

Laura J. Berberian. Official United States Documents on the Armenian Genocide: an Annotated Bibliography. A Master's Paper for the M.S. in L.S. degree. April 2008. 44 pages. Advisor: Michael Van Fossen

This annotated bibliography compiles documents made available by the United States National Archives with regard to the Armenian Genocide. The documents include reports made by American consular agents and American ambassadors in the Ottoman Empire on the planning, implementation, and aftermath of the Armenian Genocide. This bibliography, while not exhaustive, aims to assist researchers in locating and identifying relevant official documents that examine Turkey's role as perpetrator of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1918.

#### Headings:

Armenian massacres, 1915-1923 - -Bibliography

Armenians- -Turkey- -History- -Sources

Armenian massacres, 1915-1923- -Sources

OFFICIAL UNITED STATES DOCUMENTS ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE: AN  
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

by  
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A Master's paper submitted to the faculty  
of the School of Information and Library Science  
of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Master of Science in  
Library Science.

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

April 2008

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## **Introduction**

In 1915, the Turkish Government, under the leadership of the Young Turks, planned and implemented a genocide against the Armenian people. Over 1.5 million Armenians died during the Genocide. Today, the Turkish Government denies that genocide was ever committed. Despite the wealth of official archival materials on the Genocide, Turkey claims that neither national nor international government archival records exist which can prove that the genocide of the Armenian people was orchestrated and executed by the Turkish government and military. Turkey forbids public access of its own archives relating to the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish government silences and intimidates journalists and scholars who write about the Armenian Genocide. It is a crime in Turkey to discuss the Armenian Genocide. Because of Turkey's massive campaign of deception and threats, it is essential to compile official documentation of the Genocide. Without open access to records, the Armenian Genocide would be erased from history and public memory. This annotated bibliography is a contribution to the effort to preserve and disseminate the written record of the Armenian Genocide.

(Hovannisian 272-274)

Both Turkish and Armenian intellectuals have been victimized by Turkey's culture of Genocide-denial. On September 2, 2005, writer Orhan Pamuk, who would later win the Nobel Prize for Literature, was indicted for "publicly denigrating Turkish identity." The criminal charges came after he said in an interview for the Swiss

newspaper, Tages Anzeiger, on February 6, 2005, that “a million Armenians were killed in these lands and nobody but me dares to talk about it.”

(<http://www.pen.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/369/prmID/1331>) Under Article 301/1 of the Turkish Penal Code, which states, “A person who explicitly insults being a Turk, the Republic or Turkish Grand National Assembly, shall be imposed to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of six months to three years.” The penalty is more severe for those who dare to critique Turkey’s government to foreign nations. Article 301/3 states, “Where insulting being a Turk is committed by a Turkish citizen in a foreign country, the penalty to be imposed shall be increased by one third.” Hrant Dink, the editor-in-chief of the bilingual Turkish and Armenian weekly Agos newspaper, was convicted in 2005 of “insulting Turkish identity” after he wrote an article on the Armenian Genocide. Dink had received death threats from Turkish nationalists because of his refusal to keep silent. On January 19, 2007, Dink was assassinated.

(<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6279241.stm>) Turkey’s legal code restricts freedom of speech- a necessity for any credible investigation of the Genocide. The legal code institutionalizes and legitimizes Genocide denial by giving it an air of authority. Without an open and honest dialogue, there can be no hope for Turkish-Armenian reconciliation.

Turkey has a long history of persecuting its Armenian population. Throughout the 1890s, the Turkish Sultan Abdul Hamit ordered massacres of the Armenians. In 1894, when Armenians in the city of Sassoun refused to pay exorbitant taxes to Turkish extortionist officials, a massacre was carried out against them with approval from Sultan Abdul Hamit. (Dadrian 114-115) Over two thousand Armenians were massacred in the city of Egin on September 15, 1896. (Dadrian 146-147) During the Sultan’s reign,

Armenians and other non-Muslim minorities were ruled under the Akdi Zimmet, a contract which stipulates cessation of hostilities toward non-Muslims once they submit to their Muslim conquerors. However, if non-Muslims dared to seek aid from foreign nations, they forfeited their right to clemency, *Berat*, in Turkish. This belief was widely held by the Turks, and was used as a rationalization for the Genocide. (Dadrian 147)

The Ittihad Party and the Turkish military planned and perpetrated the Armenian Genocide of 1915, killing 1.5 million Armenians. (Graber 4-5) The Young Turks advocated Pan-Turkism, a nationalist ideology. Pan-Turkism held that the Turks were superior to ethnic and religious minorities. Leaders of the Pan-Turkish movement called for the extermination of ethnic and religious minorities because they were viewed as a threat to the imperial aspirations and national character of the empire. In short, Pan-Turkism advocated “Turkey for the Turks.” Armenians’ historical homeland, located between the Black and Caspian Seas, in the Caucasus Mountains, stood in the way of the Ittihadist government’s plans for territorial expansion and the unification of Muslim Turkic peoples in Central Asia.

Prior to the Armenian Genocide, the Young Turks enacted laws that stripped Armenians of their rights to property and their right to bear arms. Armenian men between the ages 18 and 45 were conscripted into the Turkish Army. The Turkish government seized control of Western-operated schools and orphanages. The Temporary Law of Deportation passed through the Turkish legislature in May of 1915, after the deportations had already started. The Turkish government lied to the Armenians, promising them that their safety would be ensured by gendarmes, and that their valuables would be stored and held for them. In February 1915, at a closed meeting of the Central

Committee of the Committee of Union and Progress, Dr. Nazim, stated: "...it is absolutely necessary to eliminate the Armenian people in its entirety, so that there is no further Armenian on this earth and the very concept of Armenia is extinguished." (Graber 87) In attendance at the meeting were the chief architects of the Armenian Genocide, Talat Pasha, Colonel Seyfi, and Dr. Nazim. The Young Turks called for the annihilation of all Armenians, including women, children, and the elderly. Dr. Nazim urged Turks to ignore their feelings of mercy towards the innocent: "Perhaps there are those among you who think it is bestial to go so far. You may ask, for instance, what harm can children, the elderly or the sick do to us that we feel compelled to work for their elimination. I beg you, gentlemen, don't be weak. Control your feelings of pity." (Graber 87)

Department II of the Turkish War Office carried out an anti-Armenian propaganda campaign. The campaign sought to rationalize Turkey's planned genocide by slandering the reputation of the Armenian people. Turkish officials labeled Armenians a security threat which had to be extinguished in order to extend the reach of the Turkish Empire. World War I provided the perfect cover for the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish government portrayed the Armenians as internal enemies who needed to be crushed. The Young Turks appealed to the Turkish peasants' Muslim fundamentalism by spreading propaganda calling for a jihad against the *gavur* (infidel) Armenians. (Dadrian 220)

The Armenian Genocide was meticulously implemented in separate phases. The first phase involved the conscription of 300,000 Armenian males into the Turkish Army. Separating the physically strongest group, adult males, from the rest of the Armenian population, prevented Armenian resistance against Turkish persecution, and ensured that

Armenian women and children would be left defenseless, once deportation orders were announced. The Ittihadist Party invoked the principle of “armed neutrality,” and, with the assistance of German staff officers, launched a plan on August 2, 1914, that would destabilize the Armenian population. On August 22, 1914, Armenian males between the ages of 20 and 45, were conscripted by the Turkish military. Those between the ages of 15 and 20, and 45 and 60 were subsequently conscripted. The Armenian conscripts were forced into slave labor and executed by the Turkish military. (Dadrian 221)

