

# THE VATICAN AND THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



“Who speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”

- Adolf Hitler  
on 21. August 1939



# In the Vatican Secret Archives...

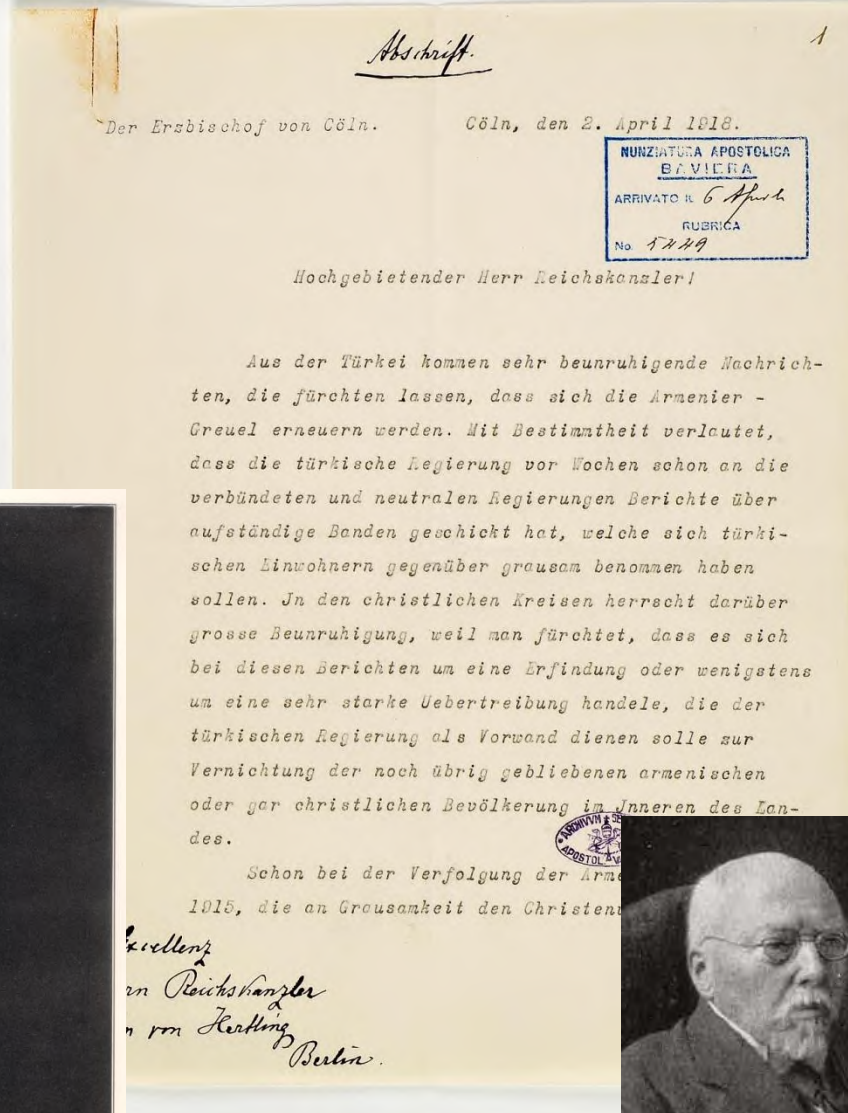


Cortile de Belvedere, Vatikan





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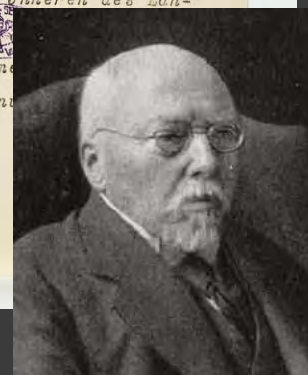


"Even during the persecution of the Armenians in 1915, compared to which the persecutions of the first centuries of Christianity were not inferior to cruelty, often the opinion was expressed that the German government, and especially the German Catholics will be made responsible before God and history for this abomination, if they would not try anything to prevent those excesses."



Dr. Felix von Hartmann  
Erzbischof von Köln.

Letter of the Cologne Archbishop  
Dr. Felix Card. von Hartmann to  
Cancellor of the Reich Graf von  
Hertling, 2. April 1918





# July 1916: Seven German Mission-Benedictines on the Way to Mossul

(including Clodesindis Lüken, Pulcheria von Dalwigk-Lichtenfels)

„Deep drooped sideways cliffs to gloomy canyons from which the strong odor of decay rose, originating from the Corpses of Christian Armenians, of which thousands and thousands were thrown down there by the Turks. Everywhere in the villages, Christian churches were destroyed...



Die Bagdadbahn mit ihren Anschlusslinien.





*"Many men, women and children roamed ragged and homeless through the area, begging timid and frightened for bread. Here and there other flocks were driven to death. The Germans could not do anything to help them, because their own generals had approved these atrocities of the Turkish ally. "*



*„How many times the silence of the night was interrupted and in the sleeping tent of the sisters they heard the lamentation of the Christians who were still driven out of their villages to be massacred by the Turks. How terrible were the events told to them Under tears by the white-bearded patriarch: more than 100 of his villages were devastated And deserted. The best of his few Priests had been literally hewn into pieces by The Islamist hatred. “*

*(From the necrologue book of their Order)*



# The Young Turk Revolution

The throne of Abdülhamids II was shakened when in Turkey a new revolutionary political movement reached out for power.

The Young Turks were young Muslim academics and social climbers, who were inspired by the European revolutions and the ideals of freemasonry.

They followed the vision of an "integral nationalism" (Charles Maurras), a ideologically unified, homogeneous folk community, which initiated fascism in the west. Instead of "race", they declared Sunni Islam the unifying factor. Similar to pangermanism and panslavism, they postulated panturkism, the idea of the superiority of the Turkish race. Their "therapy" to "heal" the "sick" multiethnic state was to remove its "tumors" - the "non-Turkish", non-Islamic elements, including the "Armenian parasite race".



To come to power, the Young Turks promoted the ideals of the French Revolution: liberty, equality, Fraternity. They found support within all enemies of the Ancien Regime, including the Armenians, whom they promised equal rights and relative autonomy in a decentralized State.

In Thessaloniki, the stronghold of Freemasonry in the Ottoman Empire, they began their revolution in 1908. Enver Pasha threatened the Sultan with a "march against Constantinople", when Abdülhamid II bowed and put the Constitution of 1877 back in force.



They celebrated the new freedom - and clashed with the supporters of the Sultan and Islam, who saw a threat to the Sharia and were afraid of its misuse. Other nations used Turkey's weakness. Bulgaria declared its independence, Austria-Hungary occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina, Crete joined Greece. The revolution was disenchanted, the counter-revolution followed. In Adana Armenians were accused of separatism: 20,000 Christians were massacred: burned, skinned, crucified, cut into pieces. The counter-revolution was violently suppressed by the Young Turks, who replaced the Sultan by his apathetic and sickly half brother Mehmed V (1909-18). An "Act to prevent separatism" put an end to the Armenian hopes now.





