and their lives put in jeopardy. This, however, is of trivial importance compared with the work of destruction going on among the Armenians.

"Evidence seems to prove that probably 500,000 Armenians have already been murdered or forced to the desert, where only death awaits them unless relief is secured at once. And all this has taken place since March, and is now at the height of its gruesome fury.

"The committee is confident that if the press of the country should with all the emphasis at its command, voice its protest and call upon the Turkish Government to put an end to this crime against humanity and return the exiles who may yet be living to their homes it could hardly fail to produce results. In view of the great influence which Germany and Austria exercise over their ally the American people cannot fail to hold them morally responsible if these atrocities are permitted to continue.

ИСТРЕБЛЕНИЕ АРМЯНЪ ВЪ ТУРЦИИ.

Фот. А. Д. С.-и.

Константинопольский армянский патриарх, глава общины "Минц", доказавший клятвенно в департамент, что с 1908 года в Турции погибло 850,000 армян. Кому-то удалось выгнать отсюда холостых шифров! Поверивших людей убивают, истребляют, как мух, потому только, что люди эти

стремятся к свободе... План истребления армян в Турции, разработанной конституционалистскими кругами, при содействии германских культуртрейеров, офицеров, систематически приводится к исполнению и, весьма возможно, в ближайшем будущем наступит день, когда в Турецкой Армении не останется ни одного армянина. Число армян в Турции, по данным последней переписи, не превышает 1,200,000 душ. Если допустить, что число армян, бывавших в России, достигнет 200,000 человек, то, следовательно, в стране осталось не более 300,000 армян.

ни не оставят в живых армян. Число армян в Турции, по данным последней переписи, не превышает 1,200,000 душ. Если допустить, что число армян, бывавших в России, достигнет 200,000 человек, то, следовательно, в стране осталось не более 300,000 армян.



Труп замученной армянки. Губы и уши отбиты, все тело изранено.



Замученная армянка и ее ребенок.



Скорбный путь. Караван бегущих армян по-прежнему на них, ах, кто.

"Iskryi" (russian journal), 1915

WHILE GERMANY LOOKS ON! 800,000 ARMENIANS MASSACRED BY THE KAISER'S ALLY, TURKEY, SINCE MAY LAST.



SAVED FROM A PEOPLE OF WHOM 800,000 HAVE BEEN MASSACRED SINCE LAST MAY: ARMENIAN REFUGEES RESCUED BY THE FRENCH BEING EMBARKED.



WHERE THE WHOLE OF THE ARMENIAN CHRISTIAN POPULATION—FROM 8000 TO 10,000 SOULS—WAS DROWNED IN THE BLACK SEA IN ONE AFTERNOON: TREBIZOND.



SHOWING THE WATERS IN WHICH FROM 8000 TO 10,000 ARMENIAN CHRISTIANS WERE DROWNED BY BOAT-LOADS IN A SINGLE AFTERNOON: THE PORT OF TREBIZOND.



SAVED BY THE FRENCH: ARMENIAN REFUGEES RESTING ON BOARD OUR ALLIES' SHIP AND DRYING THEIR CLOTHES ON LINES.



ARMED WITH A BROWNING PISTOL: A REFUGEE ARMENIAN GIRL.



BENT ON EXCEEDING THE HORRORS PERPETRATED BY ABDUL HAMID: ENVER PASHA.

LORD BRYCE ON THE MASSACRES.

"SUCH information as has reached me from many quarters goes to show that that which the noble Earl (Lord Cromer) thought incredible, that 800,000 people had been destroyed since May last, is unfortunately quite a possible number. The massacres are the result of a policy which, so far as can be ascertained, has been absolutely premeditated for a considerable time by the gang who are now in possession of the Government of the Turkish Empire. They hesitated to put it into practice until the moment came, and the favourable moment seems to have come about the month of May. That was the time when orders were issued and these orders came down in every case from Constantinople. . . . In some cases the Governors, being pious and humane men, refused to carry out the orders and endeavoured to give what protection they could to the unfortunate Armenians. In two cases I have heard of the Governors having been dismissed for refusing to carry out the orders. The massacres, nevertheless, were carried out. The procedure was exceedingly systematic. The whole population of a town was cleared out. Men were thrown into prison, the rest of the men and the women and children were marched out of the town. When they had got some little distance they were separated, the men being taken to places where the soldiers dispatched them by shooting or bayoneting. The women and children and older men were sent off under convoy of the lower kind of soldiers to their distant destination, which was sometimes one of the unhealthy districts, but more frequently the large district which extends to the east of Aleppo, in the direction of the Euphrates. They were driven by the soldiers day after day; many fell by the way and many died of hunger. No provision was given them by the Turkish Government, and they were robbed of everything they possessed, and in many cases the women were stripped naked and marched along in that condition. Many women went mad and threw away



OUR ALLIES, THE FRENCH, AS SAVIOURS OF ARMENIANS: BABIES AND OTHER REFUGEES ABOARD A FRENCH SHIP.

their children, being unable to carry them farther. The caravans' route was marked by a line of corpses, and comparatively few seem to have arrived at their destination. The facts as to the slaughter in Trebizond were vouched for by the Italian Consul, who was there at the time. Orders came from Constantinople that all the Armenian Christians in

Trebizond were to be killed. Many of the Mussulmans tried to save their Christian neighbours and offered them shelter in their houses; but the Turkish authorities were implacable. Obeying the orders which they had received, they hunted out all the Christians, gathered them together, and drove them down the streets to the sea. They were all

LORD BRYCE ON THE MASSACRES.

(Continued)
put on board sailing boats, carried out some distance into the Black Sea, and there thrown overboard and drowned. The whole Armenian population of from 8000 to 10,000 was destroyed in that way in one afternoon. After that any other story becomes credible, and I regret that all the stories contain similar elements of horror, intensified in some cases by stories of shocking torture. Nearly the whole nation has been wiped out, and I do not think there is any case in history, certainly not since the days of Tamerlane, in which any crime so hideous and upon so large a scale has been recorded. I would like to add that what little I have heard confirms what was said by the noble Earl, that there is no reason to believe that in this case Mussulman fanaticism came into play at all. So far as I can make out, these events have been viewed by Mussulmans with horror rather than with sympathy; at any rate, they have never shown approval of the conduct of the Turkish Government. It is of some importance, in view of the excuses which the German Government have already begun to give for the conduct of their friends and Allies, to remember that there is no ground for the suggestion that there had been any rising on the part of the Armenians. There is no excuse whatever upon any political ground for the Turkish Government's action. It was simply an attempt to carry out the maxim once enunciated by the Sultan Abdul Hamid that "the way to get rid of the Armenian question was to get rid of the Armenians." It has been carried out far more thoroughly and with far more bloodthirsty completeness by the present heads of the Turkish Government than ever it was in the time of Abdul Hamid. There are still, I believe, a few cases of Armenians living in the mountains and defending themselves as best they can, and about 5000 Armenians have been taken to Egypt by a French cruiser. The whole race, therefore, is not yet extinct. I am sure we all wish that every effort should be made to send help to the unfortunate refugees in the mountains."



NURSING A REFUGEE BABY: A FRENCH NAVAL ELECTRICIAN TAKING A YOUNGSTER TO ITS MOTHER.



BENT ON EXCEEDING THE HORRORS PERPETRATED BY ABDUL HAMID: TALAAT BEY.