The second phase was designed to extinguish the influence of Armenian intellectuals and politicians, who had provided vocal dissent of Turkish nationalism. On April 24<sup>th</sup> 1915, the Turkish Interior Ministry ordered the arrest of all Armenian political and community leaders. In Istanbul, 2,345 Armenian leaders were incarcerated, and subsequently, murdered. (Dadrian 221) None of the imprisoned Armenians were charged with committing any crimes, nor were they given trial. (Dadrian 221)

The next phase in Turkey’s pre-Genocidal policy was the requisition of all Armenian assets. On September 13, 1915, the Temporary Law on Expropriation and Confiscation was instituted. The government lulled Armenians into a false sense of security by promising that their belongings would be stored for safekeeping. Turkish soldiers routinely robbed Armenians of their belongings and government officials sold Armenians’ property. The Law of Expropriation and Confiscation did not specifically name Armenians. However, according to Turkish Finance Minister Hasan Fehmi, not a single Muslim was targeted under this law. (Dadrian 225) No ethnic groups were named in the bill in order to hide its true purpose from its victims, the Armenians.

The last stage in the Ittihadist government’s plan was the forced deportations of

the entire Armenian population. In a memorandum dated May 26, 1915, the Interior Minister requested the enactment through the Cabinet of a special law authorizing deportations. The Memorandum was endorsed on May 29 by the Grand Vizier. (Dadrian 221) On May 27<sup>th</sup> the Turkish press circulated the new law, called The Temporary Law of Deportation. The Interior Minister began the deportations before the Cabinet approved the bill on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The law did not specifically mention Armenians. Instead, the law authorized the Commanders of Armies, Army Corps, Divisions, and Commandants of local garrisons to order the deportations of people who they merely suspected of disloyal activity. The authorities did not have to prove any charges of treason or espionage. The vague wording of the law allowed for the deportation of over one million Armenians. During the November 30/December 13, 1915 session of the Ottoman Senate, Senator Riza decried the confiscation of Armenian property and the deportations of the Armenians. “It is unlawful to designate the Armenian assets and properties as ‘abandoned goods’ for the Armenians, the proprietors, did not abandon their property voluntarily; they were forcibly, compulsively removed from their domiciles and exiled. Now the government ...is selling their goods. This is atrocious.” (Dadrian 223) Talat Pasha, one of the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress, threatened to increase the severity of measures taken against Armenians if Senator Riza continued to advocate on their behalf.

The deportations were designed to exterminate the Armenian people. The Turkish government denied Armenian deportees food, shelter, and water throughout their arduous journey through the Syrian desert. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians starved to death during the deportations. Those who did not starve were murdered. According to the



University of Minnesota's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, there were 2,133,190 Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in 1914 and only about 387,800 by 1922. United States Ambassador to Turkey Henry Morgenthau states, "the real purpose of the deportation was robbery and destruction; it really represented a new method of massacre. When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race. In their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact." (Dadrian 225) The Special Organization, comprised of former convicts, was formed under the aegis of the Ittihad Party's Central Committee. The Special Organization's mission was to physically assault and murder members of the Armenian population. During the deportations, women were raped and men tortured and killed by Special Organization members. Turkish gendarmes, who oversaw the Armenian deportees, raped and physically assaulted women and girls, and encouraged the Turkish townspeople to brutalize the Armenians, when passing through villages. Forced conversions of Armenian women and girls were routinely employed by the Turkish military during the Genocide. These conversions were an attempt to extinguish the Armenian race through Turkification. Armenian women who converted to Islam were forced to marry Muslim Turks. The women's identity became that of her Muslim husband's. Orphaned Armenian children were victims of the Turkification campaign. Turkish families adopted the children, forced them to convert to Islam, and raised them as Turks. (Graber 140)

Germany, allied with Turkey during World War I, assisted Turkey in planning and implementing the Armenian Genocide. Records and documents in The Political Archive of the Foreign Office (PAAA) in Berlin and the Military Archive in Freiburg

provide evidence of Germany's culpability in the Genocide. High-ranking German officers ordered the deportations of the Armenians, which led to the deaths of 1.5 million people. Lieutenant Colonel Boettrich, Chief of Railroad Services at Ottoman General Headquarters, issued a signed order for the deportation of the thousands of Armenians who were working on the Bagdad Railway construction project. Count Eberhard Wolffskeel von Reichenberg, Chief of Staff of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Corps with the rank of major in the Ottoman army, and member the German Military Mission to Turkey, played a leading role in obliterating the Armenians of Urfa. Major Wolffskeel contributed to the anti-Armenian propaganda campaign by calling the Armenians "traitors" and "trouble" for the Turks. Major Wolffskeel recommended the total deportation of the Ottoman Armenian population. German Ambassador Metternich's report to Berlin, dated November 29, 1915, includes two references to Wolffskeel's massacre of the Armenians of Urfa. (Dadrian 264)

Lieutenant General Hans Friedrich Leopold von Seeckt, Chief of Staff at Ottoman General Headquarters, served under War Minister Enver Pasha, one of the orchestrators of the Armenian Genocide. Seeckt supported the decimation of the Armenian population. After the Triple Alliance's defeat, Seeckt assisted War Minister Enver flee Turkey.

(Dadrian 264) German Admiral Guido von Usedom deemed the extermination of the Armenians necessary. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau relays a conversation he had with Admiral Usedom regarding the Armenian massacres: "[Usedom] simply said the Armenians were in the way, that they were an obstacle to German success, and that it had, therefore, been necessary to remove them, just like so much useless lumber."

(Dadrian 263) German General Bronsart von Schellendorf ordered the mass

deportation of the Armenians in a secret meeting with Turkish Interior Minister Talat and War Minister Enver. (Dadrian 256) During World War I, Germany carried out the Armenian Genocide at much cost to their war effort. The Genocide diverted valuable resources, namely arms, money, and time, from the German military.

Germany's motivations for committing the Armenian Genocide were similar to those of Turkey's. Both powers wanted to expand their respective empires, and saw Armenians as standing in the way of their goal. Both countries embraced a racist form of nationalism that saw a racially heterogeneous society as destructive to a unified state.

## **Methodology**

I limited my bibliography to documents in the English language. However, I was fortunate enough to obtain sources that included translations of statements and reports made by German military officers and government officials. Other sources provided translations of Turkish government reports, correspondence, meetings, legislation, and Senate debates. I conducted my search for official documents by entering “Armenian” and “genocide” in the search fields under the “Advanced Search” option on the University of North Carolina’s library website. My search returned ninety-four results. The sixty-fourth search result was a two-volume compilation, entitled *United States Official Documents on the Armenian Genocide*, compiled and introduced by Ara Sarafian. All of the documents for my bibliography come from Sarafian’s compilation. I created an annotated bibliography of reports by American Consular agents within the Ottoman Empire and American Ambassador to Turkey Henry Morgenthau. The annotated bibliography is arranged in chronological order. Within each bibliographic citation, I included the U.S. State Department Record Group number of each report. To confirm the official location of the records, I searched via Google for “national archives state department.” I clicked on the first search result, <http://www.archives.gov/research/state-dept/>, the research section of the official website of The National Archives. I then clicked on “Central File (Record Group 59)” which was the record group of all of my American Consul documents. Next, I selected “1910- Jan. 1963- DECIMAL FILE.” The records were arranged by subject according to a decimal

filing scheme. I clicked on the heading “1910 to 1949,” which directed me to a pdf of a “Classification of Correspondence.” I scrolled down to “8\*\*40 Social Matters,” because the bulk of the consular reports are under this number. 8\*\*4016 is under the subject heading “race problems.” The subheadings for 8\*\*4016 is: “Racial disturbances, their suppression. Massacres. Pogroms.”