## The triumvirate takes over power

In the Balkan wars 1912-13 Armenians fought for the first time on the side of the Turks. But the War was lost, resulting in a catastrophic loss of territory for the Ottoman Empire.

In the Young Turk hierarchy, the military hardliners took over power and removed all liberal forces. The new "spearhead" of the movement was a triumvirate of unscrupulous social risers: The brawny strongman Talaat Bey as Interior Minister, the vain "Napoleonik" Enver Pasha as minister of war and the equally autocratic Cemal as Navy Minister. The Grand Vizier Said Halim, an Egyptian prince, was their puppet like the Sultan himself. With their seizure of power, the time of the "Young Turk terror" began. Hundreds of political opponents were deported or killed. The Christian minorities were scapegoats, made responsible for all defeats. "Turkey for the Turks" was now their motto. First, 150,000 Greeks were expelled, 50.000 deported.

# The „Holy War“

With the outbreak of World War I, Turkey had finally an excuse to “postpone” all reforms in the Armenian provinces, once promised to the Western powers.

Talaat and Enver gladly accepted the German offer to join World War I as “brothers in arms”.

They expected the Armenians to stir up their transcaucasian brothers to revolt against Russia, a plan which was refused by them as unrealistic. For the Young Turks, this was already a betrayal.

The Armenians were still loyal to the Ottoman Empire and enlisted in high numbers to the troops, hoping that their loyalty would be rewarded.



On 14 November 1914, the Sheikh-ul-Islam on behalf of the Sultan declared the war to be a Jihad and called the 300 million Muslims to fight on the side of the Central Powers against the West:

"Know that now the blood of infidels in Islamic countries must be shed with impunity ... as the Holy Qur'an commands, take them and kill them wherever you find them ... whoever kills an infidel will be rewarded by Allah. . "



# Harassment of the Church

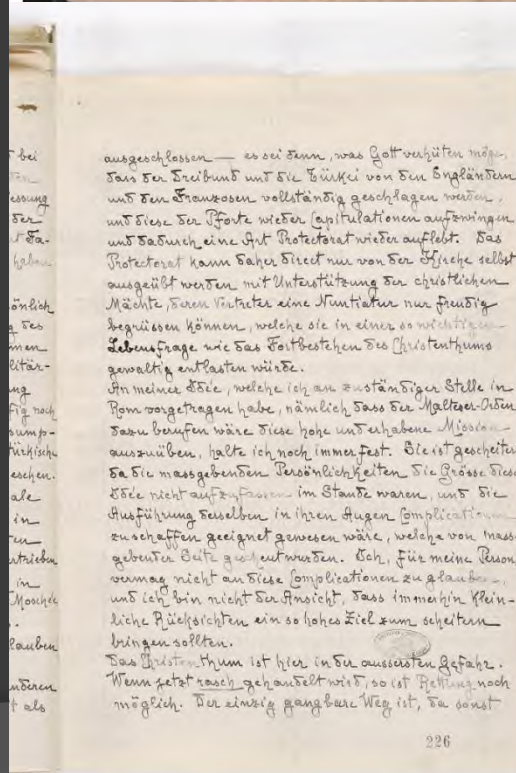
In December 1914, the new Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Angelo Maria Dolci arrived in Constantinople. He found his Church in distress.

"The Turkish government plans to arrest priests and nuns from the warring nations and deport them to Concentration camps in the interior of the country", the Apost. Delegate for Syria, Msgr. Giannini, had just reported.

The German Hans Graf Blome wrote on 6.02.1915 to the Vatican: "I can only state that the situation is a highly critical one and Catholicism and Christianity are in danger to perish completely in the East, if His Holiness does not act in an extraordinary way, as soon as possible."



Notre-Dame de Sion - Constantinople — Féri Keuî



Monsignor Angelo Maria Dolci,  
 Arcivescovo titolare di Gerapoli.



The Turkish lies before  
the genocide



## The „revolt“ of Zeitoun

Zeitoun was an Armenian enclave in Cilicia. Its inhabitants had been disarmed already in December 1914 without any resistance. Only when the Turks tried to arrest a group of Armenian deserters in March 1915 there were riots. The deserters took refuge in an abandoned monastery, there was a shoot-out with 20-30 dead, including a Turkish officer.

The Turks immediately claimed that a revolt took place in Zeitoun. 6000 soldiers occupied the city. First, the local dignitaries were arrested and deported, then the remaining 24,000 residents. One third was sent to the malarial swampland of Konya, two-thirds to Deir el-Zor in the Syrian desert.

... The legend of the "Armenian uprising" was born.



# The Van revolt

The first Turkish campaign against Russia ended in a fiasco. Tenthousands of Envers badly equipped soldiers died in the snow. The Armenians were presented scapegoats and blamed for the defeat.

Instead of using the spring for a new campaign against Russia, the troops invaded the Ottoman province (vilayet) of Van, mainly inhabited by Armenians, pillaged armenian villages and took revenge. In only three days, 80 villages were devastated and 24,000 Armenians killed. Now also the Armenians of the city of Van feared for their lives, when the Turkish vali Cevdet Bey demanded 4000 volunteer for war. The Armenians offered 500 soldiers and the usual exemption money for the rest. In Cevdets eyes, this was already a revolt. While he requested troops, the Armenians built trenches and barricaded themselves. The siege of Van began and Cevdet gave order: "The Armenians have to be wiped out!"



In the next four weeks 12,000 shells were fired at Van, transforming the city into a wasteland of ruins. Then the Russians advanced into the province, the Turks fled. The Turks lied about the "revolt" with inflating numbers. When in 1916 it was claimed that "hundreds" of soldiers and Muslim civilians were "murdered", the Turkish propaganda later claimed that "180.000 Turks were massacred by Armenians - when only 30,000 Turks lived in the whole province!"



## Constantinople, 24 April 1915



Just before the British enemy landed in Gallipoli, Talaat stroke. In the night of April 24-25 originally 270, later 600 Armenian dignitaries and intellectuals from Constantinople were arrested and deported to Central Anatolia. Despite thorough searches of their homes, no evidence of a conspiracy or contacts with the enemy was discovered Nevertheless, all but 16 who managed to escape, were murdered.

In the next four weeks, all over the country 2635 more Armenian dignitaries were arrested, deported and murdered. "They beheaded the Armenian nation", the German pastor and Armenia expert Dr. Johannes Lepsius commented, when he, as one of the first, informed the world on the Turkish crimes.

Since this day, April 24 is internationally recognized as the Armenian genocide remembrance day.



# Not a rebellion, but ....

".. It appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion. "

- US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau to the State Dept. Washington, 16/7/1915

July 1910: At the Ittihat Party Congress in Thessaloniki as an "alternative the deportation of all Christian subjects ... or a violent action" was discussed. (T.Akcam)

October 1911, the Young Turk Congress in Thessaloniki decided: "Turkey has to become an overall Muslim nation." (Lepsius)

January 1914: A "Plan to homogenize Anatolia" by deporting Armenians to Mesopotamia, was mentioned in the press - and denied . (Golos Moskv)

March 1915: "A general and final cleansing" with the purpose to "exterminate the Armenians completely", since the war offered "the best possible opportunity ." (Dr. Nazim Bey, confirmed by vali Sabit Bey to Consul Dr. Paul Black on 16.3.15)



Secretary of State,  
Washington.