The civilised world cannot but be aghast at the new records of Armenian massacres by the Turks, whose horrible butchery of an unfortunate people must be with the connivance of Germany, or, surely, that country would have stopped it. Indeed, is it not on record, in the words of Lord Cromer?—"Just before I came to the House, I read in an evening paper an extract from a letter addressed by the notorious Count Reventlow to a German newspaper, and it was so very remarkably characteristic of German views on this subject that I will read a small portion of it: 'If the Turkish authorities take vigorous measures against unreliable, bloodthirsty, riotous Armenian elements, it is not only right, but even their duty, to do so. Turkey can always be assured that the German Empire will always be of opinion that this matter only concerns Turkey.' I do not suppose that there will be any trustworthy evidence to prove the complicity of the German Government, or their agents, in these massacres; but when we consider the commanding influence of the German Government at Constantinople, anyone who knows the East will be of opinion that the German Government cannot be acquitted of a vast moral responsibility, unless it can be shown that, knowing of these practices,

they took most vigorous and most energetic steps to stop these proceedings.' No wonder it has been written: 'Abdul Hamid is said to have exterminated a million of his Armenian subjects. It seems to be the ambition of Talaat Bey and Enver Pasha to outdo him.' At the beginning of his speech Lord Cromer said: 'The country has been shocked by accounts of renewed Armenian massacres which appear to have begun again on an even greater scale than those which horrified the whole civilised world a few years ago. I read in one paper that the number of victims amounted to 800,000. The figures appear incredible, and I hope are very much exaggerated. . . . On the other hand, we know from the report of Lord Bryce what was the conduct of the German Army in Belgium, and we also know from the scathing indictment of the French Government what has been the conduct of the Germans in France.' With regard to the photograph which shows refugees on board a French ship and drying their clothes on lines set up by the sailors, it may be noted that, in the background, is seen the dark entrance of a seaplane-shed, used to shelter the refugees.



DANS L'HORREUR DES MASSACRES D'ARMÉNIE

Au commencement de l'année 1915, il y avait en Turquie 2 millions et demi d'Arméniens. Il en survit aujourd'hui 500 000.

Les plus épouvantables massacres dont l'histoire ait gardé le souvenir n'approchent pas de ceux qui viennent, une fois de plus, d'ensanguiner l'Arménie, où des populations entières ont été décimées par de féroces exécutions en masse. L'infamie en restera éternellement attachée à l'histoire des deux peuples associés dans le crime : les Turcs et les Allemands.

Telle est la dépêche que le *Journal* recevait le 19 juin 1916 de son envoyé spécial, M. Henry Barby, le premier journaliste français qui soit entré à Erzeroum à la suite des armées russes victorieuses.

Qu'est-ce donc que cette Arménie que la barbarie turque a transformée ainsi en un champ de carnage? Qu'est-ce que ce peuple arménien qui a connu en moins d'un an un calvaire plus douloureux que l'héroïque Belgique et que la tragique Serbie? Quelle atroce volonté a voulu l'extermination d'une race entière? A quel féroce dessein politique répond cette extermination?

L'Arménie est une contrée montagneuse

principale, et qui descend en s'amincissant jusqu'au golfe de Syrie. La Mésopotamie et les déserts de l'Arabie la bornent au sud. Un fleuve historique, l'Euphrate dont on a dit qu'il avait, en ces dernières années, roulé autant de sang que d'eau, y prend naissance non loin d'Erzeroum, la ville principale. L'une des cimes les plus élevées du monde, le mont Ararat, où la légende veut que se soit arrêtée l'arche de Noé, la sépare au nord-est de la Russie, la Perse et la Turquie.

Il y a trois Arménies, comme il y a trois Polognes, car trois empires se sont partagé ce pays. Là vit — on pourrait dire désormais

d'une superficie de 24 000 kilomètres carrés qui s'étend, en Asie occidentale, de la mer Caspienne à la mer Noire au nord, avec les contreforts du Caucase comme arête prin-

GRÂCE À LA PROTECTION DE NOTABLES GRECS, QUELQUES RARES SURVIVANTS ONT ÉCHAPPÉ AUX MASSACRES DE TRÉBIZONDE.

30 SEPTEMBRE 1922

L'ILLUSTRATION

N° 4152 — 277



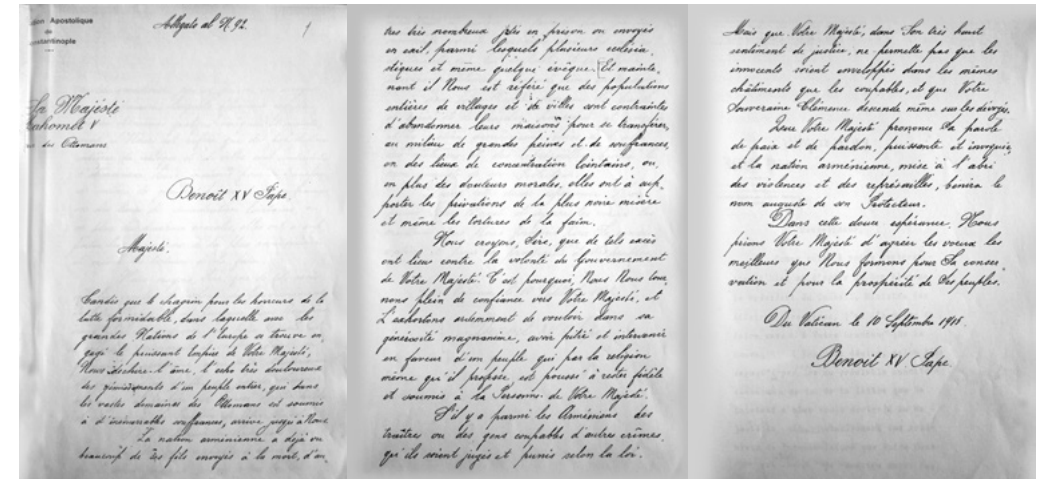
L'INCENDIE DE SMYRNE ET LA FUITE DE LA POPULATION

En haut de la page : l'incendie vu de la rade ; le foyer principal, à droite, en arrière des quais, est celui du quartier arménien ; le Consulat de France se trouve en dehors de la photographie. À gauche : des chaloupes chargées de réfugiés italiens et grecs vont demander asile au vapeur *Sardaigne*. — En bas : embarcations contenant des réfugiés italiens et grecs, fuyant la ville incendiée et qui viennent accoster le *Scirvia* ; au loin, la *Sardaigne* et la silhouette de la ville, dans la fumée de l'incendie. — *Photo (épave) Noury*.

“AND WHETHER ONE MEMBER SUFFER, ALL THE MEMBERS SUFFER WITH IT” (1 Cor. 12.26)

The information about the Armenian Genocide unstoppably spread all over the world ...

Pope Benedict XV (1854-1922) also raised his just voice and sent a petition to Sultan Mehmed V of the Ottoman Empire.



It is known that Pope Benedict XV also sent an Austrian envoy to the Ottoman Sultan demanding to stop the Armenian Genocide; however, the Sultan did not react in any way

Pope Benedict XV provided special care for the survivors of the Genocide. In 1918, the Pope established an Armenian orphanage in Constantinople called "Benedict XV", and thanks to the efforts of Apostolic Nuncio Angelo Dolci, the Young Turks' project to deport the Armenians living in Constantinople was also prevented in 1918.

