

was arrested in Tabriz on January 7, 1944.⁷ His arrest was formalized on March 12, 1944, by the decision of the Special Consultation of the ՄԱԿ ԵԳԺԿ,⁸ and he was sentenced to ten years imprisonment. Following the decision of the USSR Supreme Court's Military Collegium on June 5, 1953, B. Minassian was prematurely discharged from carrying out his punishment, and as an Iranian citizen he was delivered to the Iranian government on July 3, 1954.

Although the report mentioned the Special Council's decision to sentence my father to ten years in prison, there was no record of his having served that sentence in the labor camps of Siberia. A line at the end of the report foreclosed any further inquiry: "No other information is available." Not enough! But there was no sense in waiting to hear from them any longer.

I also learned that for budgetary reasons, documents in the ARF archives housed in Boston, Massachusetts, were categorized and digitized only up to 1928, and nothing was available after that. So there was no way I could obtain any information on my father's activities or the impact of his abduction on the Party membership.

I had my work cut out for me.

I went back to the books that had given me so much insight into life during Stalin's rule of terror, the prisons

⁷ In fact, January 7 was my father's first day in the Cheka prison in Yerevan.

⁸ Meaning the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs in the Soviet Union, that is, the NKVD (Narodnyi Komissariat Vnutrennikh Del), or the state security service of our day.