THIRD  
JUL 20 1915  
SECRETARY

858, July 16, 1 p m.

~~Confidential.~~ Have you received my 841? / Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eye witnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion.

Protests as well as threats are unavailing and probably incite the Ottoman government to more drastic measures as they are determined to disclaim responsibility for their absolute disregard of capitulations and I believe nothing short of actual force which obviously United States are not in a position to exert would adequately meet the situation.) Suggest you inform belligerent nations and mission boards of this.

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,

Constantinople



A law passed by the Turkish Parliament on 27 May 1915 became the basis for the deportation of the Armenians

*"Article 1: During the state of war, the commanders of the army corps, armies and divisions are ... authorized and obliged to punish immediate and lasting all by force of arms, which oppose in any way the orders of the government of national defense and to maintain order .*

*Article 2: The commanders of the army ... may out of a military necessity and in the case they find indications of espionage or treason remove the citizens of villages or cities either in part or in total and resettle them at other places."*





“Received information that hundreds of Armenians, including many Catholic families, flee from persecution by Muslims. Rumors of massacres, whether true or spread intentionally, accompany these movements. The actions of ambassadors of two allied powers were unsuccessful. Report follows. ”

In early June 1915, the first rumors about the genocide arrived at the Vatican. Msgr. Angelo M. Dolci sent an encrypted telegram via Vienna



A.C.O., Armeni del  
Patriarcato 1891-1926,  
105, Fasc. 3, n. 36771





Notes  
sur les événements dans les provinces concernant les Armén. Cath.

M. Israélian, Evêque de Kharpouth télégraphiait le 28 Juin qu'il avait reçu du Gouvernement local l'ordre de partir, avec son personnel, pour Alep le 1 Juillet. Il a dit qu'en effet huit jours après, ils sont partis et que des centaines d'Armén. Cath. avaient reçu le même ordre.

De Diarbékir on ne peut avoir aucune nouvelle ni de M. l'Evêque ni des Religieuses; les dépêches expédiées par diverses personnes et celles expédiées par le Patriarche pour la recherche d'un Notable arménien catholique du pays, n'ont pas été reçues sans réponse.

On dit qu'il y a eu un massacre à Mardin que l'Archevêque Arm. Cath. M. Maloyan et 700 catholiques auraient été massacrés. On dit que le village est entièrement inhabité exclusivement d'Arméniens catholiques, dans le même diocèse, a été complètement rasé et les habitants massacrés. On dit qu'on attachait les hommes un à l'autre pour les jeter dans le fleuve et les voyer. Les femmes vendaient leurs enfants pour se racheter de l'argent pour acheter du pain.

On dit que l'expulsion en masse des Arméniens de Malatya a été faite et que les habitants qui y étaient restés, on n'a aucune nouvelle dans le diocèse de Sivas, à Tokat et de Massara.

On dit que le général des Arméniens catholiques et non catholiques de Trébizonde même, de Samsoun et de Marasivan, n'ont pas été pris à part, conduits dans un village et y ont été massacrés; on ne sait pas le sort de la ville de le supporter.

On dit que tous les villages habités par les Arméniens catholiques et les habitants envoyés dans des villes lointaines ont été tués, parmi lesquels le frère de M. Maloyan, M. Zeytoun et Albiscan ont été évacués par la disparition de tous les catholiques.

On dit que les Arméniens catholiques de Trébizonde 200 familles ont été pris à part, conduits dans un village et y ont été massacrés; on ne sait pas le sort de la ville de le supporter.

On dit que les Arméniens catholiques de Malatya ont subi une persécution systématique; on veut éradiquer le christianisme.

On dit que les Arméniens catholiques de Malatya ont été conduits à Hamid, pour être convertis à l'Islam.

On dit que les gens valides sont employés au terrassement dirigé dans des régions ignorées.

On dit que les Arméniens catholiques d'Adana, y a un mois, ont été envoyés à Alep et que les gens bien éduqués ont été dirigés sur Alep et que les Arméniens sont enrôlés jusqu'à 30 ans et grande nombre.

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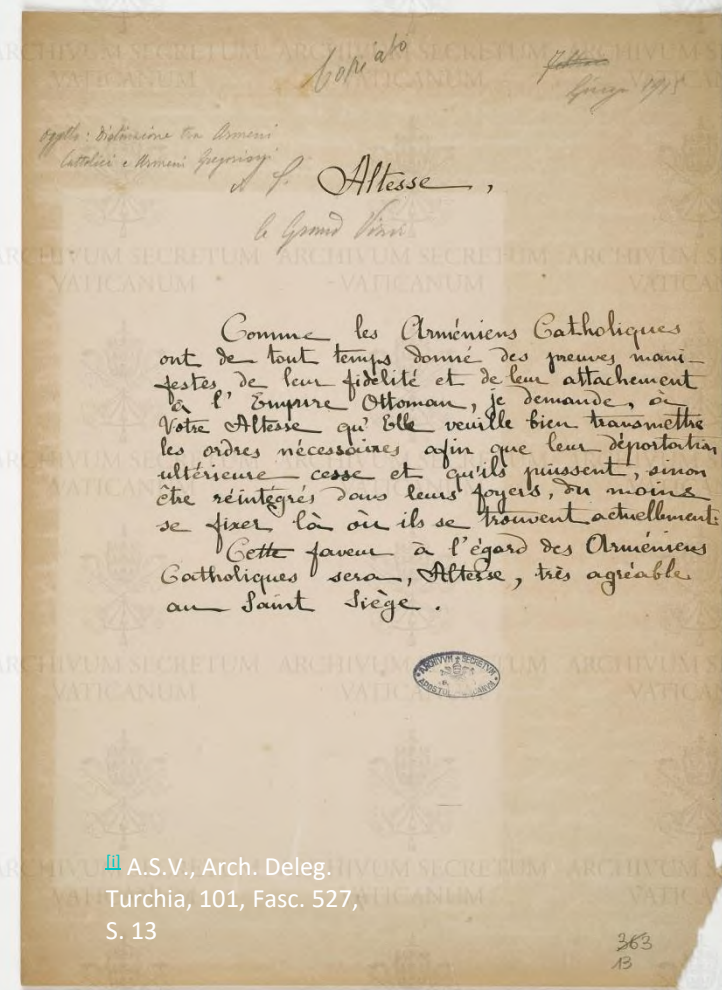
## The Martyr Bishop of Mardin

The case of the Armenian Catholic Archbishop of Mardin, Msgr. Ignatius Maloyan, shocked the Vatican. Still in April, the Sultan had him honored. 10 days later the Turks stormed his residence, searched for weapons. There were none. On June 3, 1915, the feast of Corpus Christi, gendarmes dragged him into the yard, put him and 28 priests and religious in chains, arrested 860 faithful. When they refused to convert to Islam, they were jailed and tortured, one after the other, by the bastonade and "found guilty". Their verdict was announced after a week: deportation. At night, the first 447 Christians were split into 11 groups and lead away from the city, where they were robbed and killed by the gendarmes- among them the bishop. He was beatified on 7/10/2001 by Pope John Paul II and is venerated as a holy martyr. The notables were followed by the remaining men, then the women and children; on July 20 alone, 12,000 were slain. Most girls and boys were sold into slavery.

