

Despite all these unpleasant incidents, we managed to avoid any serious events, and that was because of our firm stance and restrained conduct. But the criminal acts of the so-called Bolshevik horde were intolerable. They had to be stopped so that life in the occupied region could be a little easier. To voice our complaints and demands, I met with Agaronov again, along with one of the Armenian officers who was participating in our negotiations. I asked these representatives of the Soviet Consulate in Tabriz to get the mob under control. I warned them that if one Armenian was killed, we would kill ten of theirs. The meeting had positive results. The irritating slogans and attacks on the Armenian quarters stopped.

The hardest blow to the Tabriz organization was the arrest of Khachatur Grigorian, a key member of the ARF. Under Soviet pressure, the Iranian government or the shadow government in Tabriz arrested him in the fall of 1943. After holding him in the central police station in Tabriz for a few days, they sent him to an unknown destination. We put all our secret connections and investigative machinery to work and found out that he was in Rasht, together with other prisoners, and from there the Soviets were going to ship him to the Soviet Union. Fortunately, through the intervention of the Tehran government and the Allies, the Soviets agreed to free their Turkish and Armenian prisoners, including Andre Ter-Ohanian, another ARF leader. Khachatur Grigorian returned to Tabriz but died not long afterwards, succumbing to the illness he had contracted in prison.