

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE\*  
SAMSOUN, TURKEY

Translation

July 10, 1915

Excellency:

**Concerning the Expulsion of Armenians.**

I have the honor to refer to my last report of the 27th ultimo.

Until now about 150 families have been converted to Islamism and the rest has been sent to the Interior. In Samsoun, there were about 5,000 Armenians who have been transferred in very bad conditions, that is, that lacking carriages, women and children parted from the head of the family were put on carts. In a word it was terrible.

The Mutessarif said that even the converted persons will not be able to stay here, and will have to go to Trebizond, Kerasounds, Merzifoun, Baffra, Fatza, etc. The Turks work very hard at the conversion.

A great part of the persons who have gone are now willing to follow the example of the 150 families converted; but it seems that it is too late now, and that they refuse to bring them back here, even though they embrace Islamism.

I am told that in the Interior groups of male Armenians have been formed, and that they were all massacred by 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 the time when all the dogs were gathered from Constantinople and sent to perish on an island.

The private houses of Armenians as well as their stores and depots have been sealed by the Government, but they have already begun to fill a good number of these dwellings with emigrants who will surely steal everything in them.

We do not also know what the Government will do with regard to the question of debts, etc. The Mutessarif promised to me that a commission would be appointed to set up the existing debts, but nothing more will be found until this is done.

There is among others the house Hochstrasser & Co. (Switzerland), which is known to be under American protection and which has to get a great deal from Armenian merchants. I gave the list of these debts to the Mutessarif. However, it would be a good thing if your Excellency took the necessary steps with the Ministry, so that very severe instructions should be given to the Mutessarif here, in order that

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the American interests be protected. I have had interviews with the German and Austrian Consuls to this effect, but in the present circumstances nothing satisfactory can be obtained unless there is a hard pressure from the headquarters.

I would be especially grateful if your Excellency could intervene with the Government for the freeing of the families Garabet Missirian & Bodossian, the latter Director of the house Missak Missirian Fils. We want to have them back here, because Missirian is a man of great honesty, who has never had anything to do with politics, so much so that I am ready to guarantee for him. As the Government has pardoned two Armenians, Manass & Papazian, I hope very much that Your Excellency will succeed in obtaining the same favor on behalf of the two respectable families I mentioned, and that the necessary will be done in order to have the Mutessarif instructed by wire, in case of success.

Thanking you in advance, believe me etc.

(Signed): W. Peter