## Early July 1915: The first protest of the Apostolic Delegate sent to the Grand Vizier

*"Your Highness, the Armenian Catholics have at all times provided clear evidence of their loyalty and their ties with the Ottoman Empire, which is why I ask Your Highness, if you would be good enough to give the necessary instructions to stop their deportation and, if possible, let them return to their homes or at least let them settle where they are right now.*

*This favor regarding Armenian Catholics, your Highness, would be seen with great benevolence by the Holy See."*



On July 19, he wrote to Cardinal Girolamo Gotti:

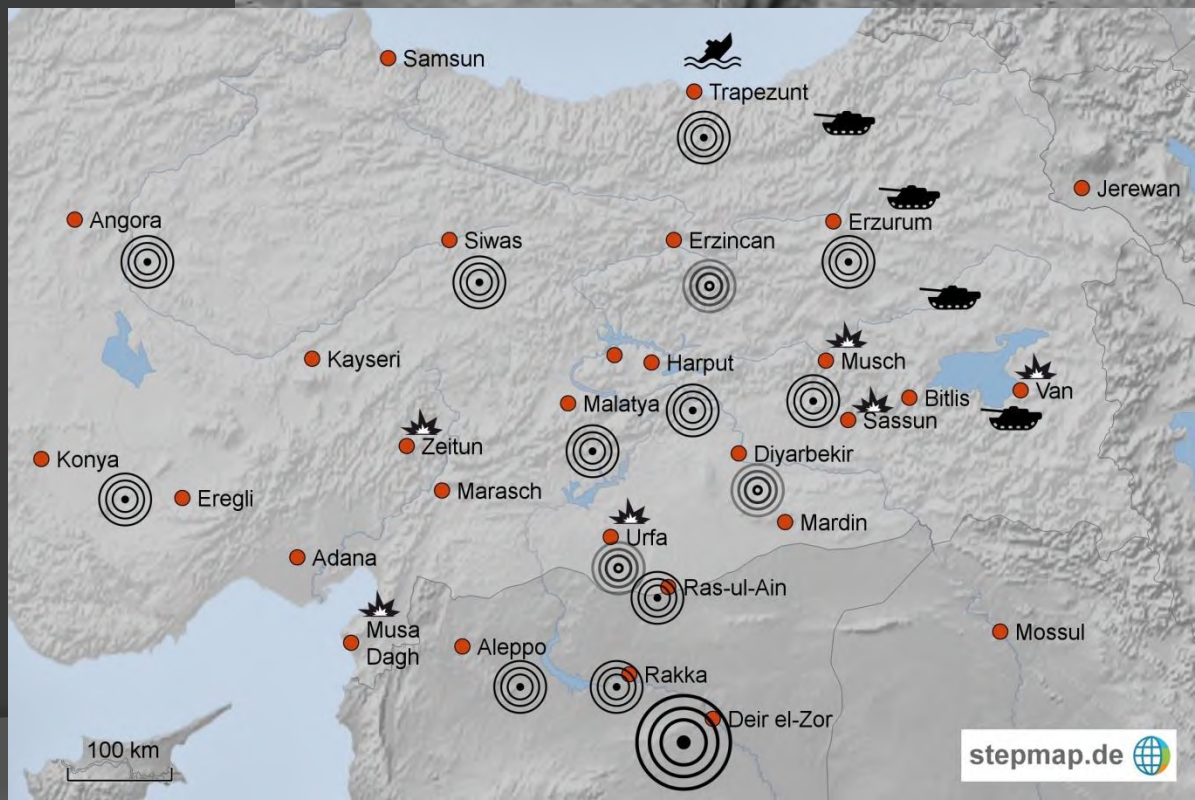
*"Now you understand what this government is doing to harm the non-Muslim population of Asia Minor. The Christian powers would have the duty to intervene."*



# The Topography of Terror

On August 20, 1915 Msgr.  
Dolci telegraphed to  
Cardinal Secretary of  
State  
Pietro Gasparri

*"Terrible atrocities were committed by this government against innocent Armenians inside the (Ottoman) Empire. In some regions they were massacred, others deported to unknown places, to die on the way from hunger. Mothers sold their children to protect them from a certain death. I am working tirelessly to stop this barbarism"*



Msgr. Angelo M. Dolci  
on 20.8.1915  
in a report to  
Cardinal Secretary of State  
Pietro Gasparri:



*"It is impossible to get an idea of what is happening in the interior. The entire Armenian population is systematically driven brutally from their towns and villages and deported to unknown places. Sometimes they allow these unfortunates, to transport the elderly, sick and children and their most urgent items with carts. But most of all those poor people have to travel by foot and in larger groups through the arid countryside, where many of them are killed by complete exhaustion, suffering and privations of all kinds after a few days. Others are given armed escorts, who, under the pretext of protecting them, unfortunately turn out to be the greatest danger for the deportees. In fact, many of these caravans, when they reached more remote areas, were massacred by their leaders (the gendarmes)."*

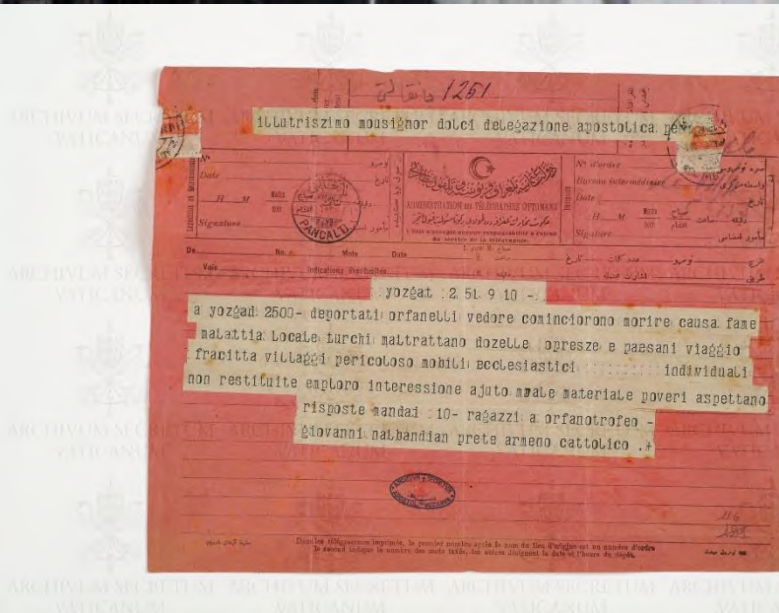


# Yozgat



Telegram with the dramatic request for help by the Armenian Catholic priest Giovanni Natbandian to Msgr. Dolci from (20?) August 1915:

