

the body back to the cemetery. That is how empty-headed and absurd the Bolshevik sympathizers were.

The situation was the same in other regions of Atrpatakan. There was anarchy everywhere. The Turkish mob was stealing and looting and committing crimes in the streets and no one was stopping them. In Maragha, they swarmed and ransacked Dr. Melkonian's house. The Soviet occupying forces arrested his German wife, his son Sako and his daughter Nadia. Dr. Melkonian had already escaped from town. After lengthy negotiations and some threats, we managed to get the Soviets to release the family and allow them to go to Tehran.

In Salmast, a self-appointed group of two Turkish and one Armenian armed men ruled the streets and looted the poor Turkish and Armenian population. Although that Armenian man is dead now, I won't mention his name because afterward he nailed a "respected" social position for himself.

Arshak Sinanian, a dedicated and trustworthy representative of the ARF Committee in Rezaiyeh, was being constantly pursued, and that was because another member engaged in subversive activities had sabotaged the Committee and informed the Soviets. We believe there was no ideological motive involved in his apostasy: he only did it to save his neck. One day, Soviet soldiers besieged Arshak's house. A few Chekists entered and asked where Arshak was. Of course, he was still at work. Somehow he heard about the raid, and instead of going home, he took off on foot and reached Tabriz. We sent him to Tehran.