

Armenian Atrocities and Genocide in and around Diyarbakir

Let me quote some passages from the conclusions of the investigation conducted by the provincial authority regarding the massacres and atrocities committed by Armenians in Diyarbakir and its environs:

"1. An armed band headed by a villain by the name of Doryon Dono, from the Armenian village of Bashnak in the district of Silvan,

suddenly attacked on June 28, 1915 a convoy of more than 500 mules carrying goods under the command of Militia Officer Hacı Hamid Effendi, protected by a sufficient number of gendarmes and militiamen, at a place called Şeytan Kaya, while fording a brook, and cruelly martyred most of them.

2. When a number of soldiers discharged from the Army with a leave for changing climate arrived at the neighbourhood of the Armenian villages of Kum and Chum in the district of Lice, they were attacked by the band members living in these villages and were killed with daggers, some of them with heads cut off, others with arms and feet tied up.

3. Those Armenians, who can use arms, from the inhabitants of the villages of Arzuoglu and Shanıkuy, in the district of Shark, formed a band headed by the notorious Hono from Hotan and, taking advantage of the absence of most men, faraway in the Army, attacked the muslim village of Hizir İlyas and gathered all the women and children that they met in the village or in the fields and dragged them all to a brook called Mersinderesi and tragically killed them there by shooting or by dagger. They cut some of them into pieces like a wicked butcher. Before putting to death they violated women.

4. The Armenian workers working on the road Siverek-Urfa revolted and killed the gendarmes, then beginning to act as bandits in the neighbourhood prevented the old men and women from visiting a holy place at a site called Karataş that they had encountered there and planted them all as targets at a distance of 300 meters, aimed their guns at them and killed them all. As is to be understood from such incidents, which are rather numerous, Armenians have sworn to treat muslims badly and pitilessly." (Ermeni Komitelerinin Âmâl ve Harekât-ı İhtilâliyesi. [Aspirations and revolutionary movements of the Armenian parties]. pp. 318–319. Photographs showing this savagery and atrocities are included in the book.)