

**ANDONIAN DOCUMENTS
OR
TALAT PASHA TELEGRAMS**

By: Ayhan Ozer

In an effort to buttress their historically baseless claim of genocide the Armenians have all along relied on propaganda materials and outright falsehood. The earliest attempt on the part of the Armenians to portray themselves as a victim of genocide was a series of forged telegrams, purportedly emanating from Talat Pasha's office in the capital city of Istanbul. At which time Talat Pasha was the Minister of Interior of the Ottoman Empire. It is alleged that with those telegrams Talat Pasha ordered the extermination of the Armenians, and they were supposedly confiscated by the British Army when General Allenby entered Aleppo in Syria, in December 1917.

Aram Andonian, an Armenian, claims to have met Naim Bey, a minor Turkish official in Aleppo, who gave those telegrams to him in 1920. Andonian wrote a book entitled "*The Memoirs of Naim Bey: Ottoman Official Documents Relating to the Deportation and Massacres of the Armenians.*" The Book appeared in English (London), French (Paris), and in Armenian (Boston). Later, in 1965 a Spanish version was printed in Buenos Aires. All those books contain copies of the forged telegrams and some supposedly related documents. All the editions refer to those materials as the "official Turkish documents."

To begin with, there are important discrepancies between the English and French versions of the Book; for example, the French version is presented as the words of Andonian; whereas in the English version they become the words of Naim Bey. There are also differences between the Andonian's Books and a letter he published later. In the Book, Andonian said he had written the Book himself "to create a work documenting the Armenian massacres and to provide reference for the historians". Whereas in the letter he confessed that the Book was prepared by the Armenian Delegation attending the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, and the Cilician Armenian Church was behind it. It must be said, after having studied both editions it is no longer clear whether these are supposed to be the memoirs of Naim Bey or a fiction by Aram Andonian.

The English edition contains 48 "official Ottoman documents." Andonian claims that the originals of all the documents he had copied in the Book were "lost ?!" Examination of the copies of the alleged telegrams reveal that neither the form, nor the script or phraseology remotely resemble the administrative records of the Ottoman Government. To begin with, the "Besmele" marks (Muslim practice of saying "I begin with the name of Allah") are false, and attest compellingly to their counterfeit nature. Obviously those "Besmeles" were written by a non-Muslim person.

Andonian “documents” abound in factual mistakes, omissions and contradictions that gave him away. To cite one example, Andonian had forged the signature of Mustafa Abdulhalik Bey as the governor of Aleppo with a date of September 3 or 5, 1915 at which time Mustafa Abdulhalik Bey had not yet been appointed to that post, and was still living in Istanbul. He was appointed to that post on October 15, 1915. The governor of Aleppo at that time was Bekir Sami Bey.

Andonian’s blunders in using the dates and the coding system (sequential entry numbers) of the Ottoman official documents are irrefutable proof of the forgery. At that time, the Ottoman used lunar calendar (Rumi calendar) which takes the Hegira (Mohammed’s flight from Mecca to Medina in 622 A.D.) as the starting point. Also in the Islamic calendar the new year begins on March 1. That meant that the last two months of the Islamic calendar (January and February) were the first months of the Gregorian calendar. Also, there is another trick. Between the Gregorian and the Islamic calendar there is a 13-day difference. Andonian, no doubt, was unaware of those complicated technicalities, and committed gross blunders when converting the dates from Rumi calendar to Gregorian calendar. Therefore, the dates given in the forged documents by Andonian create havoc when one attempts to put them in chronological order. For instance, take a “document” supposed to follow another document with a number of 502, when put in a chronological order it becomes 1181, and its counterpart in the Ottoman archives refers to digging up of a new artesian well at the Sinai Peninsula!

Those purported telegrams from the Ottoman Administration, were produced by the Armenians to present them to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. The intent was to support their claim to a chunk of territory in the Eastern Turkey for their hypothetical future state. Furthermore, such so-called “documentary” proof would have gained sympathy for the Ottoman Armenians as they claimed to have had suffered under the yoke of “brutal” Turkish rule.