In 2001, on the occasion of the 1700th anniversary of proclaiming Christianity as the state religion in Armenia, Pope

John Paul II visited Armenia. His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, and His Holiness John Paul II, Pope of Rome, signed a joint statement. Thus, the Vatican recognized the Armenian Genocide, and Pope John Paul II read the following prayer in Tsitsernakaberd Genocide memorial.



COMMON DECLARATION
OF
HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II
AND HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II
AT
Holy Etchmiadzin, Republic of Armenia
27 September 2001

The celebration of the 1700th anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as the religion of Armenia has brought us together — John Paul II, Bishop of Rome and Pastor of the Catholic Church, and Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians — and we thank God for giving us this joyous opportunity to join again in common prayer, in praise of his all-holy Name. Blessed be the Holy Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — now and for ever.

As we commemorate this wondrous event, we remember with reverence, gratitude and love the great confessor of our Lord Jesus Christ, Saint Gregory the Illuminator, as well as his collaborators and successors. They enlightened not only the people of Armenia but also others in the neighbouring countries of the Caucasus. Thanks to their witness, dedication and example, the Armenian people in A. D. 301 were bathed in the divine light and earnestly turned to Christ as the Truth, the Life, and the Way to salvation.

They worshipped God as their Father, professed Christ as their Lord and invoked the Holy Spirit as their Sanctifier; they loved the apostolic universal Church as their Mother. Christ's supreme commandment, to love God above all and our neighbour as ourselves, became a way of life for the Armenians of old. Endowed with great faith, they chose to bear witness to the Truth and accept death when necessary, in order to share eternal life. Martyrdom for the love of Christ thus became a great legacy of many generations of Armenians. The most valuable treasure that one generation could bequeath to the next was fidelity to

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the Gospel, so that, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, the young would become as resolute as their ancestors in bearing witness to the Truth. The extermination of a million and a half Armenian Christians, in what is generally referred to as the first genocide of the twentieth century, and the subsequent annihilation of thousands under the former totalitarian regime are tragedies that still live in the memory of the present-day generation. These innocents who were butchered in vain are not canonized, but many among them were certainly confessors and martyrs for the name of Christ. We pray for the repose of their souls, and urge the faithful never to lose sight of the meaning of their sacrifice. We thank God for the fact that Christianity in Armenia has survived the adversities of the past seventeen centuries, and that the Armenian Church is now free to carry out her mission of proclaiming the Good News in the modern Republic of Armenia and in many areas near and far where Armenian communities are present.

Armenia is again a free country, as in the early days of King Tiridates and Saint Gregory the Illuminator. Over the past ten years, the right of citizens in the burgeoning Republic to worship and practise their religion in freedom has been recognized. In Armenia and in the diaspora, new Armenian institutions have been established, churches have been built, associations and schools have been founded. In all of this we acknowledge the loving hand of God. For he has made his miracles visible in the continuing history of a small nation, which has preserved its particular identity thanks to its Christian faith. Because of their faith and their Church, the Armenian people have developed a unique Christian culture, which is indeed a most valuable contribution to the treasury of Christianity as a whole.

The example of Christian Armenia testifies that faith in Christ brings hope to every human situation, no matter how difficult. We pray that the saving light of Christian faith may shine on both the weak and the strong, on both the developed and developing nations of this world. Particularly today, the complexities and challenges of the international situation require a choice between good and evil, darkness and light, humanity and inhumanity, truth and

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falsehood. Present issues of law, politics, science, and family life touch upon the very meaning of humanity and its vocation. They call today's Christians — no less than the martyrs of other times — to bear witness to the Truth even at the risk of paying a high price.

This witness will be all the more convincing if all of Christ's disciples could profess together the one faith and heal the wounds of division among themselves. May the Holy Spirit guide Christians, and indeed all people of good will, on the path of reconciliation and brotherhood. Here at Holy Etchmiadzin we renew our solemn commitment to pray and work to hasten the day of communion among all the members of Christ's faithful flock, with true regard for our respective sacred traditions.

With God's help, we shall do nothing against love, but "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we shall lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and shall run with perseverance the race that is set before us" (cf. Heb 12:1).

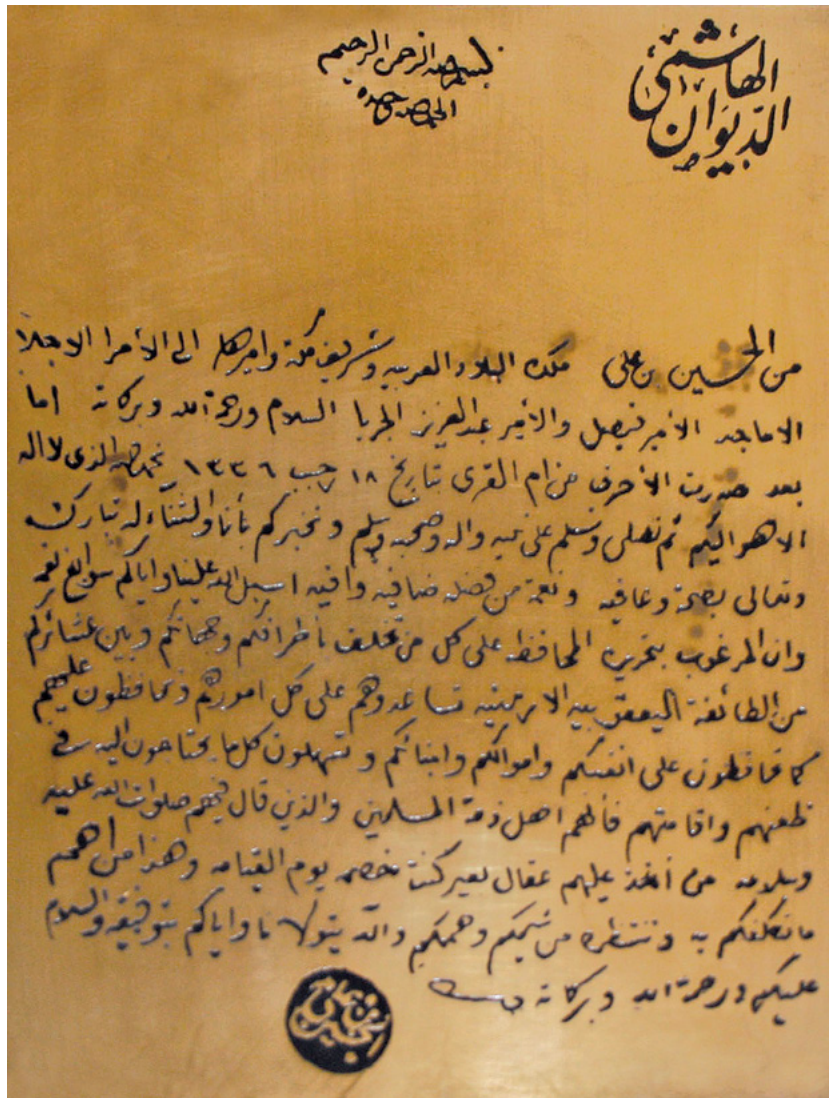
We urge our faithful to pray without ceasing that the Holy Spirit will fill us all, as he did the holy martyrs of every time and place, with the wisdom and courage to follow Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Holy Etchmiadzin, 27 September 2001

Joannes Paulus II
HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II

Karekin II
HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II

The Armenian nation cannot forget the generosity and kindness of the Arabs towards thousands of wretched Armenians, who were the survivors of the Genocide organized by the Ottoman government. The survivors, mostly orphans found safe and peaceful shelter, brotherly care, and afterwards also freedom to live and organize their community and church life with educational-cultural and religious institutions in the bosom of the Arab nation (Syria, Lebanon, Iraq).