*"In Yozgat 2500 deported orphans and widows begun to die of hunger and disease. The native Turks desecrate the young girls. The trips are dangerous. Ecclesiastical vessels were not returned. I ask for intercession and material help. The poor are waiting for an answer. I sent 10 boys to the orphanage."*





# Malatya



An eye witness from Malatya arrived in Constantinople at the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate: When they began the search for weapons on June 7, the Armenians fled in their church, were besieged and starved by the Turks. Others, brought under the pretext of checking their papers to the police station, were detained and tortured to learn about the hiding place of supposed weapons. Then the gendarmes brought the men in groups into the mountains and killed them with axes. "Two weeks later, the bands (special units) arrived in Malatya and began to rob and destroy ". The women were brought "for their safety" to Urfa, but were robbed and raped and eventually murdered on their way. The Armenian Catholic priest Marie The Stepan was imprisoned and brutally tortured: "Two gendarmes tore him by his beard, pulled him to the ground and beated him; when the priest cried in pain, they mocked him: 'You're dead ' In fact, he died in the same night under the torture." Gregorian Vicar General The Mouchegh also ended in prison, "where they split his skull after he spent eight days without bread and water in an underground dungeon, after they pulled out his nails and had cut his flesh to learn his secrets. "

Incidents de MALATYA, racontés par un témoin oculaire.

Le 7 Juin un crieur public a invité les turcs et les arméniens à livrer leurs armes et en même temps l'église des arméniens a été prise sous sergent et l'église des arméniens a été pendant trois jours creusée; on n'a rien fait à l'église des arméniens. Mais après avoir fini tout on a détruit la fontaine de cour et le bassin et on a fait des fouilles. Au commencement les arméniens n'ont voulu livrer les armes et la-dessus les hommes ont été mis en prison et les maisons ont été perquisitionnées. Pour mettre les gens en prison il fallait trouver sur eux un journal ou un livre quelconque, même en langue turque ou une lettre quelconque fabriquée même et que l'on laissait dans les maisons malgré les protestations des locataires. Sous prétexte que ses papiers seraient utiles les hommes restaient en prison ainsi que les jeunes gens et les enfants. On a en prison d'abord les révolutionnaires, ensuite les étudiants et les professeurs et au dernier lieu tous les hommes, de sorte qu'il ne restait libres que les femmes âgées de 8 ans seulement.

Quatre jours après on a relâché les enfants jusqu'à 12 ans pour ceux jeunes gens eulés encore, croyant que tout était fini, sont sortis, tandis que ce procédé était fait pour tromper afin de faire sortir les eulés; en effet aussitôt après on a arrêté tous avec les enfants qui avaient été relâchés et on les a mis en prison. Les enfants qui avaient été relâchés en certains cas des linges blancs sur ce les avait dépouillé dans la prison. On ôtait les habits des eulés on leur liait leurs bras et leurs pieds on les battait et on les plongait dans l'eau et les on retirait en les battant de nouveau et on exigeait de livrer leurs armes. Sur ce tous ont livré leurs armes et ceux qui n'en avaient pas ont vendit d'argent pour acheter des armes, acheter à 20, 40 L.T. Les turcs qui étaient autorisés à vendre, des armes pour les livrer. Quelques uns turcs ont résisté et ont livré leurs armes après les avoir eulés. En ajoutant sur ces armes confisquées des canons et autres armes militaires on a tiré des photographies et on les a envoyés par tel jour. Après avoir fini cette opération on a conduit pendant la nuit les hommes sur grande dans les montagnes et on les a assassinés par des coups de hache.

On a conduit et emprisonné en ville et fait subir les mêmes cruautés environ trois mille jeunes gens qui s'étaient inscrits et travaillant sur l'école.

Deux semaines après ces bandes sont arrivées à Malatya et ont commencé à dévaliser et dévaster; tout le monde a commencé à crier de toute part on criait au secours; le gouverneur a envoyé ses soldats et après avoir circulé presque six fois autour de la ville et n'ayant rien trouvé, il a reproché au peuple d'avoir, sans motif, provoqué de pareils bruits.

Après cela le gouverneur a fait dire par un crieur public aux gens de trois gendarmes et d'un agent de police que tout le monde devait vendre ce qu'il pouvait prendre ce qu'il pouvait et partir de suite pour Urfa. Les gens ont commencé à pleurer et à crier et à commander leurs maris et à jeter les papiers pour les causer ce leur a fait dire qu'après leur départ leurs maris les suivraient, et arrivés après elles. En outre afin de faire sortir ceux qui





# Erzurum

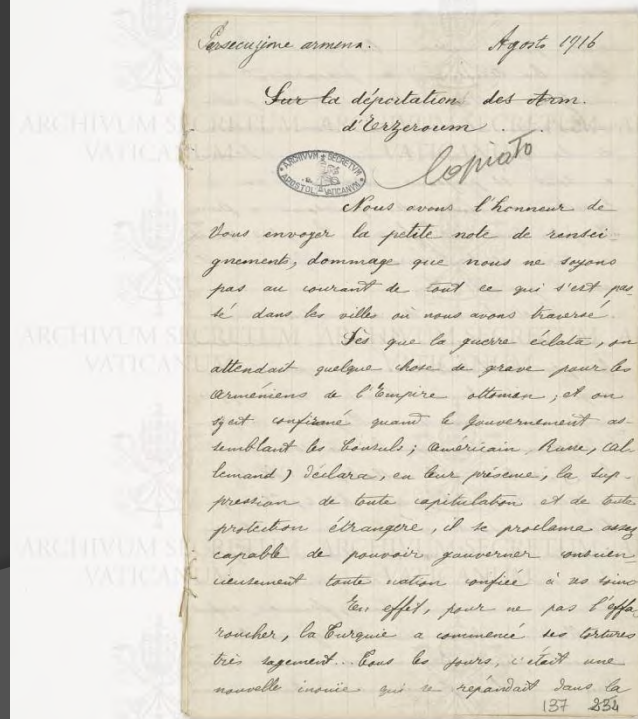
A 13 pages report „On the Deportation of the Armenians of Erzerum“, written by a Catholic nun, which managed to escape, was found in the Vatican Secret Archives.



