

Thus the inhibition against speaking freely about the Stalinist terror lingered on until the 1980s. Silva Kaputikyan said that she had ventured to write about it in 1973 in her «Խճանկար» (Mosaic), but those segments were censored before the work was published.³⁴

Suren Ghazaryan was actually one of the first Armenians to give a full account of the Gulag in his groundbreaking memoir written in Russian, *Eto nie dalzhno pavidaritsa*. He initially offered the manuscript to the Russian literary journal *Novi Mir* in 1967. The response he received from Alexandre Tvardovsky, the famous Russian poet and the editor of *Novi Mir*, typifies the mindset then prevalent throughout the Soviet Union. Tvardovsky praised Ghazaryan's courage, his determination to endure the tortures and live to tell the world about his ordeal. He complimented the author's style, his clarity of diction and his vivid imagery, but concluded that publication of the work was out of the question. Nevertheless, he condemned the harsh and unacceptable methods of punishment described in Ghazaryan's memoir: "Those who fight for the sake of forgetting [the past] and 'not reopening the wounds'—and there are many who think that way—are saving those 'methods' for themselves for tough times." He added that "Someday, this memoir and many others like it will be

street) in *Grakan Tert* in 1964.

34 Silva Kaputikyan, «Էջեր փակ զգրոցներից» (Pages from locked drawers) (Yerevan: Apolon, 1997), p. 10. The reference is to her book, «Խճանկար հոգու և քարտեզի գույներից» (A mosaic composed of the colors of the soul and the map) (Yerevan: Sovetakan Grogh, 1975), a travelogue containing memories and impressions of her visits to Diasporan Armenian communities in 1962–63 (Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, France) and 1974 (North America).