

[STATEMENT OF FREDERICK W. MACCALLUM
CONSTANTINOPLE AND CAUCASUS]*

In regard to my personal knowledge of the sufferings of the Armenians, I may say I was in Constantinople up to July 15th, 1915. The massacres and deportations began the previous April but I was not in a position to actually see any of the things that were going on of that nature. All I know at first hand was:

1. The arrest of eighty leading Armenians in Constantinople including Mr. Keropian, who was one of those engaged in literary work in my department in the Bible House. These men were sent to Chorum. Some of them returned after two weeks: Mr. Keropian being one of this number.

2. I saw two men who had been deported from Zeitoon. They claimed to have been bitten by a mad dog. This gave them an excuse of coming to Constantinople to tell of their sufferings but, while I have no doubt of the truth of their story, I saw only these two men.

3. I saw hundreds of men in Constantinople dressed in a peculiar uniform, being drilled, as I supposed for military service. Afterwards they were sent off. On inquiry, I was informed that they were criminals condemned to penal servitude for life, but had been released from the prisons and given a certain amount of military training and then sent to take charge of the Armenians, who were being deported from various centers in Asia Minor.

4. In the Caucasus, what I saw with my own eyes was the presence on Russian soil of many thousands of Armenian refugees living under very hard conditions as regards food, clothing, bedding, housing, work and so forth. They had all come from Turkey where most of them had been well to do, some wealthy merchants, land owners and so forth, and all able to live comfortably. The proportion of men to the total number of refugees was noticeably small, in the case of some of the groups being not more than ten percent. Why were these people there? Their own explanation is that they fled to escape massacre and deportation by the Turks. They told of many of their number who failed to escape. For instance, I knew of a family of 17 members in the village of Caravanserai. When I congratulated them on their large family, they replied, "Twenty-five of our number were massacred before they could escape, our family consisted of forty-two persons." This was a typical proportion of losses, although the largest family I happened to meet.

I was in the Caucasus a year and a half. I was in constant contact with these Armenians and also with nearly one thousand Nestorians. I also visited the city of Van and surrounding districts. I was unable to find any evidence to disprove what the refugees said and very much to confirm it. Each of the 250,000 refugees in Russia is a tangible proof of the truth of the accounts of massacre and deportation. If the Turks were protecting them and treating them well why did they not go with the retreating Turkish armies, instead of taking refuge in a foreign land?

5. I saw 5,000 Armenian orphans being cared for in orphanages supported by the Russian government. Our Committee is supporting 5,000 more. In addition an investigation made by our Committee showed there were at least 10,000 more fatherless children for whom nothing special was being done, although they were just as needy as those being cared for. How can the existence of so many orphans be explained? These are the two facts I know in regard to the Caucasus and I believe they can explain only in accordance with the united testimony of the refugees themselves.

6. I heard a great many stories of individual sufferings of men flayed alive, hacked to pieces with axes, stoned to death, buried alive, burned to death, starved to death in holes of indescribable filth, of women outraged in the most cruel and disgusting manner, pregnant women ripped up, breasts cut off, delicate, refined young women compelled to travel day after day perfectly naked, innumerable cases of women being forced into Moslem harems; of children also tortured and killed in the most brutal manner. But

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all I have seen myself are some of the effects of this treatment, scars, sickness, insanity, fright, discouragement, desperation, hatred, desire for revenge on Turks, etc. which are fully accounted for by the stories of the refugees, but would be hard to explain on any other theory. I saw something of the same conditions in Persia, especially in Khoi. I am not in a position to give exact details in regard to individuals with names, dates and so forth.

I prepared a considerable amount of such material at Lord Bryce's request, but when I wrote it up I decided I could not send it in. I could not personally vouch for the truth of the stories, although there was every reason to believe they were substantially correct.

I think the Turks should not be allowed to govern anybody, not even themselves, but I believe the case against them rests not only on what they have done during this war but upon their whole history from the time they came to the country right down to the present time.

[Signed and dated] E. W. MacCallum, 1 Madison Ave., New York, April 10, 1918.