**EDICT OF AL HUSSEIN IBN ALI, LEADER OF MECCA,
IN DEFENSE OF THE ARMENIANS,**

April 18, 1917, Hashemite archives

In the name of merciful and compassionate God

We are grateful only to God and to no one else except God

God's greetings, mercy and blessings by Al Hussein Ibn Ali, leader of Mecca and Arabic countries, as well as by respectful and reverent princes Faisal and Abd Al Aziz Al Zarba. This letter was written from Umm Al-Qura, on April 18, 1917 extending thankfulness to God and to no one else except God. We ask for God's mercy for your families and adherents. We inform that thanks to Him we are safe and sound, strong and full of faith.

We pray God to have mercy upon us and you. Our request from you is the following: protect and care about every member of the Jacobean Armenian community living within the boundaries of your areas and among your tribes; help them in everything and protect them as you would do it for yourselves, your children and properties; give them whatever they will need, regardless the fact whether they would stay in the same place or they would move from place to place, because they are protected by the Muslims, and Prophet Mohammed (May God give him His peace and blessings) said about them: "Whoever takes even a cord from them, I will be his rival on the judgment day". This is the most important thing that I request and I hope that you will do that taking into consideration your generosity and steadiness and you will not leave it unanswered.

May God protect us and you giving success to you.

May you be in peace with God's will and blessings.

Al Hussein Ibn Ali

In the issue of recognizing the Armenian Genocide, Christian Churches always support the Armenian nation and the Armenian Apostolic Holy Church and pray for the rest of souls of thousands of victims, as well as for sparing humanity similar tragedies in future.

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le 18 Janvier 85

A Sa Béatitude Ignatius Zakka I Iwas
Patriarche d'Antioche et de Tout l'Orient
Eglise Syrienne Orthodoxe
Damas

Béatitude,

L'Eglise apostolique arménienne, ses fils spirituels et tous nos fidèles vivant en Arménie et dans la Diaspora vont commémorer cette année, le 24 avril, le 70e anniversaire du génocide de 1915 perpétré contre les Arméniens sur l'ordre du gouvernement ottoman, génocide au cours duquel ont été massacrés environ deux millions d'Arméniens chrétiens en Arménie Occidentale (Anatolie), y compris des dizaines d'évêques et des centaines de moines et prêtres. Plus de mille églises et monastères historiques arméniens; d'innombrables objets sacrés, d'anciens manuscrits, des icônes, tous ayant une portée historique et une valeur artistique, ont été anéantis.

Le 24 avril, dans toutes les églises arméniennes de l'Arménie et de la Diaspora seront célébrées des messes et des cérémonies de requiem, afin de prier pour la paix des âmes des martyrs innocents, victimes du génocide de 1915, en implorant miséricorde et justice du Dieu clément. Ce jour-là nous prierons aussi pour la paix dans le monde entier, afin que de telles tragédies ne se répètent jamais plus dans la vie d'aucune nation.

Par notre présente lettre, avec notre amour fraternel en Christ, Nous nous adressons à Votre Béatitude pour que dans vos prières vous évoquez la mémoire des martyrs arméniens de 1915 et que, tout en l'évoquant, vous fassiez entendre, en votre qualité de chef spirituel, votre voix autoritaire aux hommes de nos jours qui ont toujours besoin de vos messages consolateurs et encourageants.

Nous voudrions aussi vous assurer que dans l'évocation de la grande tragédie de notre nation, nous ne sommes point pénétrés de l'esprit d'hostilité ou de l'idée des actes à outrance. Notre seul désir est de prier pour la paix des âmes de nos deux millions de victimes et d'implorer la justice. Passer sous silence les tragédies du passé signifierait affaiblir et obscurcir la mémoire de l'humanité, cela signifierait falsifier l'histoire, étouffer la vérité et la voix de la justice, cela signifierait également frayer un chemin pour de nouveaux désastres et de crimes homicides à l'avenir.

Le jugement impartial des drames du passé, la mise à jour de la vérité des tristes faits historiques, le retentissement

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libre de la voix de la justice, voilà les fondements solides de l'édification d'un monde nouveau où les fils de toutes les nations sans distinctions parviendront à la prise de conscience qu'ils sont tous les fils du même Dieu, qu'ils sont les citoyens du même univers, sous la même voûte céleste et qu'ils ont tous le même destin. Le destin de l'homme, le destin des nations, le destin du monde constituent, surtout de nos jours, une seule réalité indivisible, un seul impératif, un seul avenir. C'est avec cette conscience que les hommes de notre planète pourront prier en commun, en disant: "Notre Père qui es dans les cieux, que ton Nom soit sanctifié, que ton Règne arrive, que ta Volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel." C'est alors que "la paix et la bonne volonté parmi les hommes" s'établiront ici-bas. Et c'est alors seulement que les hommes, comme artisans de paix, seront dignes d'être appelés "fils de Dieu".

D'un amour fraternel et respectueux Nous souhaitons à Votre Béatitude une bonne santé de longue durée et aussi le rayonnement de votre mission spirituelle dans votre sainte Eglise et dans le monde entier.

"Que le Dieu de l'espérance vous comble de joie et de paix dans la foi, afin que l'espérance surabonde en vous par la vertu de l'Esprit Saint" (Rom. XV, 13).

CATHOLICOS DE TOUS LES ARMENIENS



A Sa Sainteté VASKEN Ier
Catholicos-Patriarche suprême de tous les Arméniens

Je vous remercie de votre lettre du 18 janvier par laquelle vous m'avez informé que vous vous apprêtez à commémorer, le 24 avril prochain, avec tout votre clergé et tous vos fidèles, la mort tragique, il y a soixante-dix ans, de tant de fils et de filles de la nation arménienne.

Comment ne pas rappeler, à cette occasion, l'oeuvre de secours accomplie au moment de ce drame douloureux par mon prédécesseur Benoît XV, et aussi le geste de bonté de Pie XI qui accueillit les orphelins arméniens dans la Villa pontificale de Castelgandolfo?

Je puis assurer Votre Sainteté que je m'unirai à la prière qui montera vers le Seigneur pour la paix des âmes des victimes et pour que de semblables tragédies ne se renouvellent pas. Je ne manquerai pas d'inviter les fidèles de l'Eglise catholique à se joindre à mon intercession et à manifester ainsi la foi, la charité et l'espérance qui nous sont communes.

L'histoire des peuples, avec ses revers souvent si douloureux, doit garder la mémoire en éveil et nous inviter ainsi à méditer et à prier. Comme chrétiens, nous avons reçu le don de la foi, nous croyons que la seigneurie du Christ s'étend sur toute l'histoire de l'humanité et ne cesse de s'accomplir par un mystère de mort et de résurrection qui est le mystère du Christ lui-même. Emu par le témoignage éloquent que votre Eglise a rendu et rend aujourd'hui à l'Evangile, et constatant la vigueur actuelle et le renouveau spirituel de vos communautés, je remercie Dieu et bénis la mémoire de ceux qui, ayant porté la Croix du Seigneur, permettent aux fidèles de l'Eglise arménienne aujourd'hui d'être des témoins de sa résurrection.

