

The right-hand column of the “Extract from Protocol No. 37” is headed, “It was resolved.” This contains the actual verdict and spells out the sentence: “Minassian Baghdassar (Baghdik), son of Khachatur, belonging to an anti-revolutionary espionage organization and having terroristic intents, to be confined in corrective labor camp for a period of TEN years, considering the term to begin from March 11, 1944.” The form is signed by the head secretary of the Special Consultation at the People’s Commissariat for Internal Affairs USSR and bears the stamp of that organ. A typewritten note on the document indicates its receipt by the NKVD of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic on September 17, 1944.

Examination of this important document raises two perplexing questions. First, if the verdict was recorded in Moscow on September 2, 1944, and received in Yerevan on September 17, why was it not carried out immediately? My father was held in the NKVD prison in Yerevan until April of the following year before being sent off to Siberia. In fact, a letter of protest which he wrote in March of that year, which I will discuss below, clearly shows that he was not informed of the verdict until then. Was this due to a backlog or to some other consideration? Unfortunately, we will never have the answer to this question.

Secondly, my father was convicted according to an array of articles in the Criminal Code of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia and was sentenced to be punished for violating those articles. What were they? Mr. Amatuni Virabian, director of the National Archives of