The other search results found via the UNC-Chapel Hill library’s online catalog provided me with sources on the history of the Armenian Genocide, a written compilation of oral histories from Genocide survivors, and German responsibility for the Armenian Genocide. The historical scholarly monographs provided insights into Turkey’s motivations for the Genocide, the bureaucratic and legal aspects of the planning of the Genocide, and the Turkish military’s execution of the genocide. The body of historiography on the Armenian Genocide provided me with detailed accounts of the Young Turk’s day-to-day implementation of the Genocide. The scholarly works on the Genocide also revealed Turkish civilians’ role in the oppression of the Armenians.

### **Annotated Bibliography**

Forwarded copy of Rev. John E. Merrill's statement from American Consul J.B. Jackson to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Aleppo, Syria, April 21, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.00/761

The Rev. John E. Merrill's statement reveals that the deportation of Armenians in Marash was inhumane and unjust. The Turkish government planned the annihilation of an innocent civilian population.

A great mass of innocent men, to say nothing of women and children are being turned out of house and home for no fault of their own. Deportation of families is only another form of accomplishing the object of massacre, to destroy the influence and power of the Christian population. The crushing and deportation of the educated and able Christian population of the Marash field is a direct blow at American missionary interests, menacing the results of more than fifty years of work.

Report from American Consul J.B. Jackson to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Aleppo, Syria, May 12, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/72

In this document, Consul Jackson disclosed figures on the number of Armenian deportees in the Ottoman Empire, and notified Morgenthau of their destinations.

Between 4,300 and 4,500 families, about 28,000 persons, are being removed by order of the [Turkish] Government from the districts of Zeitoun and Marash to distant places where they are unknown, and in distinctly non-Christian communities. Thousands have already been sent to the northwest into the provinces of Konia, Cesaria, Castamouni, etc, while others have been taken southeasterly as far as Deir-el-Zor and to the vicinity of Bagdad.

Jackson's report reveals the Ottoman Turkish government's plan to ethnically cleanse the villages of Armenians. "The Government is installing Mohammedan families in their homes, who take possession of everything as soon as the Armenians have departed." The

“deportations” were actually death marches, designed to exterminate the Armenian population. “The misery these people are suffering is terrible to imagine. Few are permitted the opportunity of riding except occasionally on an ox or a donkey, the sick drop by the wayside. A traveler coming from Constantinople said he met about 4,500 of these unfortunates on the way that were bound for Konia, and his description of their condition was appalling.” Before deportation, Armenian families were split up: “Fathers exiled in one direction, mothers in another, the young girls and small children in still another.” Separating women and girls from adult men left them vulnerable to Turkish soldiers (gendarmes). The Ottoman Turkish military raped thousands of Armenian women and girls in order to dehumanize and dominate the Armenian population:

“according to reports from reliable sources the gendarmes are told that they may do as they wish with the women and girls.” The Ottoman Turkish Government imprisoned and executed prominent Armenian civilians, in order to crush the influence and morale of the Armenian population. “About 300 persons, heads of prominent families, have been imprisoned in Marash, of which some 50 are from Zeitoun and about 50 from Osmanie.”

Report from American Consul Edward I. Nathan to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Mersina, Turkey, May 18, 1915. Morgenthau Papers, Reel 7/573

Consul Nathan notifies Morgenthau that “about seventy prominent Armenian families of Adana have been ordered to be ready for deportation and many more from that city-as well as from Mersina and Tarsus will suffer in a similar way.” However, Consul Nathan was reluctant to make representations against the deportations because the matter did not directly affect American interests. Nathan discloses that several Americans who run mission schools have pleaded with him to advocate on their behalf for the right to keep

the children of Armenian deportees.

Report from American Consul J.B. Jackson to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Aleppo, Syria, June 5, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/77

This report provides descriptions of the forced death march of thousands of Armenians in the lower Euphrates region of the Ottoman Empire. “

There is a living stream of Armenians pouring into Aleppo from the surrounding towns and villages, the principal ones being Marash, Zeitoun, Hassanbeyli, Osmania, Baghtche, Adana, Dortyol, Hadjin, etc. They all come under heavy armed escort, usually 300 to 500 at a time, and consist of old men, women, and children. They are forced to continue the journey to some out of the way place where there is neither shelter, food, nor means of possible existence. More than 25,000 people have already been taken from their homes and are at the mercy of strangers of antagonistic religious beliefs who torture them in various ways.

The report reveals that “all the middle aged and young men” were not permitted to accompany their families on the death marches. Instead, Armenian men were drafted to work for the Turkish Army.

Christian men have been drafted to work on the new barracks of the Army. These men receive 2 piasters (9 cents) a day for their work; men sent to work on roads at a distance do not receive enough to live on. These men are not allowed to remain in their homes at night, like most of the inhabitants of the city, but are held as prisoners lest they desert; their quarters are vile and filthy, with no accommodations whatsoever in the way of toilet rooms. The men are not permitted to leave their quarters even temporarily.

In Diarbekir, around 1,000 innocent Armenians were imprisoned and tortured by the Turkish military. “...great numbers have been beaten to death. Some cases of bastinadoing [victims were subjected to repeated blows to their limbs] have been treated by physicians; the injured feet having to be operated on to prevent amputation.” J.B. Jackson states that foreign government officials have appealed to the Ottoman Turkish government to cease the persecution of the Armenian population. However, the Turkish



government refused to stop its genocidal campaign. Jackson states: “It is without doubt a carefully planned scheme to thoroughly extinguish the Armenian race.”

Statement by Rev. J.E. Merrill dated June 14, 1915, forwarded by American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau to the American Secretary of State. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/80

This document describes the inhumane treatment of Armenian deportees by the Turkish military.

Women and children have marched for hours bare foot, babies on their mother’s backs have been crushed to death through the carelessness of the soldiers, children have been thrown into the Jihon River by soldiers; the inhabitants of Bertis have waited for the companies of refugees and robbed them as they came along, without interference from the escorting soldiers. Women on foot are beaten with heavy sticks by soldiers. On the road down from Marash to Aintab in the last three weeks, a number of the women have been outraged [raped] by the soldiers of the escort.

The Armenian deportees were not allowed to sell their goods, or were forced to sell them for far below their actual worth. Women deportees who gave birth while on the march, were forced to abandon their children. The Turkish government arrested innocent Armenian men and held them ransom. “Twenty-six men from Zeitoun were condemned to death but were saved by bribery. Sunday, May 16, five men were to have been hung in Marash but were saved by bribes.”

Report from American Consul Charles F. Brissel to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Bagdad, Turkey, June 19, 1915. Morgenthau Papers, Reel 7/41, 593.

This report reveals that Ottoman Governor-General of Diarbekir, Reshir Bey, formerly acting governor-general of Bagdad, was responsible for the massacres of Armenians in both cities. “There has been a great massacre of Armenians near the cities of Van and Diyagbekr [Diarbekir]. Many atrocities were committed and many if not most of the men

killed.”