Le Christ nous exhorte à être des artisans de paix, et les souvenirs douloureux du passé nous incitent à redoubler d'énergie pour que l'humanité

bénéficie de cette paix, fruit de la vérité et de la justice.

Formant les vœux les meilleurs pour votre personne et confiant votre Eglise et le peuple arménien tout entier à la grâce divine, je vous redis, très cher Frère, mes sentiments de profonde charité.

Du Vatican, le 16 mars 1985



Joannes Paulus PP. II

In 1983, the World Council of Churches made the following statement in the General Assembly of Vancouver:

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

August 10, 1983

"The silences of the world community and the deliberate efforts to deny even historical facts have been consistent sources of anguish..."

Official Report VI Assembly World Council of Churches
Vancouver, Canada 24 July - 10 August 1983

5.11 Minutes on Public Issues of Continuing Concern to the WCC

Minutes on the Armenian genocide

1. During this assembly's discussion of violations of human rights our attention has been drawn to the historical reality and present threat of genocide to some peoples. Far too often these occurrences are passed over in silence. In certain current instances this is being used by groups to justify wholly unacceptable acts of violence.

2. In this context we have been reminded once again of the tragic massacre of one-and-a-half million Armenians in Turkey and the deportation of another half million from this historic homeland at the beginning of this century. The silence of the world community and the deliberate efforts to deny even historical facts have been consistent sources of anguish and growing despair to the Armenian people, the Armenian churches and many others.

3. The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches has raised this concern in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights with reference to the latter's study of the Question of Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

4. The Assembly requests the General Secretary to provide information to the churches on this, and to continue to pursue the matter in appropriate contexts. Public recognition of those events is essential in order that they do not continue to engender violent acts of retribution, and that through remembering the history of the Armenian people other peoples might be spared a similar fate.

(David Gill, ed., *Gathered for Life: Official Report VI Assembly World Council of Churches, Vancouver, Canada, 24 July - 10 August 1983*. Geneva: World Council of Churches and Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1983, pp. 165-6)

ПАТРИАРХ МОСКОВСКИЙ И ВСЕЯ РУСИ

ПИМЕН

ЕГО СЯТЕЙШЕСТВУ,
СЯТЕЙШЕМУ ВЕРХОВНОМУ ПАТРИАРХУ
И КАТОЛИКОСУ ВСЕХ АРМЯН
ВАСКЕНУ ПЕРВОМУ

Ваше Сятейшество, возлюбленный во Христе Брат!

Послание Ваше с сообщением о том, что 24 апреля сего года Армянская Апостольская Церковь и весь ее верующий народ, живущий в Советской Армении и в рассеянии сущий, будет молитвенно помянуть тех, кто 70 лет назад стал жертвой геноцида в Западной Армении, воскресило в нашей душе скорбные воспоминания об этом трагическом событии и подвигло на сердечную молитву о великом множестве невинно загубленных жизней. Это было одним из тяжелейших испытаний, выпавших на долю многострадального армянского народа.

В памятный для всех армян день мы присоединим наши молитвы к молитвам Вашей Церкви о всех армянских мучениках, погибших в те скорбные дни. Да упокоит Всемилостивый Господь души всех невинно пострадавших семьдесят лет назад! Вечная им память!

Пусть памятование о жертвах геноцида 1915 года вселит в нас стойкость в борьбе со злом. Разделяем, Ваше Сятейшество, Ваше предложение молиться в этот день и о мире на всей земле, чтобы нигде и никогда не повторялись подобные трагедии, и чтобы человечество в наш тревожный век избрало путь благоразумия.

Вскоре мы будем иметь еще один повод для общей молитвы - о жертвах, понесенных нашим народом в годы Великой Отечественной войны 1941-1945 годов. Радость победы, сорокалетие которой отмечает наша страна и все прогрессивное человечество, соседствует с чувством скорби о понесенных утратах, и память об этом никогда не сотрется в сердцах человеческих. Мы в долгу перед теми, кто своей жизнью заплатил за нашу жизнь. Вечная и благодарная им память!

Желаем Вашему возлюбленному Сятейшеству пребывать в добром здравии и с всеильной помощью Божией благоуспешно совершать Ваше Первосвященническое служение на радость всем верным чадам Святой Армянской Церкви.

С чувством глубокого к Вам уважения и с неизменной братской любовью во Христе

№ 1001 + *Пимен* ПАТРИАРХ МОСКОВСКИЙ И ВСЕЯ РУСИ
"10" апреля 1985 года
г. Москва

The message of Pimen I, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia to His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, 10 April, 1985.



ΙΕΡΑ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ
ΣΥΝΟΔΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΔΙΟΡΘΟΔΟΣΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΧΕΣΗΣ
THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE
SYNODICAL COMMITTEE ON INTER-ORTHODOX AND INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS
14, Ioannou Gennadiou St., Athens 140, Greece

His Holiness
Vasken I
Catholicos of All Armenians
Holy Etchmiadzin
Armenia
U.S.S.R.

Your Holiness,

We were deeply moved by Your Holiness' letter of 18 January announcing to us the 70th anniversary of the tragic genocide of 1915 perpetrated against the martyric Armenian people which cost the lives of millions of innocent victims.

Our Church and our Nation are especially sensitive to these persecutions suffered by the noble Armenian people, having themselves undergone such vicissitudes and shared a similar fate. Long-standing bonds of friendship and common tribulations have cemented our solidarity with our Armenian brothers and we assure Your Holiness that our thoughts and prayers are always with You and Your people and shall be with You in an even more special way on the day of this tragic commemoration.

May the Lord grant rest to all those countless souls who suffered an unjust death for their faith. May He grant progress and advancement to Your Church and Nation and the fulfillment of Your noble expectations.

With much love in Christ,



SERAPHIM
ARCHBISHOP OF ATHENS AND ALL GREECE

AND: INTERORTHODOX

AP. 402 :2107272262

22 MAR 2005 12:00 P1



ΙΕΡΑ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ
ΣΥΝΟΔΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΔΙΟΡΘΟΔΟΣΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΧΕΣΗΣ
THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE
SYNODICAL COMMITTEE ON INTER-ORTHODOX AND INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

21 March 2005

Protocol No. 1247/675
His Holiness, Karekin II,
Supreme Patriarch
Catholicos of Armenians,
Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia.

Your Holiness,

Thank You for Your gracious invitation to attend and participate in the events and activities commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide to take place in Armenia from April 20th through to the 25th. Unfortunately, these dates coincide with the beginning of Great and Holy Week thus making it difficult for us to attend in person. We have, however, by Synodical decision, appointed the Rt. Rev. Bishop Iounnis of Thermopylae, Assistant Bishop of the Archdiocese of Athens, General Director of the Inter-Orthodox Centre of the Church of Greece and member of the Synodical Committee on Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Christian Relations, [to whom all pertinent information, detailed programme, suggested dates of arrival, etc. should be sent to the following address: Pendeli Monastery, 15236 Pendeli, Attica] to represent us at the activities in commemoration of this most unhappy event, an event that has indelibly left its stigma on the history of mankind.

