

September 25, 1986

Dr. Joseph Kassesian
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Athens
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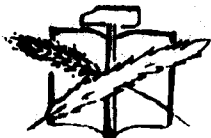
Dear Dr. Kassesian:

Thank you for your letter of September regarding the purchase of some of our publications for sale in Greece.

We appreciate your interest in our publications. However, we regret that we will not be able to send you the publications under the terms mentioned in your letter, as we have recently adopted a policy to accept orders on a cash basis to avoid long overdue accounts.

With prayers,

Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General



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KENTRO ARMENIKON MELETON
ΣΟΥΛΙΩΤΩΝ 2, 117 44 ΑΘΗΝΑ ΤΗΛ. 9015418

Athens, September 12, 1986

Dear compatriots,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Armenian Studies Center, which is a non-political association aiming at the preservation of the Armenian culture and at the peaceful promotion of the Hai Tad.

We would like to obtain some of your publications for selling in Greece. We usually ask for a 30% discount and a 3 months interval in order to sell the books and pay the author/publisher. In the past we had obtained some of your publications (Voice of Conscience/Saints for Children/Comrade Panchoonie) through Ashod Press. The titles that we would like to obtain now are the following:

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|---|----------|
| 1- Badvi Hamar | 3 copies |
| 2- Char Voki | 3 copies |
| 3- Gomidas Vardabet | 4 copies |
| 4- The Armenian Victories at Khznalous and Sardarabad | 8 copies |

If you can afford us the above conditions, please mail the books by ordinary (not registered) surface mail at the address: Dr. Joseph G. Kassesian, Soulioton 2, 117 44 Athens, Greece. Please send us also a complete price list of your bookstore for our future publications. Also, if you think you can offer a copy of the above books as gift to our center's library, you are urged to do it. The ASC library is the richest Armenian library in Greece and it is frequently consulted by Greek historians and journalists. We can offer you our own publications as gifts for the Diocese library upon your request. Our publications are in Greek and include some books on Genocide (Faaz El Ghousein, Henry Barby etc.)

Please find two clippings included in this letter. They are meant to be a further recommendation on our work. People that could inform you about us include Mr. Ara Baliozian, Mr. Avedis Derounian, Mr. Jack Antreasian etc.

In the hope that we will hear from you soon,
I remain sincerely your's

Joseph G. Kassesian

Dr. Joseph G. Kassesian
Secretary, A. S. C.



The Armenian Genocide: The "Unknown" Testimony of a Greek Doctor

By Joseph Kassessian

Themselves one of the pebbles in the multi-ethnic mosaic of the Ottoman society and living in close contact with the Armenians, whose sinister fate they were to share some years later the Greeks of Asia Minor became reluctant eye-witnesses to the great tragedy that befell the Armenian people during World War I. As a matter of fact the testimonies of the Ottoman Greeks concerning the wholesale massacre of the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire would amount to a voluminous assembly of documents. However, no serious attempt was ever made to collect and register these testimonies in what would have become library of irrefutable documents. Today, several decades after the events, it seems that this chance has gone forever. As a matter of fact there is no more than a handful of elderly survivors to whom the researcher could appeal in search of material concerning the events of those years. However, Greek literature concerning the events of 1914-1922 is quite rich. Quite a few Greeks who witnessed the events of those years have published their memoirs in which there are references of various length concerning the plight of the Armenian nation.

The following testimony is extracted from a collection entitled "The Greek Sources on the Armenian Genocide" to be published in the near future by the Armenian Studies Center of Athens, Greece. Michael N. Efklidis, an Ottoman Greek physician from the town of Ligda (Adakide) enlisted in the Ottoman army on October the 22nd, 1914 and served in it with the grade of Captain-doctor for "4 years, 2 months and 2 days" as he states himself. He followed the Ottoman army in Cilicia, then in the invasion in Persian Azerbaidjan and in the ensuing retreat to Anatolia. During his service, he registered his daily experiences in the form of short

notes. Efklidis came to Greece in September, 1922 after the evacuation of Smyrna. In 1929, he published his diary in a 174 page book published in Athens. The references of Efklidis' diary to the Armenian genocide are short and fragmentary so that it can not be said that they constitute a major source on the whole process of the above-mentioned genocide but they have their own special value as an unbiased testimony of an eye-witness.

December 20, 1919: . . . In the midnight we enter Dort Yol, an Armenian village engulfed by orange trees and various plants. The inhabitants are industrious and live on the orange commerce. Unfortunately this year they have not been able to make some profit out of it because of the war. It was in these places that the great massacres of the Armenians [he is referring to the 1909 massacre] took place.

April 4, 1915: [In the valley of Ourmia, Persian Azerbaidjan] Proceeding in a valley covered with plants, we see to our right and left many beautiful, small Armenian villages which have now been destroyed by the Kurds.

April 15, 1915: [Reference to the battle against the Russians at Dilman, Persian Azerbaidjan]. We too move forwards and we camp at Tchork Yol, one hour's distance from the front. At 9 a.m. the battle begins again. We watch with our Commander from the top of a hill the battle that takes place down at the plain. The Turkish troops take hold of the Armenian villages in front of Dilman and the Kurd irregulars are sacking them, taking away carpets and earthen vats and hens and cows and whatever they happen to find.

April 29, 1915: This afternoon we received the order of general retreat towards the district of Van and we start immediately at 5 p.m. We walk all night and at dawn we reach a Kurdish village whose inhabitants, fearing the revenge of the Armenians serving in the Russian ar-

Books

**TURKISH ADMISSIONS
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

Edited by Sifi Kassesslan.

109 pages. Illustrated.

Published by the Center for Armenian Studies
(Soliuton 2, Athens 117-44, Greece). 1985.

(In Greek.)

The present official Turkish line is clear and uncompromising. The 1915 Genocide never happened. It is a figment of the Armenian imagination. Armenians died, certainly. But Turks died too. Perhaps many more Turks than Armenians.

In this preface, Dr. Joseph Kassessian rightly asserts that the Turks are guilty of two crimes against humanity: one, committing the Genocide, and two, covering it up, thus denying the rights of the survivors. He goes on to point out that in the years following World War I, there were no official denials of the Genocide, perhaps because its memory was still very much alive in the victims, the perpetrators, and in

Reviewed by Ara Baliozian

millions of people throughout the world as a result of countless newspaper articles and editorials dealing with the massacres.

The purpose of the book under review is to stress the fact that Turkish denials of the Genocide have never been consistent and inolithic. As recently as 1980, for instance, the Turkish Communist Party published the following resolution:

"The genocide perpetrated in Turkish Armenia by the Turkish chauvinist is one of the most barbaric atrocities ever witnessed in history. The chauvinist governments of Turkey have taken the lives of millions of Armenians and pillaged their possessions. Those who were able to save their lives were forced to emigrate from the lands on which they had lived for thousands of years and dispersed throughout the world. Today, only 100,000 Armenians, out of a total 6.5 million world population, half of which are living in the Soviet Union, are in Turkey."
(From Turkey Today, March-April, 1980, p. 28, London.)

This collection of writings (extracts from memoirs, historical works, official documents, reports, newspaper articles, poems, etc.) brings together those Turks who are not afraid to speak the truth. This is indeed an original approach to an important issue that deserves to have a corresponding volume in English. We, Armenians in the English-speaking world, have emphasized the testimony of victims and survivors, all the while ignoring the fact that the murderer has already signed a partial confession.