Report from W.A. Shedd to the American J.L. Caldwell. Urumia, Persia, June 23, 1915.  
U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/270

Shedd provides a detailed and thorough account of the massacres perpetrated by the Turkish Army against Armenian civilians in Urumia, Persia. Before the Turkish occupation, 25,000 Armenians lived in Urumia. Turkish troops occupied Urumia from January 4<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup>. During this period, “1,000” Christians were killed and “about 4,000 [Christian] persons have died of disease.” Around 20 percent of the Christian population perished under Turkish oppression. “The worst of all these massacres took place in Salmas in March, when about 750 Christian men and boys were killed in the village of Haftdiwan, many of them tortured and hacked to pieces.” Turkish troops and Kurds routinely used rape to terrorize the Armenian population: “hundreds of women and girls were violated.” The Turkish military destroyed the homes of Armenians in Urumia: “the property loss to the Christian population is estimated variously, the lowest estimate being at \$2,500,000, while others estimate it at ten times that amount.” Shedd reveals that the Turkish military used Kurds to carry out attacks on Armenian civilians. Turkish military officials claimed the attacks were part of a jihad, in order to arouse the Kurds and Persians. Turkish troops imprisoned innocent civilians, and held them for ransom: “Another form of outrage was seizing persons without any regard to guilt or any specific charge and holding them for ransom. Acting as intermediaries, we paid in this way some 12,000 tomans [Persian currency] directly to the Turkish military or consular authorities. Prisoners thus were held, beaten, threatened, tied up, held in solitary confinement, and several persons were taken out and hung or shot.

Shedd states: “the use of barbarous troops under little or no control against people who were non-combatants is absolutely unjustifiable and of this crime the Turks were

certainly guilty.”

Report from American Consul J.B. Jackson to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Aleppo, Syria, June 28, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/92

This document is Rev. F.H. Leslie's account of the Turkish persecution of Armenians in Ourfa. The Turkish government imprisoned innocent Armenian men on false charges of illegal arms possession. The report reveals that the Gendarmerie Department exiled many of the accused. Others were tortured “with red hot irons to make them reveal the supposedly concealed weapons.” Leslie reports that Armenian women, children, and old men of Zeitoun were deported, and subjected to horrific brutality at the hands of the Turkish gendarmerie.

The Gendarmerie Department seems to have full control of affairs and the Mutessarif upholds them. They are now holding about a hundred of the best citizens of the city in prison, and today the Gendarmerie chief called the Armenian Bishop and told him...that he has orders to exile the entire Armenian population of Ourfa, as they did the people of Zeitoun. These poor exiles were mostly women, children, and old men, and they were clubbed and beaten and lashed along as though they had been animals, and [the] women and girls were daily criminally outraged [raped] both by their guards and the ruffians of every village through which they passed. About two thousand of them have passed through Ourfa, all more dead than alive: many hundreds have died from starvation and abuse along the roadside, and nearly all are dying of starvation, [and] thirst. We know how they are being treated because our Ourfa exiles are in the same place and one young Armenian doctor who was there making medical examinations of soldiers has told us.

This document reveals a historical precedent to the Turkish seizure of Armenian arms. In 1895, the Turkish Government seized arms belonging to Armenians. After the seizure, Muslims attacked Armenians, killing six thousand of them in two days. The document reveals that the Turkish government discriminated against Armenians: only Christians

were required to turn over their arms. The seizure of arms was part of the Turkish Government's plan to leave the Armenian population defenseless to massacres and deportations. Rev. Leslie states that the Armenian population had a "good record for loyalty" to the Turkish Government, and pleads for the German and American Embassies to help change the attitude of the Turkish Government towards the Christian population.

Dispatch from the American Consul at Trebizond, Turkey to the American Embassy at Constantinople. June 28, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/105

The dispatch contains an English translation of the Ottoman Turkish government's official policy toward the Armenian population. The proclamation orders the deportations of all able-bodied Armenians. "With the exception of the sick, all Armenians are obliged to leave, within five days from the date of this proclamation, under the escort of the gendarmerie [sic]." Any property that Armenians can not carry with them on the journey will be confiscated by the Ottoman Turkish government and "their landed property will be taken under the supervision of the Government." The Ottoman government later placed Turkish families in the confiscated Armenian homes. The Ottoman government denied Armenians the right to sell their own property: "Any one who sells or attempts to take care of his movable effects or landed property shall be sent before the Court Martial." Giving property to others left behind was also prohibited. The Ottoman government ensured that the Armenians would not have access to food sources during the deportations: "Large and small animals which it is impossible to carry along shall be bought in the name of the army." By stripping Armenians of the right to own property and livestock, the Ottoman government was ensuring that the Armenians would have no means of survival, should they reach their destination. A destitute population is

powerless- it is at the mercy of the ruling class. The government declared that those who protect and/or hide Armenians from Ottoman authorities are to be prosecuted, and, if found guilty, executed. "If they are sheltered or are given food and assistance, the persons who thus shelter them or aid them shall be sent before the Court Martial for execution." The Ottoman government denied Armenians the right to bear arms: "As the Armenians are not allowed to carry any firearms or cutting weapons, they shall deliver to the authorities every sort of arms." Without arms, the Armenian population was left defenseless against Turkish oppression.

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. Trebizond, June 28, 1915.  
U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/85

Heizer notified Ambassador Morgenthau of the Ottoman Turkish government's public proclamation of the mandatory deportation of the Armenian population of Trebizond and surrounding areas to "Eldjzireh or Mosul." Prior to the deportation, which was scheduled for July 1 of 1915, Armenians would be required to turn over to the Turkish government any property they could not bring with them on the journey. The Turkish government planned the harshest, most inhospitable deportation conditions for the Armenians, denying them access to transportation, which would have made the journey significantly shorter, and by scheduling the journey during an oppressively hot month- July. Heizer correctly predicted that these forced deportations of the Armenians would result in a large-scale death march.

At the present time there are no means of transportation available. All horses, wagons and vehicles have been requisitioned for [Turkish] military purposes and the only way for these people [the Armenians], to go is on foot, a journey of sixty days or more. At this season of the year in the heat and dust it is impossible for

women and children and old men to start on such a journey. Even a strong man would be likely to perish on such a trip.

These “deportations,” in actuality, were part of a systematic Ottoman government plan to exterminate the Armenian population. Heizer states that he has called upon an “Austro-Hungarian” colleague to urge a withdrawal of the deportation order, or “at least a modification so as to spare old men, women, and children.”

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. American Consulate, Trebizond, June 30, 1915.

U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/93

Consul Heizer reports a Turkish eyewitness account of "the wretched condition of about 150 Armenian women and children he came upon near Ashkaleh in a plain about ten hours from Erzerum. Most of them were nearly naked, all were hungry, many were carrying children." The Armenians were forced to walk a death march from Baibourt and Erzerum.

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. American Consulate, Trebizond, July 3rd, 1915.

U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/94

Consul Heizer notifies Ambassador Morgenthau of the mass deportations of the Armenian population of Trebizond. "I have the honor to report that the [Turkish] authorities are rapidly gathering together the Armenians, excepting the Catholic Armenians, those in government employ, old persons, widows and pregnant women, and sending them off towards Gumushhane." The Ottoman government denied Armenian children access to Western education. Armenian students attending an American-operated school were forced to enroll in a Turkish school.