Msgr. Dolci summarized:

*"There were 3,000 Catholic families in the diocese. Been the first to be deported ... There is no information about 40 or 50 priests of the diocese ... When the faithful of the diocese were partly sent to Harput, partly to Urfa and Deir el-Zor, by far the largest part of them was raided and murdered, with the exception of the dissidents (converts to Islam)."*

A.C.O., Armeni del Patriarcato 1891-1926, rubr. 105, Nr. 37021





# Harput

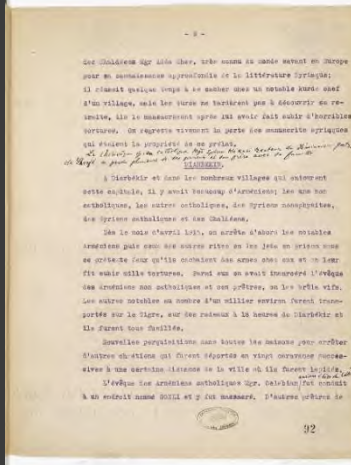
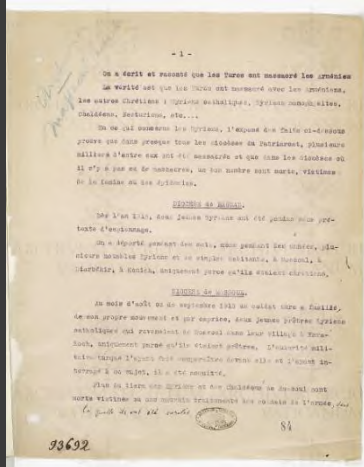
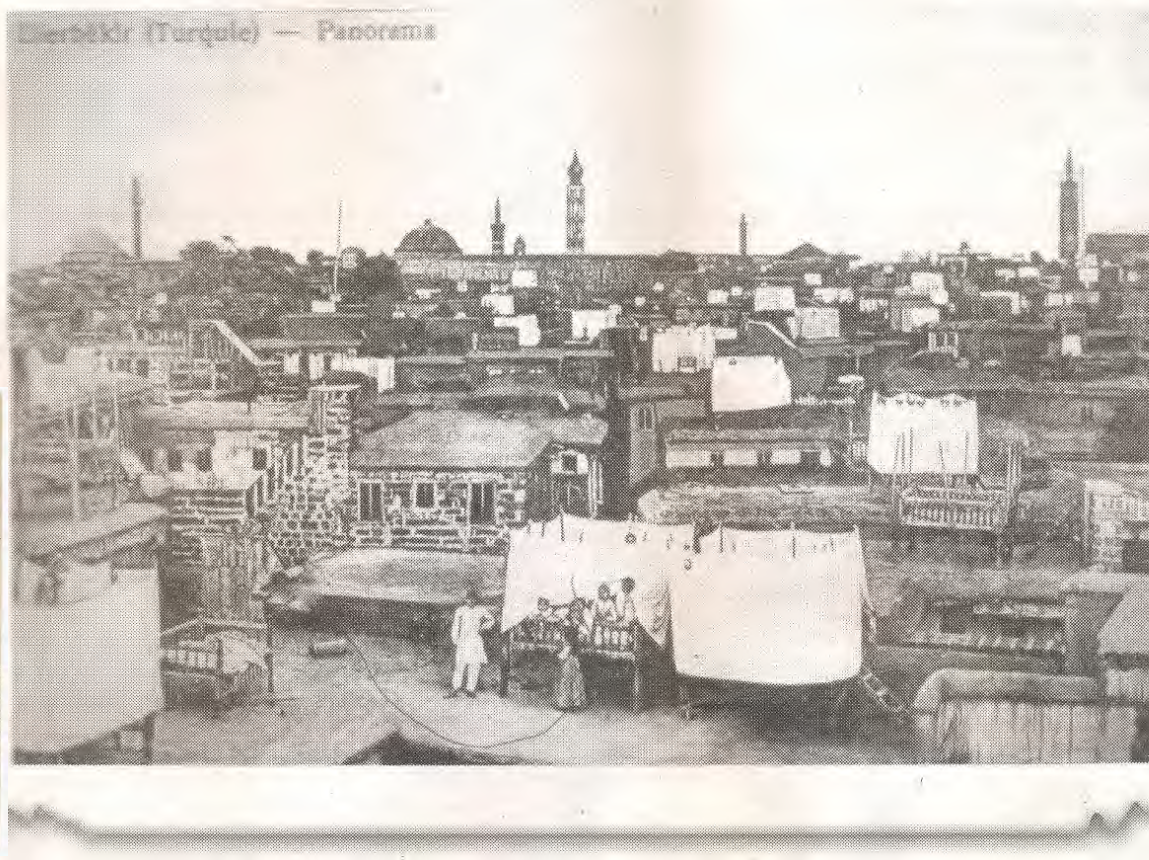


"The bishop (of Harput) with the priests and three nuns, despite the assurances of the vali that they would be taken via Urfa to Aleppo, were massacred in Vartatil, a village, about four hours away from the city center. It is said that a fourth sister had been kidnapped on the way to Diyarbekir. Just a few of the women (from Harput) reached Aleppo, the others were all massacred. Regarding the conditions and details of the death of the bishop and his companion on the trip, there is the testimony of a Muslim. When he realized the intention of the soldiers allegedly sent to his protection by the government and the murderers sent from Mezire, the bishop embraced his faithful, encouraged them and committed them to God's will; he blessed them, gave them his absolution, and received (by a priest) absolution; Then he asked the murderers not to torture him - and was shot ".

Msgr. Dolci on 20.12.1915, after a conversation with an eyewitness, to the Vatican)



# Diyarbakir



Ignace Ephrem II. Rahmani the Syrian Catholic Patriarch, in his report to the Holy See:

*"It is written and reported that the Turks massacred the Armenians. The truth is that the Turks murdered besides the Armenians also other Christians: Syrian Catholics, Syrian Monophysites, Chaldeans, Nestorians etc. (...)*

*The bishop of the Armenian Catholics, Msgr. Celebian, was brought to a place called GOZLI and murdered. The other priests of all denominations were killed; some with the deportees, others in their churches or in their rectories ... all Christians who lived in the numerous villages of this area were equally killed, including a large number of non-Catholic Armenians and monophysite Syrians."*







# Final destination: the Syrian desert

"The concentration camps make themselves noticeable from a distance by the unbearable stench of decomposed bodies and the waste. (Fr. Dunkl) counted hundreds of thousands who ... were deported here and are forced to stay here."

(photos: Armin T. Wegner)



## The conclusion of the Capuchin Superior Fr. Norbert Hofer:

"The punishment of the Armenian nation (for alleged revolts) is merely a pretext of the Masonic Turkish government to destroy all Christian elements in the country with impunity. Along with the Armenians, all other Christians of various rites, including the Catholics, were exposed to this persecution.

The fact that the Syro-Catholic bishop of Gedsireh has been massacred along with his clergy and all his faithful, proves that the invectives of the Turkish government are not only directed against the Armenians; also the various Chaldean communities in the country are suffering from these actions.

To date, four bishops of the Catholic Armenians were massacred along with their clergy and many of the faithful. There are no news about the fate of two other bishops. "





On 3.9.1915

Msgr.