The Greek and Armenian peoples share a history of common persecutions and vicissitudes that have forged unbreakable bonds of friendship, love and understanding between them. Thus, with sincere sympathy and commiseration we participate in the commemoration of this horrific crime and join with You in praying that God will never again permit such atrocities to be perpetrated against anyone. May the commemoration of this event be an incentive for all mankind to strive for the prevalence of peace, tolerance and understanding throughout the world.

With sentiments of fraternal esteem and love in Christ,

+ Christodoulos

+CHRISTODOULOS
ARCHBISHOP OF ATHENS AND ALL GREECE



The Chief-Secretary of the Holy Synod

+Bishop Seraphim of Chriatianoupolis
Bishop Seraphim of Chriatianoupolis

Address: 14 Ioannou Gennadiou St.
115 21 Athens, Greece

Telephone: + (30) 210 7772.364
Fax: + (30) 210 7212.362



No. 580

His Holiness Vasken I,
Catholicos Patriarch of all Armenians,
Etjmiadjin.

Your Holiness,

With a deep sence of grief We went through the contents of the respectable letter of Your Holiness, dated the 18th January, 1985, No. 23, which We recently received.

We wholeheartedly share with sorrow for the tragic events, which led millions of human beings to the altar of sacrifice of religious hatred, national discrimination, and unexplainable barbarism in the Twentieth Century.

The Genocide of our Armenian brethren not only deeply moved our hearts, but also will remain forever a sign of how low is the value of human civilization, if it is not based on Jesus Christ, Who is the True Source of Life, of Love and Peace.

Our Greek Nation better than everybody else understands the cruelty of those who caused the genocide of the Armenian people, because its history is full of tragic events of genocide and persecution.

This is one of the reasons, among the obligations We have as a Christian Church to participate always in the memorial ceremonies of requiem and gatherings dedicated to the memory of the Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide, and officially, one of our Bishops with his suite is attending the annual commemoration, which takes place on the 24th of April of each year in the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

Expressing, therefore, our sympathy to that historic tragedy and compassioning with all Armenians and suffering people, We fervently pray Our Lord Jesus Christ from His Holy Tomb, to rest the souls of those Martyrs, in Peace and ask Him to illumine all Those, who are appointed to govern the world, to work permanently for the establishment of peace, love and justice.

With affectionate love in Christ We remain.
Jerusalem,
17th August, 1985

Patriarch Diodoros I
DIODOROS I

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SUPREME PATRIARCH
CATHOLICOS
OF ALL ARMENIANS
MOTHER SEE OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN

No 555

Holy Easter, 2011

HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
POPE OF ROME
HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
The Holy See, Vatican

Dear Brother in Christ,

From the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, the spiritual center of the Armenian people, We extend to Your Holiness our fraternal greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the Holy and Glorious Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Today, all of Christendom glorifies the Risen Lord with psalms and hymns; and greets one another with the life-giving tidings of the Resurrection. The Resurrected Christ destroyed the chains of death, turned the hope of salvation into a faith-filled way of life, and invited humanity to adorn his own path with God's love, grace and blessings.

On this luminous Feast of the Holy Resurrection we pray that the Lord bless our Sister Churches and foster brotherly ties so that our cooperation, based on love and respect, may continue to promote eternal spiritual values for creating a more peaceful world for all people to live in love and harmony.

By Divine Providence, this year the Feast of Holy Easter coincides with the Commemoration Day of the Armenian Genocide, committed in the Ottoman Empire, 1915-1923. We will pray for the repose of the souls of the one and a half million martyrs and will glorify Almighty God as our nation "trampled down death by death" with faith and hope of resurrection. Rooted in the Mother Church, the Armenian people rose again, established a new Homeland, and continued to live and to create in the Homeland and in Dispersion.

Dear Brother in Christ, it is a great comfort for our people that together with many friendly states and leading international organizations, Sister Churches have supported our people in recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide. The prayers offered for the souls of innocent victims of Genocide by various nations and churches strengthen our people.

Today we also remember in our prayers the people who suffer in different parts of the world, especially in Japan, in Middle East and in Africa, and ask God to grant them courage and ability to overcome difficulties and enjoy safety and peace.

May the Resurrected Lord keep unshaken the Catholic Church; and may He bless Your Holiness' apostolic ministry for the benefit and edification of the Catholic Church and the whole world.

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD
BLESSED IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

With fraternal love in Christ,

Karekin II
KAREKIN II
SUPREME PATRIARCH
CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS



Ref. No. P/51352/97
 Date 12-3-1997

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ABBA PAULOS
*Patriarch of Ethiopia, Archbishop of
 Axum and Echegue of the see of
 St. Tekle Haimanot*

His Holiness Karekin II
 Supreme Patriarch, Catholicos of All Armenians
 Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin
Yerevan, Armenia
 Fax 00374 -1517301

Your Holiness,

At this Blessed Lenten Season we would like to send our greetings to Your Holiness and all Armenian Christians, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is a great honor for us to be invited to participate in the commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of the Armenian genocide which was the first and the greatest crime committed against humanity in the 20th century.

As genocide is a system of destruction centrally planned by governments, which have all the means and resources for this evil objective, its consequences are severe and inhuman.

The genocide committed against the Armenians have left black mark in human history that should never be forgotten.

We Christians have the greatest role of being at the forefront to bring peace and hope to the world so that mankind could see a society free from genocide. It is possible only through our prayer and Christian Unity. This is the essence and significance of remembering such tragedy.



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Abba Paulos
*Patriarch of Ethiopia, Archbishop of
 Axum and Echegue of the see of
 St. Tekle Haimanot*

የመልእክት ጥገና ቁጥር ፩፻፲፱፻፲፱
 P. O. Box 1283
 TEL. 11 19 89, 55 05 77

የፋክስ ቁጥር
 FAX 55 22 11



Ref. No. _____
 Date _____ 19__

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 ተክለ ሃይማኖት
ABBA PAULOS
*Patriarch of Ethiopia, Archbishop of
 Axum and Echegue of the see of
 St. Tekle Haimanot*

To participate at the commemoration of such historic event would have been a glory for us. Specially, I personally, as a young monk had the chance to visit with others the garden in Etchmiadzin created in memory of the victims of the genocide and it has always been in my memory.

Regrettably, the coincidence of the occasion with the period of Lent and specially with the Passion Week, makes our participation impossible. According to our canon we can't leave or break this period of prayer and service nor send representatives since all our Bishops are engaged in the services.

However, we assure Your Holiness that we remember the victims of the genocide in our prayer so that our Lord will give you all the strength to accomplish your programmes with blessings.

Though we are not able to participate in that historic event, we can meet in the future if Your Holiness can arrange a visit where we pray together to strengthen the relationship between our sisterly churches.

May the Almighty bless Your Holiness, give you strength to carry out all your activities with fruitful results, and bring peace and progress to all Armenians as well as to this troubled world.

With brotherly love in Jesus Christ

 Abba Paulos
 Patriarch of Ethiopia, Archbishop of
 Axum and Echegue of the see of
 St. Tekle Haimanot

የመልእክት ጥገና ቁጥር ፩፻፲፱፻፲፱
 P. O. Box 1283
 TEL. 11 19 89, 55 05 77

የፋክስ ቁጥር
 FAX 55 22 11

Révérend Dr. Emilio Castro,
Secrétaire Général du Conseil Oecuménique des Eglises,
Genève, Suisse.