The children attending the American school...have all been taken and placed in a school organized by a local committee. Into this school, all Armenian children, females up to fifteen years and males to ten years of age, are being placed as the parents are sent off [deported.] Children above these ages go with their parents. The work of clearing out the different quarters of the city will probably be finished tomorrow.

The Ottoman Turkish government imposed an age limit of ten years for male students because the government knew that saw adolescent and adult Armenian males as a "threat" to the Empire. By deporting Armenian males over ten years of age, the Ottoman government ensured the extermination of a demographic that would have been capable of defending the Armenian population from Turkish oppression. Armenian women of childbearing age were "deported" in order to prevent the birth of a future generation of Armenians.

Report from American Consul Stanley Hollis to the American Secretary of State, Beirut, Syria, July 6, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/97

The document contains a report, dated June 20, 1915, on the condition of the Armenian exiles from Zeitoun. According to the report, as of June 20, 1915, 26,500 Armenians were deported from Zeitoun, and "orders already issued may bring the number in this region up to 32,000." The Turkish military treated the Armenian deportees inhumanely, with "horrible brutality to women, the sick, and the aged. Whole villages were deported at an hour's notice, with no opportunity to prepare for their journey, not even in some cases to gather the scattered members of the family, so that little children were left behind. In many cases the men were (those of military age were nearly all in the army) bound together with ropes and chains. Women with little children in their arms, or in the last days of pregnancy were driven along under the whip like cattle. Three different cases came under my knowledge where the woman delivered [her baby] on the road, and

because her brutal driver hurried her along she died of hemorrhage.” Turkish soldiers raped Armenian women and girls: “Many women and girls have been outraged [raped]. At one place the commander of gendarmerie openly told the men to whom he consigned a large company, that they were at liberty to do what they chose with the women and girls.” The report reveals that the Turkish Government and military denied food to the Armenian deportees. Consul Hollis stated that if no aid is given to the Armenian exiles, “two thirds or three fourths of them will die of starvation or disease.”

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. American Consulate, Trebizond, July 7, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/103.

Consul Heizer reports to Ambassador Morgenthau that over half of the Armenian population of Trebizond has been deported. "The city of Trebizond and surrounding villages is estimated at 10,000 Armenians. Of this number, 5,200 have already been sent away. The children, when the parents so desired, were left behind and placed in large houses in different parts of the city. There are approximately three thousand such children retained in these houses called by the Turks 'Orphanages.' The institutions are guarded by gendarmes and each institution has a Turkish Mudir or Director." Dr. and Mrs. Crawford, the directors of an American school in Trebizond, were given “300 children” by Armenian deportees. The parents of the children gave the Crawfords money and jewelry to cover the children’s expenses. The Ottoman Turkish government forbade Dr. and Mrs. Crawford to provide care for the children. The Governor General stated that the children would have to be given to the Turkish authorities. In addition, the Ottoman Turkish government ordered the Crawfords to turn over “all money and articles of any kind deposited by Armenians in contravention of the proclamation.” The Ottoman



government's decree had stripped Armenians of their property rights. Without any access to funds, the abandoned Armenian children were at the complete mercy of the Turks.

Heizer notifies Morgenthau that "very disquieting reports concerning the treatment of these people who have been sent away are current and if one half turns out to be true it will be shocking."

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. Trebizond, Turkey, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/114

Heizer informs Morgenthau the groups that were previously exempt from the deportation, have since been forced to leave Trebizond: "The Catholic Armenians, aged persons and widows were finally sent off into exile along with the balance of the Armenian population, the only exception being those in government employ, children, pregnant women, and sick persons who were placed in hospitals to be sent as soon as they were able to go." Heizer's suspicions that the Armenians would not survive the brutal sixty-day march were confirmed by eye-witness accounts. "It appears that a number of exiles have reached Gumushhane. It seems that a number of bodies have floated down the river to Trebizond and a great many have been seen in the woods along the road." Heizer states that the condition of the exiles as recounted by reports is "something terrible."

Report from American Consul W. Peter to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Samsoun, Turkey, July 10, 1915. Morgenthau Papers, Reel 7/619.

Consul Peter's report reveals that in Samsoun, five-thousand Armenians were deported, without carriages, under deplorable conditions. In the Interior [of the Ottoman Empire] male Armenians were "all massacred by [Turkish] peasants. Such hard measures will

surely be taken against women and children that they will die from hunger, thirst and despair. It is a horrible slaughter which reminds [me of] the time when all dogs were gathered from Constantinople and sent to perish on an island.” The private houses of the deported Armenians have been filled with emigrants.

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. Trebizond, Turkey, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/114

“All citizens or subjects of all the enemy countries are soon to be deported. The temper of the Turks is such now that a deportation of the foreigners would be cruel and even perilous for the people deported. Traveling under the present circumstances must be done on foot, with no shelter and no proper food.” “There is no way of preventing all sorts of abuses and indignities if they are sent to the interior. Such a deportation is entirely uncalled for because the foreigners in this region are peaceable and law abiding people.” Consul Heizer implores Ambassador Morgenthau to voice his disapproval of the deportations of the Armenians to Ottoman authorities.

Report from American Consul Edward I. Nathan to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Mersina, Turkey, July 26, 1915. Morgenthau Papers, Reel 7/639

“In Adana over two and fifty families have been ordered to leave. From Tarsus a number of families have already been sent and many others ordered to leave on short notice. I am informed that the deportation of the entire population of Mersina will be gradually executed.” Nathan states that the Turkish government has required all Armenians to turn over their real estate titles and any personal effects that cannot be taken with them on the journey. Consul Nathan was witness to deportations: “About one hundred Armenians

deported from Casesarea to Syria passed through here last week. No Armenian male is left at liberty in that city.” Those who were not deported were imprisoned. Nathan notes that the economic impact of the deportations of the Armenians, who were “the best commercial element,” is “incalculable.”

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. Trebizond, Turkey, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/128

On Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915, Heizer witnessed the deportation of “6000 to 10,000” Armenians from Trebizond to Gummushanne and Erzingan began. “Groups of men, women, and children with loads and bundles on their backs were collected in a short cross street near the Consulate and were driven past the consulate on the road toward Gumushhane and Erzingan in the heat and dust by gendarmes with fixed bayonets. Such persons naturally became so weak that they fell behind and were bayoneted and thrown into the river and their bodies floated down past Trebizond to the sea, or else lodged in the shallow river on rocks where they remained for 10 to 12 days and putrefied to the disgust of the travelers who were obliged to pass that way.” By July 6<sup>th</sup>, all of the Armenian houses in Trebizond had been emptied of inhabitant. Heizer reveals that prominent Armenians have been assassinated by the Turks. Prior to the deportations, “lighters” were loaded with members of the Armenian committee and sent off to Samsoun. The lighters were met by boats filled with armed Turkish gendarmes, who proceeded to “kill all the men and throw them overboard.”

Heizer reports that in Tots, a village about two hours from Trebizond, 45 men and women were driven from their homes by Turkish gendarmes. The women were “outraged

[raped] by the officers and then turned over to the gendarmes to dispose of.” All of the men were killed, and a child was “killed by beating its brains out on a rock.”

