

unfinished memoir typewritten by my cousin Knar, one of the few people who could read his handwriting.

After my father's passing in 1976, I had requested permission from the ARF Bureau (the supreme body of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation) to publish this memoir in its unfinished form, but I was told to wait. They maintained that it was not the right time for such an anti-Soviet publication. How ironic!

After years of waiting and multiple inquiries, I was finally given the green light. The manuscript, with some copyediting and an epilogue I had written as well as a foreword by the editor of *Droshbag*, was published in 1991 under the title «Տասը Տարի, Տասն Ամիս եւ Տասնեօթ Օր Խորհրդային Բանտերում եւ Աշխատանքային Ճամբարներում, 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) as Number 13 in the «Յեղափոխական Գրադարան» (Revolutionary Library) series.

The published memoir encompassed the timespan between the Red Army descent and occupation of Azerbaijan² in 1941 and my father's sojourn at the transit

2 Azerbaijan, or Atrpatakan as it is called by Armenians, is the northwestern province of Iran, not to be confused with the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan. A historical note may be added here by way of explanation: After the fall of the Tsarist Russian Empire and the secession of Transcaucasia, the three major ethnic groups of the area, Georgians, Armenians and Tatars, declared their independence in May 1918. Musavat, the leading party among the Shiite Tatars of the eastern Caucasus, deliberately chose the name Azerbaijan to identify the new state with the province of the same name in Iran populated by Turkic-speaking but ethnically Aryan and not Tatar Iranians of Shiite denomination. The state was called the Independent Republic of Azerbaijan and the Tatars therein took the name Azeri, a non-existent ethnic entity. The ultimate goal of Musavatist leaders, imbued with Pan-Turanist ideology, was to