Cher Frère en Christ,

Comme il vous est connu, au cours de la première guerre mondiale, dans les années 1915-1916, le gouvernement ottoman de Turquie a organisé et exécuté, d'une manière méthodique, l'extermination de la population entière de l'Arménie Occidentale qui fit près de deux millions de victimes, y compris toute l'intelligentsia arménienne et plusieurs centaines d'évêques et de prêtres.

Tout un peuple a été massacré sans pitié sur sa propre terre natale. Ce fut un véritable génocide.

De nombreux auteurs anglais, américains, français et allemands, ainsi que maintes publications officielles d'Etat ont divulgué des témoignages véridiques sur ce crime à partir de 1916 jusqu'à nos jours.

Parmi les témoignages les plus importants concernant le génocide arménien, il suffit de rappeler seulement le "Blue Book" du gouvernement anglais paru en 1916 et le discours historique de Lord Bryce prononcé le 6 octobre 1915 au Parlement britannique, discours qui a été publié dans l'ouvrage bien connu de l'historien Arnold Toynbee sur le même génocide.

Dans cet ouvrage Lord Bryce témoigne: "Il n'y a pas d'exemple dans l'histoire d'un tel massacre dans le pays qui s'étend depuis les frontières de la Perse jusqu'à la mer de Marmara." Dans le même discours Lord Bryce conclut: "Il y a certains crimes que l'opinion publique du monde, outragée, ne saurait tolérer."

Rappelons également le célèbre ouvrage du pasteur allemand Dr. Johannes Lepsius: "L'Allemagne et l'Arménie" (1919) qui constitue un témoignage historique sur le génocide de 1915, destin tragique du peuple arménien.

Nous pensons que la justice exige que le génocide des Arméniens perpétré par les Turcs dans les années 1915-1916 soit universellement reconnu et inscrit dans les annales de l'histoire comme l'un des plus grands crimes de notre siècle, par lequel tout un peuple fut déraciné du pays de ses ancêtres et massacré.

Nous pensons que le peuple arménien a le droit sacré de s'attendre à ce que le monde civilisé affirme et proclame l'acte de ce génocide du haut de la tribune du Parlement Européen, devenant ainsi la voix de la conscience de l'humanité de nos jours.

Nous savons que le Parlement Européen qui va se réunir à la mi-juin de cette année dans la ville de Strasbourg aura à

- 2 -

son ordre du jour la question de la reconnaissance du génocide arménien de 1915. Or, Nous sommes très inquiets car il Nous est bien connu que certains membres du Parlement, passant sous silence la vérité historique et étouffant la voix de la conscience humaine, poussés par divers intérêts politiques, ne sont pas disposés à soutenir la juste cause de la nation arménienne.

Par notre présente lettre, au nom de l'Eglise apostolique arménienne et de ses fidèles vivant en Arménie et dans la Diaspora, Nous venons soumettre à votre attention et à celle du Conseil Oecuménique des Eglises le cas précité, pour qu'au nom des droits de l'homme et des nations vous fassiez entendre votre voix autoritaire devant le Parlement Européen au mois de juin prochain pour la reconnaissance internationale du génocide arménien de 1915, en précisant nettement qu'il serait juste de formuler l'entreprise d'extermination du peuple arménien comme un véritable génocide et non pas la considérer comme une "injustice", formule qui a été votée à Bruxelles lors de la session de la Commission Politique du Parlement Européen le 25 février 1987 (Article No. 1).

A cette occasion Nous voudrions également soumettre à votre attention que la résolution relative au génocide arménien laquelle a été votée lors de la session de ladite Commission Politique, contient certaines allusions sur la vie sociale intérieure de l'Arménie Soviétique, la République arménienne renaissante et florissante de nos jours (Article No. 5), allusions que Nous trouvons tout à fait déplacées et qui ne peuvent que nuire à la solution de la juste cause du peuple arménien.

Que le Dieu de bonté vous soit toujours aide et soutien et qu'Il vous fortifie par l'Esprit Saint sur la voie de votre mission sacrée.

Dans l'attente de recevoir bientôt vos bonnes nouvelles, veuillez agréer notre salut d'amour fraternel en Christ.

CATHOLICOS DE TOUS LES ARMÉNIENS



World Council of Churches

General Secretariat

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TELEX 415 730 OIK CH
CABLE OIKOUMENE GENEVA

His Holiness Karekin I
Catholicos of All Armenians
Holy See Etchmiadzin
Armenia

H.Eminence The Locum Tenens
Catholicosate of Cilicia
Antelias / Lebanon

Geneva, 19 April 1995

Your Holiness,
Your Eminence,

During this period of Holy Week when Christians pray in anticipation of the Cross of Jesus Christ and His resurrection, our thoughts are with the Armenian people whose history has been a constant movement from suffering to hope, from cross to resurrection.

This year the Armenian people in Armenia and all over the world commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The World Council of Churches in accordance with its clear stand for justice and human rights has on various occasions reminded the world community of "the tragic massacre of one-and-a-half million Armenians in Turkey and the deportations of another half million from their historic homeland at the beginning of this century". The WCC has also stated that the "public recognition of those events is essential in order that they do not continue to engender violent acts of retribution, and that through remembering the history of the Armenian people other peoples might be spared a similar fate". Recently, when expressing its concern for uprooted people, the WCC stated "the presence of uprooted people in their midst reminds churches of their vocation and of the powerful and energizing message of the coming Kingdom that is obscured and overshadowed by the realities of injustice and oppression, of marginalization and exclusion, of destruction and war - of sin and violence against human beings, other creatures and the earth." The presence of the Armenian Church and people in diaspora is a concrete example of an uprooted people who continues to survive.

With this letter we express to you and to your people our concern and solidarity affirming at the same time our commitment for justice. We believe that "proclaiming the Gospel of hope for all people and remembering the communion in Jesus Christ, in his death and resurrection, churches live their vocation as viable and inclusive communities, accompanying uprooted people, sharing in their hope and suffering and providing space for them."

May the memory of the Armenian martyrs become for the Armenian Church and the people a source of renewed hope, faith and vision.

Yours in Christ,


Konrad Raiser
General Secretary



LAMBETH PALACE, LONDON, SE1 7JU

22nd February 1985

Your Holiness,

I was grateful to receive your letter announcing the commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Armenian Massacres. All Christians and men of goodwill share the Armenian revulsion at the terrible acts committed in 1915. In some ways these were the precursor of the persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany.

I can certainly assure you that I shall be thinking of you, the Armenian Church, and people on the 24th April and I will do all I can to raise the consciousness of British Christians about the whole Armenian tradition in both its joys and its sufferings.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Archbishop of Canterbury

His Holiness Vazgen I,
Supreme Catholicos of All Armenians,



ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY

His Holiness Karekin II
Catholicos of All Armenians
Holy Etchmiadzin

28 February 2005

Your Holiness,

It was a great pleasure to receive your kind message of the 1st February. I retain very warm and pleasant memories of your visit to Lambeth and Canterbury last year, and I rejoice in the fellowship between us and between our churches in the service of Christ. This year's 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide is indeed an important commemoration, not only for the Armenian people but for all of us who mourn past inhumanities and who work and pray for a better future. I regret that I cannot be present in person at the events in Armenia in April, but I am delighted to nominate my dear brother Bishop David Tustin to be my representative. Bishop David will be known to you, as he attended the closing celebrations of the 1700th anniversary in 2001. He has a longstanding interest and involvement with the Armenian Apostolic Church, and was instrumental in the commemoration in London of the 50th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 1965. He will express our deep solidarity with your people in this sad remembrance, as we join you in prayer for the repose of the souls of the departed, and for the peace of the world.