The plan to place Armenian children in Turkish controlled orphanages thwarted by Nail Bey, the head of the Committee of Union and Progress. Instead, Armenian girls were placed in Muslim families. Placing the Armenian girls in Muslim homes ensured the eradication of a future generation of Armenians. Thousands of Armenian girls were forced to convert to Islam and assimilate into Turkish culture. Armenian girls were forced to marry Turks, and their offspring were considered Turkish, since nationality was inherited paternally. According to Heizer, “the best looking of the older [Armenian] girls are kept in houses for the pleasure of members of the [Turkish] gang which rules affairs here.” The Turks used rape as a tactic against Armenian women, in order to humiliate, dehumanize and display dominance over the Armenians.

Heizer reveals that the Turkish government lied in its proclamation that Armenian property would be kept under the “protection of the government” and returned to the owners upon their return. The homes of the Armenians were emptied of “furniture by the [Turkish] police one after another. The goods are piled in without any attempt at labeling or systematic storage.” Turks follow the police and “seize anything they can lay their hands on.”

This report shows that officials of other nation-states were aware of the deportations and massacres of the Armenians. Heizer includes a statement from the German Consul to Turkey: “he did not believe the Armenians would be permitted to return to Trebizond even after the end of the war.”

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. Trebizond, Turkey, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/128

Consul Heizer notifies Ambassador Morgenthau that five thousand Armenians were deported from Samsoun, “and many of these were massacred on the road. About 150 families were converted to Mohammedanism.” Forced conversions of young Armenian women were employed by Turkey in order to eradicate the Christian population of the Ottoman Empire. Islam was constructed as part of Turkey’s national identity, and the presence of non-Muslims was seen as a “threat” to the Empire’s unity and plans for expansion.

Dispatch from American Consul J.B. Jackson to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Aleppo, August 3, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/126

The report shows the methods of persecution employed by the Turkish Government against the Armenian population. In order to leave the women and children vulnerable to the Turkish military, all able-bodied Armenian men were deported from their homes. On August 2<sup>nd</sup> “about 800 middle aged and old women and children under the age of 10 years arrived afoot from Diarbekir... in the most pitiable condition imaginable. [The Armenians] report the taking of all the young women and girls by the Kurds, the pillaging even of the last bit of money and other belongings, of starvation, [and] of privation.”

Consul Jackson reveals the number of Armenians deported from various villages:

4500 persons were sent from Sughurt to Ras-el-Ain, over 2000 from Mezireh to Diarbekir, and that all the cities of Bitlis, Mardin, Mossoul, Severeck, Malatia, Besne, etc. have been depopulated of Armenians, the men and boys and many of the women killed, and the balance scattered throughout the country. The latter must naturally die of hunger and disease. The Governor of Deir-el-Zor...says there are 15,000 Armenian refugees in Aleppo.

Consul Jackson provides a detailed table, consisting of the number of Armenian families and individuals deported, and their place of origin. Jackson reports that Armenians were ordered for deportation from the cities of Aintab, Mardin, Killis, Antioch, Alexandretta, Kessab, and all the smaller towns in Aleppo province, totaling 60,000 people. Jackson surmises that the deportation of the Armenian population in the interior provinces will result in an economic depression, because “90 percent” of jobs in commerce were held by Armenians. Most of those in the professions, including law, medicine, and academia, were Armenia. Thus, the Ottoman Empire lost many of its intellectuals to the genocide. Jackson reveals that Germany, along with Turkey, must have co-orchestrated the Armenian Genocide, which he refers to as “the extermination of the Armenian race.” “Private German individuals openly approve the whole scheme and condemn the Armenians on every occasion.”

Letter from Rev. F.H. Leslie to American Consul J.B. Jackson, Ourfa, Mesopotamia, August 6, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/139

Rev. Leslie reports the Turks are “nightly seizing the most prominent Christian citizens and after a period in prison here sending them to that death-trap Diarbekir. For six weeks we have witnessed the most terrible cruelties inflicted upon thousands of Christian exiles who have been daily passing through our city. All tell the same story and bear the same scars: their men were all killed on the first days march from their cities, after which women and girls were constantly robbed of their money, bedding, clothing, and beaten, criminally abused and abducted along the way. Their guards forced them to pay even for drinking from the springs along the way. The poor weak women and children died by thousands along the roads and in the khan where they were confined here. There must be

not less than five hundred abducted now in the homes of the Moslems of this city and as many more have been sexually abused and turned out on the streets again.” Leslie goes on to reveal that the Christian population in Ourfa fears the same fate. Leslie states that resistance would “certainly” lead to “a massacre.”

Report from American Consul Edward I. Nathan to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Mersina, Turkey, August 7, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/124

Consul Nathan informs Ambassador Morgenthau: “two days ago an order was received for the immediate deportation of the entire Armenian population of Mersina consisting of about 1800 souls. Yesterday nearly three hundred persons were sent to Adana.” Nathan states that, in anticipation of the deportations, Armenians have been selling their belongings for a fraction of their worth. “The terror of these people is indescribable. Stories of the massacre of thousands of Armenians in the interior now reach here.”

Consul Nathan goes on to note the locations of the massacres, including the cities of Cesarea, Sivas, Diarbekir, and Van.

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. Trebizond, Turkey, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Morgenthau Papers, Reel 7/667

Dr. Crawford, head of the American school in Trebizond, is quoted in the report. Dr. Crawford states that on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915, Turkish government officials forced him to hand over the Armenian children in his school. The money the parents had left for their children were seized by the Turkish police. Dr. Crawford reveals that he is forbidden to wire funds to Armenians, and implores any future funds to be sent in the name of the Red Cross, so that they will not be seized by the Turks.

Report from American Consul J.B. Jackson to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Aleppo, Syria, August 19, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/148

Jackson states that the city of Aintab is being depopulated of Armenians, with several thousands passing through Aleppo. The caravans of Armenians were attacked and robbed by Muslim villagers (the gendarmerie provided no protection to the Armenian deportees). In Aintab, the deserted homes of exiled Armenians, were pillaged by Muslims. Jackson declares: "it is a gigantic plundering scheme as well as a final blow to extinguish the [Armenian] race." Jackson reveals German culpability in the Armenian Genocide. The German Bagdad railway transported thousands of exiled Armenians to Aleppo. Other Armenians were switched to the Damascus-Hama line, which exiled the Armenians among the Arabs and Druzes. "Since August 1, the German Bagdad railway has brought nine trains each of fifteen carloads of these unfortunate people to Aleppo. Each car containing 35 to 40 persons, it is estimated that 5,000 Armenians have been brought in from Ras-el-Ain, Arab Pournar, and Akdje-Koyounli, making about 20,000 that have so far arrived in Aleppo." The exiled Armenians aboard the trains faced abuse and robbery at the hands of the Turkish gendarmes and local Muslims. Jackson reveals that there were very few adult male exiles. Very few girls over ten years of age, and young attractive women, were among the exiled Armenian population. As has been previously documented, attractive young Armenian women were separated from the rest of the deportees, raped and/or forced to convert to Islam and marry Turkish men. Consul Jackson relates eyewitness accounts of the death marches: "Travellers from the interior have related to the writer that the beaten paths are lined with corpses of the victims, between Ourfa and Arab-Pournar, a distance of about twenty five miles there being more



than 500 along the highway.” Jackson estimates that, as of August 19, 1915, 500,000 Armenians were killed as part of Ottoman Turkey’s Armenian Genocide. “The territory effected includes the provinces of Van, Erzeroum, Bitlis, Diarbekir, Mamouret-ul-Aziz, Angora, and Sivas from which the Armenians have already been exterminated, leaving Aleppo and Adana to be completed, and from which the movement is in rapid progress.”

