

Armenian Atrocities in and around Oltu

A sworn statement by HanuszadeHuneys and his brother Ramiz refugees from Oltu, as to the savageries and atrocities committed by Armenian bands at Oltu and its environs who had guided the Russian Army

"We were living in the farms at a distance of three hours walking from Oltu. The Armenian bands attacking this area seized the property of the muslim population inhabiting the districts of Sivri and Navurman and violated infamously muslim women.

The Armenians attacking the villages of Yiniskerd, Ornek, Chevlagir, Oghdadab, Haydus and Kamis killed all men saying "You invited the Ottoman troops" and violated women and tore children into pieces in front of their parents. After having put together all the men of the village of Penesgir in front of the mosque and planted around armed Armenians as sentries, they went into the interior of the village, plundered houses, violated women and killed children.

An armed band of 150 Armenians attacked the village of Keban, separated all the women from the rest and took them to an oak wood nearby, violated them by force and killed many of those helpless women. In the village of Pernik in the district of Oltu, the muslim population were almost annihilated by Armenians, the corpses were thrown into ditches and little children were also buried alive together with the corpses." (*Ermeni Komitelerinin Âmâl ve Harekât-ı İhtilâliyesi. [Aspirations and revolutionary movements of the Armenian parties]. pp. 321-323.*)

Another document (*BOA. HR. SYS. HU, 136, 1919 VI 21 (See: Annex-6)*) testifying to the atrocities and genocide perpetrated by Armenians against the people living in Karaorgan, Sarikamish, Kars and Oltu is also available in the Ottoman Archives.

A document dated July 26, 1919 kept in the Ottoman Archives tells more about the atrocities and genocide committed by Armenians at Oltu:

"The British Representative Rawlinson acknowledges, in his report that he prepared at the end of his inspection he carried out on both sides of the boundary, that the Armenians committed massacres on the frontline from Oltu to Bayezid and points out that the allies should immediately send troops to this region. With this report, Rawlinson strives to convince the British to send troops again to the Caucasus." (*BOA. HR. SYS. HU, 136, 1919 VII 25 (See: Annex-7)*)