

I know who alludes to this devastating event in two of his poems, "Gar ou chgar" (There was, and was not) and "Veratarts Ashkaleen" (Return from Aşkale), written in 1949-50.

Then came the 1955 pogroms, the looting and killing of non-Muslims, raping of young girls, burning of houses, and destruction of properties and businesses. It started with the false news report that the Greeks had bombed the house where Atatürk was born in Salonika (Thessaloniki). The Muslims of Turkey were incited to pour into the streets and take vengeance upon the Greeks, and that was translated into attacks against non-Muslims and was turned against Armenians in particular. Kirkor Ceyhan of Zara was in Istanbul at that time and recalls the horrors of those two days. The mob was provoked to harm the Greeks, loot and burn their shops and houses, kidnap their women, and kill the men. But Kirkor attests that they treated the Armenians with the same brutality (Yalçın, p. 180). He believes that the Cyprus issue and the animosity of the Turkish government toward the Greeks were the source of the evil that instigated the pogroms which then spilled over onto the Armenian community.

Rober Haddejian, on the other hand, reminisces about the shock and disappointment of Armenian intellectuals who had just begun to explore the possibilities of freedom of expression in certain domains and themes in literature. Actually, a new literary movement was underway, and Istanbul Armenian writers and poets were busily engaged in publishing periodicals which housed this new expression. Along with houses, shops, and stores, publishing businesses were also looted and destroyed, one of which was Sargis Terzian's