*Yours ever in Our Lord,
+ Rowan Williams*

Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU



**BLESSED ARE THEY
WHICH DO HUNGER
AND THIRST AFTER
RIGHTEOUSNESS: FOR
THEY SHALL BE FILLED
(Mt. 5.6)**

“The authors of that malicious project were convinced that the Armenians would be totally exterminated and annihilated from historical fields completely and utterly. They considered everything except for God’s providence and the strength and will to live and create of a nation that relied on God”

(His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians).



Following several decades of the Armenian Genocide, a series of states, international organizations, outstanding state officials, scientific cycles and individuals accepted the fact of the Armenian Genocide that was the first genocide perpetrated at the beginning of the 20th century.



Armenian Genocide memorial of Holy Etchmiadzin (1965)

The fact of the Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman government was proved, recognized and confirmed by testimonies of eye-witnesses, laws, resolutions and decrees of numerous states and international organizations. There is a vast majority of documents that qualify the mass extermination of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire as a pre-planned and totally implemented act of genocide.

Here is the list of states, state bodies and organizations that have recognized the Armenian Genocide:

Resolution of the Parliament of Sweden (11 March, 2010)
 USA, decree of the House of Representatives (4 March, 2010)
 USA, decree of the House of Representatives (10 October, 2007)
 Chile, decree of the Senate (7 July, 2007)
 Argentina, law (15 January, 2006)
 Argentina, special declaration of the Senate (19 April, 2006)
 Lithuania, decree of the Assembly (15 December, 2005)
 Decree of the European Parliament (28 September, 2005)
 Venezuela, decree of the National Assembly (14 July, 2005)
 Germany, decree of the Parliament (15 June, 2005)
 Argentina, decree of the Senate (20 April, 2005)
 Poland, decree of the Parliament (19 April, 2005)
 The Netherlands, decree of the Parliament (21 December, 2004)
 Slovakia, decree of the National Assembly (30 November, 2004)

Canada, decree of the House of Commons (21 April, 2004)
 Argentina, declaration of the Senate (31 March, 2004)
 Uruguay, law (26 March, 2004)
 Argentina, bill (18 March, 2004)
 Switzerland (Swiss Confederation), decree of the National Council (16 December, 2003)
 Argentina, decree of the Senate (20 August, 2003)
 Canada, decree of the Senate (13 June, 2002)
 Decree of the European Parliament (28 February, 2002)
 France, law (29 January, 2001)
 Italy, decree of the Chamber of Deputies (16 November, 2000)
 Decree of the European Parliament (15 November, 2000)
 France, bill of the Senate (7 November, 2000)
 Lebanon, decree of the Parliament (11 May, 2000)
 Sweden, report of the Parliament (29 March, 2000)
 France, National Assembly, bill (28 May, 1998)
 Belgium, decree of the Senate (26 March, 1998)
 Lebanon, decree of the Chamber of Deputies (3 April, 1997)
 USA, House of Representatives, decree 3540 (11 June, 1996)
 Greece, decree of the Parliament (25 April, 1996)
 Canada, decree of the House of Commons (23 April, 1996)
 Russia, decree of the Duma (14 April, 1995)
 Argentina, decree of the Senate (5 May, 1995)
 Decree of the European Parliament (18 June, 1987)
 USA, House of Representatives, joint decree 247 (12 September, 1984)
 Cyprus, decree of the House of Representatives (29 April, 1982)
 USA, House of Representatives, joint decree 148 (9 April, 1975)
 Uruguay, Senate and House of Representatives, decree (20 April, 1965)
 USA, Senate, decree 359 (11 May, 1920)
 USA, Congress, act on relief in the Near East (6 August, 1919)
 USA, Senate, attached decree 12 (9 February, 1916)

STATES' SELF-GOVERNING BODIES

US states		
Alaska	Kansas	shire
Arizona	Kentucky	New Jersey
Arkansas	Louisiana	New Mexico
California	Maine	New York
Colorado	Maryland	North Carolina
Connecticut	Massachusetts	North Dakota
Delaware	Michigan	Ohio
Florida	Minnesota	Oklahoma
Georgia	Missouri	Oregon
Idaho	Nebraska	Pennsylvania
Illinois	Nevada	Rhode Island
	New Hamp-	South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Utah

Vermont

Virginia

Washington

Wisconsin

Australia

Province of New

South Wales

Argentina

Province of Cordoba

Province of Buenos

Aires

Canada

British Columbia

Ontario (including

the City of Toronto)

Quebec (including

the City of Montreal)

Switzerland

Geneva Canton

Vaud Canton

Great Britain

Wales

Italy

Comune di Bertiole

Comune di Udine

Comune di Sesto

San Giovanni

Il Consigilo Comu-

nale di Salgareda

Comune di Belluno

Comunale di Roma

Comune di Massa

Lombarda

Comunita' Montana

Feltrina

Comune di Genova

Comune di Thiene

Comune di Castelsilano

Comune di Firenze

Comune di Ravenna

Comune di Feltre

Comunale di Venezia

Comune di Imola

Comune di Faenza

Comune di Parma

Comune di Solarolo

Comune di Villafranca Padovana

Comune di Milano

Comune di Ponte di Piave

Comune di Conselice

Comune di Lugo

Comune di S. Stino Livenza

Comune di Cotignola

Citta di Asiago

Comune di S. Agata Sul Santerno

Comune di Monterforte D'Alpone

Comune di Padova

Comune di Montorso Vicentino

Comune di Fusignano

Comune di Bagnacavallo

Comune di Russi

Comune di Sanguinetto

Comune di Camponogara

Comune di Bari



The Tsitsernakaberd Armenian
Genocide memorial, Yerevan (1967)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity (April 9, 2007)

Human Rights Association of Turkey, Istanbul Branch (April 24, 2006)

International Center for Transitional Justice Report Prepared
for TARC (February 10, 2003)

European Alliance of YMCAs (July 20, 2002)

Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, Declaration (April 24, 2001)

Le Ligue des Droits de l'Homme (May 16, 1998)

Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, Declaration (April 24, 1998)

The Association of Genocide Scholars (June 13, 1997)

Parlamenta Kurdistanê Li Dêrveyî Welat (April 24, 1996)

Union of American Hebrew Congregations (November 7, 1989)

Permanent Peoples' Tribunal, Verdict of the Tribunal (April 16, 1984)

World Council of Churches (August 10, 1983)

UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities (July 2, 1985)

UN War Crimes Commission Report (May 28, 1948)

UN General Assembly Resolution (December 9, 1948)



“Our nation has never stopped believing that justice should be regained, and suffered troubles and losses should be recompensed. With that belief and optimism and relied on God, our nation has endured hardships, registered successes and primarily restored its statehood. With God's mercy, the Armenians in the motherland and Diaspora defend their just cause with thriving life. The 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide all over the world will reinforce our efforts to make it universally recognized and condemned, since the reconsideration of past injustices and condemnation of right abuse and violation protect the present and the future in the paths of peace and justice, bearing fruits of welfare and progress”

(His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians).

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MUSEUM-INSTITUTE



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