Report from American Consul W. Peter to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. Samsoun, Turkey, August 26, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/220

Consul Peter gives his personal account of the aftermath of the deportations, which resulted in the mass murder of the Armenian population. "Near Amassia, there is a well which must contain from 50 to 60 corpses; heaps of torn clothes, fez, [and] papers were found near there [and] gathered; enclosed you will find three fragments which will be a good evidence. Not far from Amassia there must also be a common grave for about 400 corpses." Consul Peter relays the Turkish inspector of the Public Debt’s eyewitness account of the Genocide. All of the Armenian men were taken, bound, and some of them were killed between Amassia, Tokat, and Turchal. All of the men who arrived in Tokat were directed toward Tchiflik or Gishgscha and murdered. Women and children were taken in ox-carts to Scharkysschla, then were sent to Malatia and finally thrown in the Kyrk Gos or Euphrates. In Erbaa, Nixar, and Messoudieh, the Armenian men were bound during the night and then thrown in the river Kelkit. Women and children were drowned in the Euphrates or Kyrk Gos. The Armenians of Scharkyshla, Gemereck, Azizieh, Gorun, Derendeh, Sivas, Divrik, Kangal, Egin, Arabkir, Keban, Kharpout, Karahissar, Souchehri, Zahra, Chavik, Erzinguian, Kamch were exiled and murdered. According to the Turkish Inspector of Malatia, all Armenian men there were murdered. The surviving

“pretty Armenian women” were forced to live in Turkish homes.

Report from American Consul Charles P. Brissel to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Bagdad, Turkey, August 29, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/ 191

Consul Brissel states that the former Governor of Mardin, Sheifek Bey, persecuted Armenians and exiled them to Ras-el-Aine. Brissel relays a report from Bagdad that the Armenians sent to Ras-el-Aine were massacred after their arrival. Other deportations are noted in the reported, including, the deportation of 3,000 to 5,000 Armenians to Deir-el-Zor. According to Brissel, “the Turkish Government pays nothing for their maintenance.” The Turkish government forbade Armenian exiles from contacting their relatives. The Turkish military routinely separated Armenian families prior to deportation. Brissel gives an account of a mother, father, and daughter, each being deported to different destinations, with no means of contacting one another. Two prominent Armenian merchants, who were members of the Bagdad Municipal Council and the local Turkish Government commission, and loyal Ottoman subjects, were unjustly imprisoned. On August 28, 1915, all non-Muslims were dismissed from their government positions. Acting Governor-General of Bagdad, Shefeik Bey, was responsible for instituting the persecutions of the Armenians. Brissel implores the American Embassy to prevent any further persecutions.

Report from American Consul Edward I. Nathan to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Mersina, Turkey, September 11, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/193

Consul Nathan informs Ambassador Morgenthau that thousands of Armenians are being deported to the Aleppo region. “Over 6,000 have been deported from the city of Adana

without any special regard given for the exception supposedly given to Catholics and Protestants.” Ali Munif Bey, Mustechar of the Foreign Office, was responsible for overturning the exception granted to Catholics and Protestants. His decision was supported by the Adana Union and Progress Club, a “rabid anti-Armenian” organization.

Report from American Consul Edward I. Nathan to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, September 22, 1915, Mersina, Turkey. .S. State Department Record Group 59,867.00/783

Consul Nathan describes the horrors of the deportations of the Armenians: “The number of Armenians sent from [Adana] now totals about 25,000 and this is in addition to the many thousands coming from the north that pass through. The misery, suffering and hardships suffered by this people are indescribable. Deaths are innumerable.” Nathan reports that Armenians parents have been forced to abandon their children, or else witness their starvation during the deportation. “Many [children] are simply left by the roadside.”

Report from American Consul Greg Young to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Damascus, Syria, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/212

Consul Young reports that as many as 10,000 Armenian exiles have marched through Damascus from August 12 up to the present. Consular Agent Young relays accounts of despairing Armenian parents offering their children to Turkish homes, so that they will have food, clothing, and shelter. “I have heard of several cases of young girls or boys being bought by people who wished to aid in some way and were importuned by parents to take their children as servants so they might have homes. A total of 100,000 Armenians were to be distributed among the towns surrounding Damascus before the

measure of exile is completed.” On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Consul Young and the Spanish Consul passed through the Christian quarter of Damascus, and witnessed a procession of Armenian exiles on their way to Kahdem. “In the faces of this band of silently trudging automatons one saw written great weariness, despair, hopeless suffering borne stoically.”

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. Trebizond, Turkey, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/210

The Public Debt Inspector Mr. Beylikdjian, his wife, their 12-year-old son, and their maid

were all killed by two Turkish gendarmes while on a boat heading to Constantinople.

Report from American Consul Edward I. Nathan to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Mersina, Turkey, September 27, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/200

Consul Nathan outlines the various cruelties subjected to the Armenian deportees, including: lack of proper transportation, highway robberies, rapes of women and girls, forced conversions to Islam, and starvation. “At Osmanie, where there have been from forty to sixty thousand people the food supply is scarcely enough for one third of that number so that all are either are on short rations or without any food.. This is responsible for the numerous deaths which are reported.”

Dispatch from American Consul General George Horton to the American Secretary of State. Smyrna, Turkey, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/243

American Consul George Horton reveals that non-Armenian eyewitnesses, “of the highest standing in their religious and educational world,” whose reputations are beyond reproach, have given accounts of the mass murder of the Armenian population

implemented by the Ottoman Turkish government. Horton reveals that between 800, 000 to 1,000,000 Armenians were subjected to “this process of slow and hideous torture.”

These eyewitnesses report that thousands of women, children, and old men are forced to march, without food, shelter, or water, until they die. Consul Horton reports that the deportations have increased in frequency, and that, “before it is finally over, 2,000,000 people will be affected, a very large proportion of whom will certainly perish.”

Memorandum on the Armenian Question. Dispatch from American Consul General George Horton to the American Secretary of State. Smyrna, Turkey, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/243

Consul Horton did not reveal the witness’s identity in order to protect his life. The witness states that all of the Armenians have been exiled from the towns in Northern Armenia and Anatolia, including, “Harput, Diarbekir, Bitlis, Moosul, Marash, Zeitoun, Sivas, and Erzeroum.” All of the Armenians were sent south to the border of the Syrian desert. Aleppo and Damascus are “full of these exiles.”

Unnecessary brutality is shown in the expulsion of these people, the majority of whom are simply living skeletons, and one sees emaciated and hunger-stricken women and children beaten with whips like dogs in order to make them move. When they were expelled from any of the towns in Northern Asia Minor, all the men between the ages of 15 and 60 were shot down before the eyes of the women and children.