Peter Kojunian,

Archbishop

of Chalcedon,

wrote to Pope

Benedikt XV.:

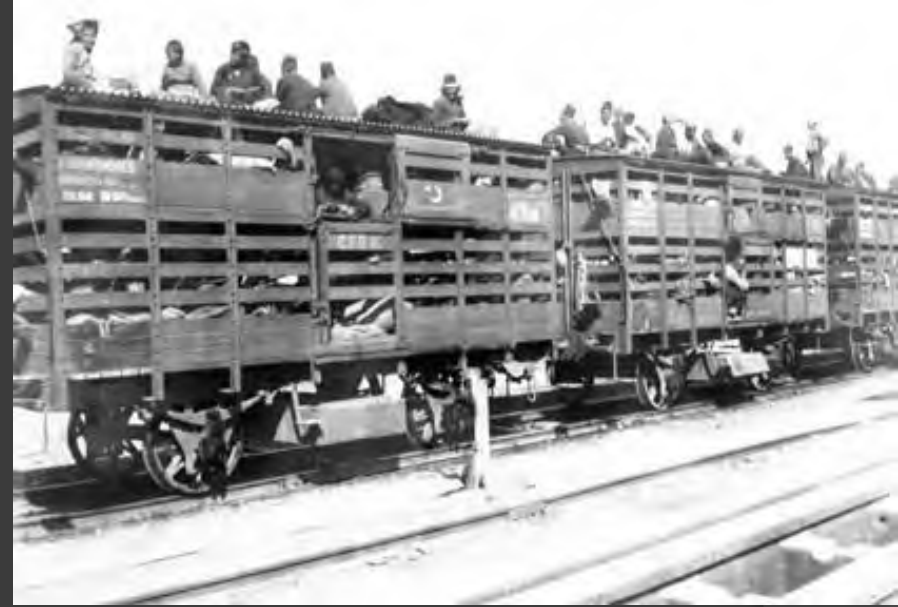


- *"Heartbroken I come to speak about the agonizing groans of the Armenian Catholic hierarchy, which was condemned to be exterminated in these frightening days through the work of the Young Turks, encouraged by the support of the Germans.*
- *To the horrors of the current war, which shake the paternal heart of Your Holiness, belong not the least the massacre of Armenians in Turkey, which was arranged by the Turkish government and already executed for the most part. (...) (It is) a systematic extermination of the Armenians in Turkey. "*

# The Failure of Diplomacy

*"Despite promises to the contrary to me and the German Ambassador , the government does not end its persecution of the Armenians. " (Dolci, 20/08/15)*

Also, the 7000 Catholic of Angora (Ankara) faced deportation, when on 27 August the first 1500 men were arrested .



On 30 August, at a diplomatic reception on the "Day of the Sultan," Dolci, along with the German and Austrian ambassador and the Bulgarian Foreign Minister, asked Talaat personally for mercy. In fact, the interior minister telegraphed orders to spare the Armenian Catholics and Protestants.

The diplomats did not realize that he revoked his order the very next day.

A week later, the deportation of women and children began. The only "act of mercy" was that they were allowed to travel a small part of the route, from Angora to Konya, in cattle cars by train. From there they continued their way to the Syrian desert by foot. There those of them who have not yet starved or were ill, were eventually massacred.



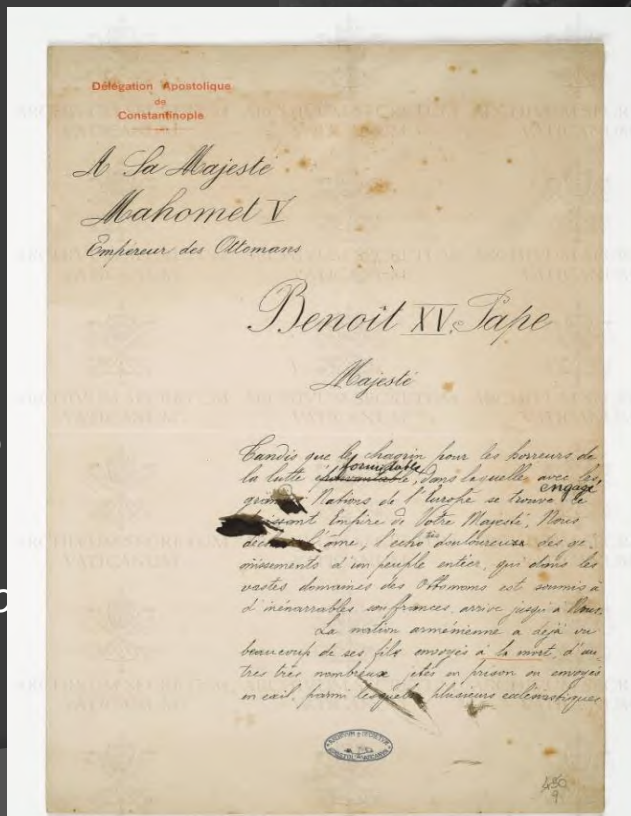


# On 10.9.1915 Pope Benedict XV. wrote to Sultan Mehmet V.

"Majesty,  
in the bitterness about the atrocities of the  
great struggle in which, along with the great  
nations of Europe, the mighty empire of Your  
Majesty got involved, the echo of the painful  
groans of an entire people, which is exposed  
to indescribable sufferings in the dominion of  
the Ottomans, tears Our Heart.

The Armenian nation has already seen many  
of their sons sent to their deaths, being  
locked up in large numbers in the prisons or  
exiled, among them many clergy and even  
some bishops.

And now We have received reports that the  
populations of whole villages and towns were  
forced to leave their homes to be settled  
under great pain and untold suffering in  
distant collection locations where they, next to  
psychological harassment, the most terrible  
privations and the most severe distress even  
have to endure the pains of hunger. "



# The Sultan finally replies

At the same time the Pope asked both Emperors for their support of his demarche.

The news about the appeal of the Pope went around the world. But it took six weeks, and required the mediation of the German and Austrian ambassadors, to get Msgr. Dolci an opportunity to Deliver the Papal autograph to Mehmet V. After another four weeks, the answer followed. It was for his officers "impossible to make a distinction between the peaceful and the rebellious element."



Nevertheless Dolci hoped for an effect of the Papal appeal. He believed the Foreign Minister, who promised him to lift up the general deportation order until Christmas or to allow at least all Catholics to return to their homeland. But the nearer the feast approached the clearer he realized that he had been deceived.

"To defend the Armenians, I have lost the favor of Caesar, the Nero of this unfortunate nation. I mean the Minister of the Interior Talaat Pasha, Grand Master of the Orient of Freemasonry. He must have learned of the strong pressure that has been exerted by the intervention of the Holy Father through his autograph on the other embassies, because since then he looks at me with a scowl", he wrote in late December 1915 to Msgr. Eugenio Pacelli, Secretary of the Foreign Office at the Vatican.





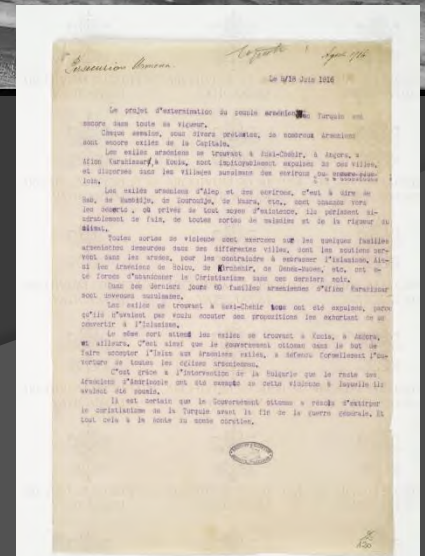
# „Lead towards extermination“

For Benedict XV. there was now no longer any doubt that "The unfortunate people of the Armenians were almost entirely leads towards extermination" – as he stated in an allocution before the consistory on 6 December 1915.