Curiously, the Armenians were unable to deliver the originals or even the copies of those “damning evidence” to the British, who had after the war immediately occupied the capital city of Istanbul, confiscated all the archival materials, and were scouring the archives for a shred of evidence to convict the Ottoman officials of alleged war crimes. The British rounded up 140 high-level government officials, Grand-vizir, Army commanders, governors, journalists, professors, etc. in a week’s time and deported them to the Island of Malta. After three years of investigation the British had to release some 100 of detainees they had interned in Malta for lack of credible evidence. Among them was Mustafa Abdulhalik Bey, who, according to the Armenians, had received the telegraph orders, and implemented them. The result of the British investigation was a complete fiasco. Not a single document, not a single (non-Armenian) witness, not a single evidence could be found to prove such a colossal crime of genocide.

At that point, in a servile flattery to the British, the **Quisling** (this word was coined in reference to a Norwegian traitor who collaborated with the Nazis in 1945) Istanbul government of the traitor sultan came to the rescue of the British honor, and summarily formed a **kangaroo court** (a mock court in which the principles of law and justice are disregarded or perverted) that sentenced a few minor officials to death, not for murder, not for rape; their crime was to "neglect" providing adequate comfort for the relocated Armenians.

Two Turkish scholars, Sureyya Yuca and Sinasi Orel published an extensive scientific work in 1983 proving the falsity of those telegrams.

After the Turkish detainees had been exonerated in Malta, the Armenian terrorists took justice in their own hands, and formed a murder syndicate, called "Nemesis" to carry out a brutal revenge (!) campaign against the Turks. The first victim was Talat Pasha. He was assassinated on March 15, 1921 in Berlin by Soghomon Tehlirian, an Armenian terrorist. In his trial, the Armenian defense presented to the court the "Andonian Documents" as alleged proof of Talat Pasha's culpability and his alleged central role in the massacres of 1915. Sadly, Tehlirian was set free by the German court without any punishment.

Nine months later, the Armenians struck again, this time in Rome. The former grand-vizir Prince Sait Halim Pasha was murdered by another Armenian terrorist, Arshavir Shirakian. After a brief trial he too was found not guilty, and he got scot free. Interestingly, Prince Sait Halim had been found "innocent" by the British Tribunal in Malta. Two months later, on April 17, 1922, again in Berlin, Arshavir Shirakian and an accomplice named Aram Yerganian gunned down two Ottoman officials, Bahattin Sibir and Cemal Azmi. Obviously, the Armenian murderers had chosen the German soil for their crime, because of the appalling leniency of the German court towards the Armenian terrorists. Three months later, on July 25, 1922, this time in Tbilisi, Georgia, the Armenian terrorists assassinated Cemal Pasha who had always stood up for the Armenians, and his adjutant Sureyya Bey. If there existed any damning evidence about the culpability of the Turkish government officials in the Armenian case, is it conceivable that the verdicts, first in Malta, and then at the Paris Peace Conference would have exonerated resoundingly the Ottoman officials?

The Armenians came to the Paris Peace Conference in two separate delegations, the largest group, about 40-50 people, and conducted an extensive two-prong lobbying, playing an oppressed christian minority role under the Muslim yoke. Their stump card, however, was the service they had rendered to the Allies during the war. They bragged about their betrayal to their sovereign state, the Ottoman Empire, and the terrorist acts through riots, insurgencies and massacres to bring the Turks down to their knees.

Yet, at the Peace Conference no country gave any credence to the so-called "evidence" presented by the Armenians as they were blatantly crude fabrications. They were too transparent and too flimsy; if presented in a court of law they could not survive any scrutiny, and would cause embarrassment. When the seasoned European politicians superimposed the notorious Armenian duplicity over their outrageous demands it came out that the Armenians did not have any case, but only an untenable cause, and they were outrightly dismissed.

Now and then those crude forgeries are being heated again and again by the Armenians, and put in circulation. By the dint of repetition they seem to gain an appearance of truth. Surprisingly, those allegations find their way into a number of publications in the West, not because there is any truth to them, but because they come handy for public relations stunt.

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