

Copy for the Department of State*
AMERICAN CONSULATE
TREBIZOND

October 14, 1915

Honorable Henry Morgenthau,
American Ambassador,
Constantinople.

Sir:

Referring to the Embassy's telegraphic instruction No. 51 of August 30th and my reply of October 1st (file No. 840.1) regarding the exemption of all Protestants and Catholics from deportation, I have the honor to inform the Embassy that there is in Trebizond a woman of Italian origin by the name of Carolina Lakandella who married an Armenian (Ottoman subject). Her husband is now supposed to be dead, having been deported, and she desires to resume her Italian nationality. She is kept, along with Mrs. Shakardjian, the Protestant mentioned in my despatch of October 1st, a prisoner in the Red Crescent Hospital in this city. I requested the vali to release this woman on the ground that she really was not really an Armenian and secondly was a Catholic. He replied that there were a few Protestants and Catholics about whom he was writing to the Sublime Porte and thought that in time they might be allowed to go about their business. I am compelled to believe however that this is only a way of putting off the question and that he has no intention of releasing these women. Furthermore he denied the right of the Italian woman to revert to her original nationality without representations to the Sublime Porte and an Imperial Iradé, which, I am told, is not the requirement in a case of this kind.

Since writing the above I am informed that Mrs. Shakardjian has been transferred to the house of the Director General of the customs house here, a certain Bessim Effendi. He has one of her children which he took from the "Orphanage" when the children were being scattered in Mohammedan homes. I think she will be taken care of there, and is with her own child, but she has not been given her freedom by any means and is virtually a prisoner, as are all the Protestant and Catholic Armenian women and children who are left in this city. My understanding of the meaning of the Embassy's telegraphic instruction No. 51 was that Protestants and Catholics would not be affected by the deportation order, but my interpretation is not accepted

* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/224

by the local authorities. I know of four little Protestant girls in a Mohammedan home near the American school whose names have been changed and who are now treated as Mohammedans and there are many others in the same condition.

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

(signed) Oscar S. Heizer
American Consul

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