By the end, as Dolci realized, the "Indescribable number" of more than one million Orthodox Armenians, including 48 bishops and 4500 priests, has been murdered. Eventually, 75% of the Armenian Population or 1,5 Million men and women became victims of the genocide. The Armenian Catholics were not spared, on the contrary: 5 Bishops, 140 priests, 42 religious and 85,000 faithful Lost their life -87% of their community despite papal protest.

On 18 June, 1916 in another report to the Vatican, the Armenian Catholic patriarch wrote:

*"The project of the extermination of the Armenians in Turkey is still in full swing. (...) The exiled Armenians ... are still driven into the desert and there deprived of all vital resources. They miserably die of hunger, disease and extreme climate. (...) It is certain that the Ottoman government has decided to eliminate Christianity from Turkey before the World War comes to an end. And all this happens in the face of the Christian world. "*



# 12.3.1918: The second appeal of the Pope to the Sultan

By the end of 1916, the Armenian Genocide was practically completed. A mere 350,000, most of them in Constantinople, had survived; about 45,000 deportees were still alive in the Southeast. Half of them were orphans. Pope Benedict XV. founded two orphanages in Constantinople and Angora. The Russians had temporarily occupied the northeast of the country, where ca. 200,000 Armenians had fled. After the October Revolution, the treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed on 3 March 1918, returning all liberated territories to the Turks. This caused an imminent danger for all the Armenian refugees in this area, which was soon recognized by the Pope. Only 9 days later, Benedict XV. wrote again to the Sultan:

*"Now that there is no more reason to fear (an Armenian collaboration with the enemy) and when the reasons for those military orders which Your Majesty quoted in your letter of 10 November, (1915) no longer exist , when, on the contrary, the Ottoman Empire extends to vast areas in the north, may the poor Armenians experience in abundance your royal mercy and compassion!"*

Two months later, the Sultan replied, claiming that "Armenian gangs" had massacred the "predominantly Muslim population" of the cleared areas - where in fact no longer Muslims lived - since they had all fled from the Russians. With this, he justified the new massacres by the troops of Enver Pasha, now advancing o Azerbaijan, which massacred hundredthousands of Armenians, 30,000 alone in Baku.





# The Germans and the Genocide

When in 1917, Cemal Pasha prepared the deportation of the Jewish Palestine settlers to the Syrian desert, the Zionist agency asked the Vatican for help. This time, the Pope ordered his new nuncio in Munich, Msgr. Eugenio Pacelli, to ask the German as allies of the Turks for help. The demarche was succesful, when, reacting on German pressure, Cemal Pascha was recalled from the Southern front and replaced by the German General Erich von Falkenhayn , who protected the Jews.



But although they became witnesses of the Armenian genocide, although German consuls sent moving reports to Berlin, even in 1918 the Germans were still not willing to act in favour of the Armenians - despite the ardent appeals of Pacelli and Cardinal von Hartmann to the Chancellor.

"Our only goal is to keep Turkey on our side until the end of the war, no matter whether Armenians perish or not " Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg stated in 1915 . In fact German generals in Ottoman service as Colmar von der Goltz and Friedrich Bronsart of Schellendorf were directly involved in the planning of the "resettlement" of Armenians. In 1919 Bronsart "explained" the Armenocide: "The Armenian, like the Jew, is outside his home a parasite that absorbs the health of another country where he lay left. This is also where the hatred originates, which erupted in a medieval way against them as an unwanted people and led to her murder. "



**Even today, Erdogan's Turkey tries everything to prevent an open discussion and any public commemoration of the Armenocide by political pressure.**

## The German responsibility

Indeed, the resolution of the German Bundestag of 2 June 2016, recognizing Germany's responsibility for not preventing the Armenian genocide, was a rare victory of truth over diplomacy. It was no surprise that neither Chancellor Merkel nor Foreign Minister Steinmeier participated. When in 2012, Merkel initiated a "Dialogue on Germany". 156.870 Germans pleaded for a "law against the denial of the the Armenian Genocide", more than for any other proposal, Merkel still refused the subject as a "bilateral issue between Armenia and Turkey". But indeed the topic has a lot to do with us Germans.



In how far the German government was informed about the participation of German officers in the planning and execution of the genocide, is not certain according to current knowledge. But certainly it was very well informed about the Turkish crimes and failed to prevent or inform the world about them.


This form of complicity, protecting the murderers, makes it a historic duty for Germany to reveal the truth before all European nations. Never again this bestial crime against humanity must be denied!





Since only the truth can set us free to forgive!

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 100

1915-2015  100th Year of Remembrance

SOYFO

100 years ago - we will never forget

1915+

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RECOGNITION

## 22 Nations

around the world have recognized the Armenian Genocide. The United States is absent from this list of countries. This is a surprising fact for a nation that prides itself on being the global protector of freedom and justice. Every attempt to raise the issue in the U.S. government has been met with political excuses based on the fact that America only wishes to keep its status quo in the Middle East. No nation must allow their entangled foreign policies to prevent them from recognizing fact and allowing justice to prevail.

**Politics** cannot be allowed to blind **Justice**





# Pope Francis on 12 April 2015:

*“In the past century our human family has lived through three massive and unprecedented tragedies. The first, which is widely considered “the first genocide of the twentieth century” struck your own Armenian people, the first Christian nation, as well as Catholic and Orthodox Syrians, Assyrians, Chaldeans and Greeks. Bishops and priests, religious, women and men, the elderly and even defenceless children and the infirm were murdered. The remaining two were perpetrated by Nazism and Stalinism... It seems that the human family has refused to learn from its mistakes caused by the law of terror, so that today too there are those who attempt to eliminate others with the help of a few and with the complicit silence of others who simply stand by... Dear Armenian Christians, today, with hearts filled with pain but at the same time with great hope in the risen Lord, we recall the centenary of that tragic event, that immense and senseless slaughter whose cruelty your forebears had to endure. It is necessary, and indeed a duty, to honour their memory, for whenever memory fades, it means that evil allows wounds to fester. Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it!”*





## The Turkish Reaction:

“Whether he would use the term Genocide was followed under great tension. According To Turkish media reports, Turkey, behind the scene, tried everything to prevent the use of this term by Pope Francis.”

- DIE ZEIT, 12.04.2015

*"Dear Pope: I condemn this error and warn you not to commit it again ... If politicians and religious leaders assume the role of historians, then we do not get the truth, but merely a bunch of nonsense."* - Recep Tayyip Erdogan

*"Chosen sadly, false and absurd", based on an erroneous interpretation of the history: "At the same time (the Pope's words) support the rise of racism in Europe."* - Ahmet Davutoglu

*"Far from the historical reality". The utterance of the pope can "not be accepted". "Religious authorities should not stir prejudice and hatred by baseless accusations."* - Mevlut Cavusoglu



Echmiadzin, 23 April 2015



In the presence of Patriarchs, Bishops and representatives of all world churches, HH. Karekin II., Catholicos of All Armenians and HH. Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia, at the mother See of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Echmiadzin solemnly canonized the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide as martyrs "of their Faith and their heritage" and saints, since they "followed Christ on his way to Calvary". Their feast day is 24.4.