Memorandum from Walter M. Geddes to American Consul George Horton. Aleppo, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/243

Walter M. Geddes reports on the mass deportations of the Armenians in Asia Minor. During the deportations, thousands of Armenians suffered starvation, and were beaten at hands of the Turkish gendarmes. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1915, Geddes left for Aleppo. He saw an encampment of “10,000” Armenians, whose condition was “deplorable.” At

Osmanieh, Geddes saw an encampment of “about 50,000” Armenians. According to Geddes, Armenians were physically assaulted by the gendarmes and were forced to live in filth: “I saw women and children repeatedly struck with whips and sticks in the hands of the gendarmes. The site of the encampment had been used several times by different caravans of Armenians and no attempt at sanitation had been made by the Turks. At Osmanieh they were selling their possessions in order to obtain money to buy food.” From Osmanieh, Geddes traveled by carriage to Rajo and passed thousands of Armenians en route to Aleppo. Women, children, and old men

were going in oxcarts, donkey-back and on foot. I spoke to several of these people. They told me they had travelled [sic] for two months. They were without money and food and several expressed their wish that they could die rather than go on and endure the sufferings that they were undergoing. They were mostly bareheaded and their faces were swollen from the sun and exposure. Many had no shoes on and some had their feet wrapped in old pieces of rags which they had torn from their clothing.

Many Armenians spoke to Geddes about the “brutal treatment and robbery at the hands of the gendarmes in charge.” Geddes saw the most horrific conditions when traveling from Kadma to Aleppo. At Kadma, there was an encampment of “150,000 people.” “Here the people began to play out in the intense heat and no water and I passed several who were actually dying of thirst.” In Aleppo, Geddes visited the Armenians housed in churches, vacant homes, courtyards, and open lots.

I found them starving and dying by the hundred every day. In one vacant house which I visited, I saw women, children, and men all in the same room lying on the floor so close together that it was impossible to walk between them. Here they had been for months, those who had survived, and the condition of the floor was filthy. Many were lying in their own excrement. The British Consulate was filled with these exiles and from this place, the dead were removed almost every hour.

Geddes interviewed several Turks, who told him the “motive of this exile was to

exterminate the [Armenian] race.” Geddes states that “in no instance did I see any Moslem giving alms to Armenians, it being considered a criminal offence for anyone to aid them.”

Report from American Consul W. Peter to American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Samsoun, Turkey, December 4, 1915. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/259

Consul Peter ends his report with an observation on Turkey’s meticulously planned mass-murder of the Armenians: “Turkey must not in general be in the front rank as regards organization and talent, but this time when it was a question of massacres, robberies, etc. it has shown well-planned and very quick action. Only the Turk is capable of dispatching to another world hundreds of thousands of people in a short time.”

Report from American Consul General George Horton to the American Secretary of State. Smyrna, Turkey, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1916. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/268

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1915, the Turkish government recruited Turks to massacre Armenians. “Street-criers were heard calling out all the Turks capable of bearing arms and in a moment, hundreds of good-for-nothing loiterers, some armed with guns and some with clubs and daggers, met together. They fell upon the Armenians without distinction of age and sex, beating, killing and massacring all those without... any means of defending themselves.” On September 29, 1915, the Turks forced all Armenian women and children out of their homes, and exiled them “to an unknown location.” During this period, caravans totaling “1500” women and children passed through Ourfa. “All the pretty women and girls who pass through the towns of Ourfa, Sauroudge, etc., are asked by the Turks to join the Moslem faith if they wish to save their lives. Many of them do

so.” One method the Turks used to exterminate Armenians was to tie them together in “groups of 50 to 100 persons at a time by their arms and feet.” They were forced to climb a hill, from which they were pushed off into a ravine, “where they were finished off by sword and bayonet thrusts. This method was employed instead of shooting them in order to save the expense of ammunition.” At Islahie, “the number of dead bodies was so great that the employee in charge of the construction of the railroad, telegraphed to his management to send him a battalion of soldiers to bury the dead.” At the village Arab-Bounar, railway employees “reported that everyday, about 50 meters from this village, about 100 to 150 persons died and street dogs daily brought human hands, feet and heads as far as the station.” The route between Islahie and Osmanieh, a distance of about “50 to 60 kilometers,” is “practically a cemetery; there are large tombs all long the road and each tomb must have about 20 bodies in it.” Most of the Armenians sent from Aleppo to Ourfa and Der-El-Zor “died on the way from hunger and cold.” At Aleppo and Ourfa, malignant typhus broke out, “owing to the large number of bodies left unburied for a considerable time.”

Report from American Consul Charles E. Allen to American Consul General G. Bie Ravndal, Adrianople, Turkey, March 18, 1916. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.00/786

Consul Allen doubts the sincerity and force behind the Austrian Embassy’s plea to cease the forced conversions of the Armenians of Adrianople to Islam. “Austrian intervention on their behalf may have been framed up in order to save Austria and Germany in the eyes of Christendom.” Allen surmises that Turkey must have assured the Austrian Embassy of the imminent extermination of the Armenian population. “Germans and Austrians may... be guilty of the plot to secure the disappearance of the Armenian



nation.” It has since been documented that Germany and Austria issued fake pleas of mercy in order to save their global reputations.

Letter from Robert S. Stapleton to American Consul, Tiflis, F. W. Smith. Erzroom, Russia, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1916. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/285

Since 1915, Mr. Stapleton reports that the Turkish government has been using Armenian males as slave labor in “road gangs.” The Armenian laborers were being “massacred in cold blood” by the Turkish Army. Stapleton relays the account of an Armenian laborer who escaped death. The Armenian laborers were sent to Erzingan, where they were imprisoned. The Commander and Governor of Erzingan ordered the execution of the fifty Armenian laborers. “Four escaped by falling and lying under the dead till evening and then by hard traveling came here. It is said that other gangs are being treated in a similar way.” Stapleton implores Consul Smith to bring the murders to Ambassador Morgenthau’s attention so that he might to “intercede in the name of humanity against this wholesale slaughter of these men who have been working for the Turkish Army.”

*Outline of Events in the District of Urumia, and the Syrian Connection Therewith, Since the Beginning of the War.* Forwarded report from Rev. E.T. Allen to the American Secretary of State. Teheran, Persia, June 12, 1918. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/391

Rev. E.T. Allen, an American citizen, provides a thorough overview of the massacres perpetrated by the Turks against the Armenian population in Persia. In October of 1914, Turkish and Kurdish forces invaded the city of Urumia, pillaging two Christian villages and killing innocent civilians. “During the period of Turkish occupation, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 24<sup>th</sup>, all the Christian villages and all the Christians living in Moslem villages

were completely looted, men were killed, women were violated [raped] and some two hundred girls taken away captive. Many were forced to become Moslem; thousands died of disease.”

Report from American Consul Oscar S. Heizer to American Secretary of State Robert Lansing. Bagdad, Mesopotamia, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1919. U.S. State Department Record Group 59, 867.4016/411

This report details the crimes against human rights committed by Nael Bey, representative of the Committee of Union and Progress, Trebizond. Nael Bey issued a public proclamation for the Turkish seizure of Armenian children from orphanages. Bey himself “took ten of the best looking girls and kept them in a house for his own pleasure.” By “pleasure,” Heizer is referring to rape. Heizer states that Bey was one of the masterminds behind the Armenian Genocide:

...a certain Nael Bey was sent to Trebizond to see the faithful carrying out of the deportation and extermination of the Armenians. The ferocity and lack of any humanitarian [sic] feelings of this man was something remarkable and if any of the perpetrators of the Armenian massacres are brought before a tribunal for trial and punishment, I sincerely trust this monster will not escape. The superior and priests of the Italian monastery at Trebizond as well as the Greek Archbishop could no doubt furnish valuable evidence in regard to his actions.

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