

and those who have lost their human and national characters to rise to leadership.”³⁷ Armenia was utterly beheaded by Stalin's purges.

The details of the thirty years of Stalin's reign of terror are now relatively better known in the world, although what is unearthed, studied and published cannot reveal the whole picture of all the Soviet citizens incarcerated, executed, or exiled en masse as “enemies of the people.” A great deal of work has been done in the former Soviet Republic of Armenia since it regained its independence, especially during the past decade as the archives of the National Security Service and Internal Affairs have become more accessible.

In spite of all the evidence exposing Stalin's heinous crimes, why aren't the leaders of the post-Soviet republics ready to deal with the past and render justice to the victims, or even put up a monument in their memory? Is the KGB still in power? Ironically, the only monument Gurgen Mahari witnessed was that of a young prisoner who was made to stand on the frozen hill outside the camp. He was drenched with cold water that froze immediately and turned him into an ice sculpture.³⁸ I take note of Memorial, the civil society organization founded before the collapse of the Soviet Union by former prisoners of the Stalinist regime and human rights activists to collect

37 Manukyan, «Բաղաքական բռնաճնշումները Հայաստանում» (Political persecutions in Armenia), p. 59. Manukyan categorizes the victims of Stalinist purges in Armenia and provides detailed information on their incarceration. They were scientists, literati, artists, clergy, laborers and peasants, military men and lawyers, in fact, they were men and women from all walks of life.

38 Ajemyan (ed.), «Սիբիրական» (Of Siberia, or The Siberian), p. 329.