

Virabian, told me that the National Archives had only obtained documents pertaining to political prisoners of the Stalinist purges of 1937–1938. He recommended I try Armenia's National Security Service.

A new challenge began.

I was pessimistic. Approaching the National Security Service with such a request seemed farfetched and even risky. But to my surprise and to the credit of two amiable and cooperative young employees, I received an answer to my inquiry the next week.

The report contained short biographical notes on B. Minassian, his employment as a teacher in the schools of Rasht, Ghazvin (Qazvin), Tehran and Tabriz, his affiliation with Dashnaktsutiun's youth organization since 1919 and his election as president of the organization shortly thereafter. The report also noted his membership in the Dashnaktsutiun Central Committee of Atrpatakan in 1939–1940, his work with the Party's youth organization and leadership of the Dashnaktsutiun educational program, and then his presidency of the Atrpatakan Central Committee after 1941. The report also defined the reasons for his arrest:

As an active ideologue and devotee of the Dashnaktsutiun Party, carrying out subversive acts against the Soviet regime and the Bolshevik Party as well as criticism of its press, B. Minassian

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had been abolished in 1922. The institution established in Yerevan in 1946 was named the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Armenian SSR and functioned as part of the Soviet diplomatic service. All the Ministry's reports and records, including the report cited here, were of course written in Russian.