

AMERICAN EMBASSY\*  
CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 403

August 18, 1915

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

Referring further to previous correspondence regarding the attitude of the Turkish Government towards the Armenians in Turkey, I have the honor to transmit to you herewith, for your information, duplicate copies of two despatches received from Consul Heizer at Trebizond and Consul Jackson at Aleppo, dated July 28th and August 3rd respectively.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

[Signed] Morgenthau

Enclosure: as stated.†

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\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/126

† For the despatch for Trebizond, see copy in NA/RG59/867.4016/128

AMERICAN CONSULATE\*

Copy.  
No. 333.

Aleppo, August 3, 1915

“Deportation of Armenians.”

The Honorable  
Henry Morgenthau,  
American Ambassador,  
Constantinople.

Sir:

I have the honor to report as follows concerning the attitude of the Turkish Government towards the Armenians in this vicinity and the hinterland:

Ever since the destruction of certain government buildings in Van by the Armenians in April last, the Turkish Government has been taking the most drastic measures against the Armenians in all this part of the Empire. The idea of direct attack and massacre that was carried out in former times has been altered somewhat, in that the men and boys have been deported from their homes in great numbers and disappeared en route, and later on the women and children have been made to follow. For some time stories have been prevalent from travelers arriving from the interior of the killing of the males, of the great numbers of bodies along the roadsides, and the floating in the Euphrates river; of the delivery to the Kurds by the gendarmes accompanying the convoys of women and children of all the younger members of the parties, of unthinkable outrages committed by gendarmes and Kurds, and even the killing of many of the victims. At first these stories were not given much credence, but as many of the refugees are now arriving in Aleppo, no doubt longer remains of the truth of the matter. August 2nd about 800 middle aged and old women and children under the age of 10 years arrived a foot from Diarbekir, after 45 days en route, and in the most pitiable condition imaginable. They report the taking of all the young women and girls by the Kurds, the pillaging even of the last bit of money

\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/126

and other belongings, of starvation, of privation, and hardship of every description. Their deplorable condition bears out their statements in every detail.

I am informed that 4,500 persons were sent from Sughurt to Ras-el-Ain, over 2,000 from Mezireh to Diarbékir, and that all the cities of Bitlis, Mardin, Mossoul, Severek, Malatia, Besné, etc. have been depopulated of Armenians, the men and boys and many of the women killed, and the balance scattered throughout the country. If this is true of which there is little doubt, even the latter must naturally die of fatigue, hunger and disease. The Governor of Deir-el-Zor, on the Euphrates river, and who is now in Aleppo, says there are 15,000 Armenian refugees in that city. Children are frequently sold to prevent starvation as the Government furnishes practically no subsistence. The following statistics show the number of families and persons arriving in Aleppo, places from whence deported, and number sent further on up to and including July 30.

Where from	Families	Persons,	Sent away
Cheuk-Merzemen (Dortyol)	400	2109	734
Ojakli	115	537	137
Euzerli	116	593	173
Hasanbayli	187	1118	514
Harni	84	528	34
Karspazar	51	340	—
Hadjin	592	3988	1025
Roumlou	51	388	296
Shar	150	1112	357
Sis	231	1317	—
Bagché	13	68	—
Dengala	126	804	—
Drtadli	12	104	—
Zeytoun	5	8	—
Tarpouz	22	97	—
Albustan	10	44	—
Total	2165	13255	3270

2100 persons more arrived since the above figures were compiled.

Now all Armenians have been ordered deported from the cities of Aintab, Mardin, Killis, Antioch, Alexandretta, Kessab, and all the smaller towns in Aleppo province, estimated at 60,000 persons. It is natural to suppose that they will suffer the fate of those that have gone before, and which are appalling to contemplate. The results are that as 90 percent of the commerce of the interior is in the hands of the

Armenians, the country is facing ruin. The great bulk of business being done on credit, hundreds of prominent business-men other than Armenians face bankruptcy. There will not be left in the places evacuated a single tanner, moulder, blacksmith, tailor, carpenter, clay worker, weaver, shoemaker, jeweler, pharmacist, doctor, lawyer, or any of the professional or tradesmen with very few exceptions, and the country will be left in a practically helpless state.

The important American religious and educational institutions are losing their professors, teachers, helpers and students, and even the orphanages are to be emptied of the hundreds of children therein, and which ruins the fruits of 50 years of untiring effort in this field. The Government officials in a mocking way ask what the Americans are going to do with these establishments now that the Armenians are being done away with. Aleppo city is expected to be next to suffer.

The situation is becoming more critical daily as there is no telling where this thing will end. The Germans are being blamed on every hand, for if they have not directly ordered this wholesale slaughter (for it is nothing less than the extermination of the Armenian race) they at least condone it. Private German individuals openly approve the whole scheme and condemn the Armenians on every occasion.

American Missionaries at Diarbekir and Mardin have had their premises searched, and Dr. Smith and family at the former place were expelled from the country via Beirut. The Americans at Mardin solicit the presence of a Consular officer, saying the situation is dangerous for them. Mr. R. C. Hill, of Aintab, and wife, Miss Kate E. Ainslie, of Marash, and Rev. Maynard, of Diarbekir, all had their baggage searched while en route from the interior to the coast.

The Turkish military officials maintain a press-bureau and collect the news from all points concerning matters in Turkey, and have hinted to the writer that it would be well to keep his pen quiet. Consequently as we have several hundred Europeans under our protection in Ourfa and Aleppo, it is suggested this communication be treated accordingly.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed): J. B. Jackson.

Consul.

Copy forwarded to the Department of State.

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