

AMERICAN EMBASSY\*  
CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 471

September 17, 1915

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 469, of the 16th instant, relative to the Armenian situation, I have the honor to enclose herewith for your information the translation, in duplicate, of a letter received from the Armenian Dashnakzoutioun Committee of Bucarest, dated September 5th, 1915.

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

[Signed] Morgenthau

Enclosure: as stated.

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\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/190

Translation.\*  
No. VI.

### **The Extermination of the Armenian People in Turkey.**

The Ottoman Government pursues without respite and with an unheard-of frenzy the work of extermination of the Armenian people of the Empire.

The few new facts which we shall relate are but episodes of the horrible crime committed in the darkness, crime without precedent even in the records of the Ottoman Empire.

#### I. Massacre in Angora

A dreadful massacre has taken place in Angora. Almost all men have been murdered, including ten Armenian-Catholic prelates and seventeen employees of the Railway Society. We lack details, but we have great fears not only for the fate of the Armenian population of Angora, but also for a great number of learned men, traders and young men who have been deported from Constantinople and environments as “political prisoners.”

#### 2. The Butcheries of Harput. (Report from an eyewitness.)

The expulsion of the Armenian population of Mamouret-ul-Aziz took place under most horrible conditions. More than eighteen hundred Armenian soldiers were ordered to start with the pretext that they were going to Diarbekir, and all were murdered on the way a few hours later. Two or three survivors were imprisoned. (In Diarbekir also all the Armenian soldiers were exterminated in the same way.) Then all the higher class people of the city of Harpout were arrested, including the vicar, Bessak Vartabet. They were taken to the Konak of the Government to be deported. There everything they possessed was taken from them, then they were fastened to each other and dragged out of the city; they were immediately murdered. Among the victims are mentioned all the professors of the Euphrates College, all learned men, etc. The Kaimakam carried off not only the wife of the unhappy professor Tenekedjian, but also his children and all his goods. Then began the expulsion of families. On the way all the very young children, as well as the pretty girls and women were carried off. The others were abandoned in the fields and died like flies. Many mothers, in despair, threw themselves with their children in the Euphrates. The daughter of a rich Armenian from Erzeroum was carried off by the Vali of Mamouret-ul-Aziz who offered her to Hodja Ilias Effendi, deputy of Mouche.

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\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/190

3. The Horrors of Cesarea.  
(Report from an eyewitness.)

Eighty-six Armenians have been hanged in Cesarea; among them was Hampartzoum Boyadjian, former deputy of Kozan who was deported from Constantinople. In the whole region of Cesarea the use of the word "Armenian" is forbidden. All those who infringe that regulation are brought before Court Martial. Instead of the term "Armenian" the term "microbe that must be destroyed" is used.

The Exodus in Cilicia:

Alep, July 28th. (Extract from an official report)

The Armenian population of Aintab and Kilis has been deported to Horan (Syria). Eight hundred persons are expected from Ourfa. As soon as the survivors of the population of Keghi and Harput reached Raz-el-Ain, they were sent to Deir-Zor (Mesopotamia). Hunger and epidemic sickness complete the extermination. The destruction of Jerusalem is only a small matter in comparison with the horrors suffered by the Armenian people of Turkey. The rapes of children of both sexes could not even approximately be counted or described. Armenian girls and women were sold for sixty piasters each. A whole nation is tortured in the name of the Cross. Thousands of Turkish pounds could not relieve the misery of the survivors. The orphanages of Deurt-Yol, Hadjin, Hassan-Beilli, Marache have been broken up. The order is that not "even a dying Armenian" is to be left in the towns and villages of Cilicia. The Armenians of Mersine, Tarsus and Marache will be expelled in the interior of Damas. A great number of Armenians of Kilis, in despair, have presented a petition asking for the favor of embracing Islamism.

The first two caravans of Aintab have been plundered and ill-treated. Order has been given for all the deported stopping in Aleppo to be immediately sent in the deserts. Only in Cilicia a population of more than 400,000 persons will be exterminated by hunger, and every day thousands of widows and orphans come from Armenia, deprived of everything, overwhelmed with terror of the bands, and with the sufferings of the journey. More than 200 men from Tomarza (Cesarea) and 52 of the village Bel-Verene of Yozgad have arrived in Aleppo. The government refuses to give them even a small piece of bread as it considers them as rebellious persons. These poor people are not even allowed to keep their shoes and their feet are full of sores.

Forty-two higher class Armenians have been hanged in Ourfa, including the patriarchal vicar and the Protestant ministers. We are informed that seventeen other Armenians have been recently hanged. The massacres continue at Diarbekir, threatening the regions of Aleppo. Travellers and Turkish officials arrived from Bagdad report that hundreds of corpses cover the fields and roads.

All men from Marache from 15 to 45 have been sent to Aintab to be deported to Deir-Zor. We have serious fears for their lives.

Two thousand widows and children below 10 years of age have arrived in Aleppo from the villages of Erzeroum and Sivas to be deported in the deserts of

Mesopotamia. This is the more horrible because in the province of Erzeroum alone the number of deported peasants rises to 15,000.

Konia. August 3/16: The expulsion of Armenians goes on with a merciless harshness. The storehouses of the Armenians were ordered to close in a limit of time of 24 hours, and the owners had not even time to get the money which they had in their coffers. The gendarmes carry off the few Armenian girls who are under the protection of the inhabitants of the city and leave them at the mercy of the Turks. A number of people deported from the region of Ismid have committed suicide in a lake. More than a hundred thousand people are waiting in the Railway station in great misery. The 6-7,000 deported from Zeitoun who were in Sultanic have been sent to Zor.

#### 5. "Armenia without the Armenians"

Recent information from reliable sources confirm the fact that the whole Armenian population from the provinces of Armenia has been annihilated. The Armenian soldiers who were serving as "Ameles" (workmen without arms) have been murdered en masse. The idea behind the massacres is the preventing of the birth of a new generation. With the exception of children from 1 to 2 years old who have been taken by Turks, almost all men, even dying old ones have been massacred. According to information from foreign travellers the number of victims murdered in that place is more than 200,000 persons. With these innumerable victims, the slaughters committed during the deportation, one can say without exaggeration that the motto so tenderly adopted by the Jeune Turc Government "Armenia without the Armenians" is an accomplished fact.

Dasnaktzoutioun Committee  
Balkan Section

September 22/5, 1915  
Bucarest.