

camp in the voices of Gulag survivors interviewed by Zareh Tjeknavorian for his documentary film, *Enemy of the People: Armenians Look Back at the Stalin Terror* (1998). And in the archival footage he included, I visualized my father toiling on those horrible sites under intolerable working conditions.

And now my father's story joins the stories of those who suffered for their political convictions, who yearned for the right to self-determination in a despotic world, who struggled for the freedom of their nation and the independence of their homeland. As the editor of *Droshag* wrote in 1991, "Every new piece of evidence, every new narrative of a life in exile opens up a new world to the reader and once again sheds fresh light on a nefarious manifestation of the human conscience grown dull."<sup>4</sup>

No, Armenians and particularly ARF leaders were not strangers to the forced labor camps of Siberia. Again quoting the editor of *Droshag*:

From the Tsars' repression of Armenian aspirations down to the Bolsheviks—their true successors in dealing with the Armenian national struggle—the policy continued unchanged. The voice of Dashnaksutun had to be silenced.

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4 From the foreword to my father's unfinished memoir by the editor of *Droshag*. See Baghdik Minassian, «Տասը Տարի. Տասն Ամիս և Տասնուեթ Օր Խորհրդային Բանտերում և Աշխատանքային Համբարներում, 1944, 3 Յունուար - 1954, 17 Նոյեմբեր» (Ten years, ten months and seventeen days in Soviet prisons and labor camps, 3 January 1944 – 17 November 1954) (Athens: Հեղափոխական գրադարան [Revolutionary Library], No. 13, 1991). *Droshag*, the official organ of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), was published in Athens at the time.