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THE GENOCIDE OF THE GREEKS OF PONTOS BY THE TURKS

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Translated and read by George Efstratiades)

The impact of the Genocide of the Greeks of Pontus, in contrast to that of the Armenians, was overshadowed due to the great number of tragic events that the Armenians suffered at the same time period; also because it was passed in silence by governmental and diplomatic orders in the name of certain inter-State arrangements and interests. This ethnic cleansing plan in its first phase aimed at the extermination of all Christian ethnic communities and, in its second phase, the conversion of the Muslim ethnic groups to Turkish ones. This plan, even though was not completed during the First World War, was not however abandoned by the kemalic, post-kemalic and the militaristic circles of present day Turkey. The political position of all the meta-kemalic governments towards the ethnic groups of Asia Minor, and in particular towards the Kurdish nation, during the last ten years, confirms the existence and the active pursuance of this ethnic cleansing plan.

... **Mustafa Kemal** and the post-kemalic government leaders cannot be proud of their national liberation movement, given the fact that it was based and supported by bands of terrorists and assassins, such as the one of **Topal Osman**. They cannot be excused of not knowing about the ethnic cleansing plan, because, as **Murat Yüksel** says:

"Nobody was listening to the appeals and the complaints of the unfortunate inhabitants of Kerasounta and no one was paying attention to their accusations. The archives at the court of justice were full of charges against Topal Osman. However, a secret power was not only covering up Topal Osman's actions, but every murder committed and every charge filed against him, were actually helping him climb up the military hierarchy. He was the highest officer of Kerasounta, and everything was managed by him. He was issuing orders, he was hanging and massacring people and no one dare to say a word.

Topal; Osman used to beat-up to death even Turkish soldiers and civil servants. His only pleasure was the demonstration of power, roughness, cruelty and pogroms. He was not afraid of the law, he did not respect the government. This cursed man, having committed countless murders of innocent citizens, finally turned to political assassinations."

Even today, 60 years after the death of Mustafa Kemal, Turkish historians, do not dare publish the historical truth. They do not dare to do so, although they know, (thanks to the rich archived material available), that behind Topal Osman was always their own **great leader** Mustafa Kemal. The revelation of the truth would have destroyed the fakeness of their idol. In human history there is no other "great revolutionary" who has based his liberation struggle on such bands of wretched murderers. Also, there is no other leader who has selected as his personal guard the most resolute, robber-like and criminal band, whose name induced fear even among many Turks. And rarely political leaders hide their moral responsibility for political murders behind bands of murderers...

The exhibits of the unpublished archives of the Foreign Ministries, and the other public and private archives, with regard to the tragedy of the Pontian Hellenism, are endless. In total, and until the Greek-Turkish population exchange treaty, more than 353,000 Pontian Hellenes found deplorable death in the hands of the Young Turks and the Kemalic agents in cities and villages, in ravines and mountains, at place of exile and in concentration camps. Finally, many were exterminated in the labour battalions of the Turkish army, where the Pontians as Ottoman citizens were forcibly drafted.

J. Gerard in his preface of G. Horton's book "The curse of Asia" writes :

" ...The fact that, twenty centuries past AD, a numerically small and retrogressive people such as the Turks could perpetrate such crimes against civilization and the progress of humanity must compel all conscientious peoples to pose and think... We shut our ears to the desperate outcries for help of the perishing Christians, although we knew that the U.S.A was their only hope and it is now evident that an ever-growing tendency exists in our country to cover up the crimes perpetrated by the Turks and to pardon their actions, in order that we gain political and material benefits from them".

These revelations regarding American policy, expressed by an American are even more significant because they are not biased. It is a well-known fact that Americans regarded and still regard the Turks as their most reliable allies in the eastern Mediterranean. The same feeling existed among Germans, who for a very long time used to consider the Turks as "honorary Germans" in the Middle East. On the other hand, the English and French did not want to fall behind in this immoral political game of the supervision of the Middle East region and they would do everything possible in order to preserve the goodwill of the Turks. As a result, the peoples of Minor Asia had not one, but many bosses over their head.

Every nation has the right to demand persistently the official recognition of the injustices that were committed against them. In today's reality there is no justification for negligence and postponement. When one procrastinates, History in its turn will punish him.

The criminal ethnic cleansing policy of Turkey persists to this day. The conduct of their military controlled government and her people against Italy during the recent incident involving the Kurdish rebel leader, **Ocalan** offers an example. This incident, far from anything else demonstrates that Turkey has not changed her attitude and is not ready to respect the human values and rights of all ethnic groups who live in Turkey today.

The military run state of Turkey continues, as a true terrorist, to threaten all her neighbors, in her vision for the revival of the Pan-Turkish empire. This happens because, to this day, Turkey has not been summoned by any International Organization to give account and apologize for her crimes. For this reason, the International Community is charged with complicity because it tolerates or in some way maintains silence about Turkey's crimes. Nevertheless, we are all moral accomplices in these crimes.

I believe it is about time for certain International Organizations, which were established to protect the world peace to become active and true to their mandate, render justice, according to the spirit and the terms of the Charter of the United Nations, and respect to the fundamental human principles. It is mandatory that a Tribunal should be established under the Supreme Court for Human Rights, which Tribunal will bring to light the tragic events of that era, based on existing official documents. The quest of the Pontian Greeks for the recognition of the Genocide committed includes an impetus and a message of salvation for the Turkish people.

A terrible act of Genocide against the Jews of Europe and against the Slavic peoples was committed by Nazi Germany during World War II. This country however has apologized and has requested forgiveness from the relatives of the victims. Germany has also paid reparations and continues to emphasize until today her responsibility for the Genocide.

Modern Turkey, if she wishes to be called a European country, since she tries so hard to become a member of the European Union, must follow the example of Germany. She must accept full responsibility for the several Genocides that she has committed and continues to commit today. She must request forgiveness for these horrible acts and provide guarantees to all Humanity and to herself, that she will not repeat such acts. Only this way she will free the soul and conscience of the new Turkish generations from the hollow complexes that torture them and prevent them from realistically assimilate the great values of the European civilization.

Based on my belief that such a Tribunal will soon be established, I hereby submit as a first piece of evidence the testimony of an honest Turkish army officer, Mehmet Reouf Effendi, in the matter of crimes against humanity, committed by Kemalists against the Christian population.

Re: Events at Merfizounta

*"When our National Forces were in retreat, following the **Saggarios** battle, the Committee of National Defense commanded **Osman Aga** to come quickly and take part in the battle with his band. When Osman Aga received the order, he speedily left for Ankara via Sampsous. As soon as he arrived in Sampsous, he initiated the slaughter of the Greek civilian inhabitants. Three days later, around 8 in the evening (European time) Merfizounta is completely surrounded. Osman puts under arrest the Turkish Mayor and the Officers of the Gendarmerie, so that they would not be able to resist his actions. This way the life, honour and property of the Greek population are left at the mercy of his confederates. During the next four or five days, the entire Greek population including little children, is slaughtered, and all their property and farm animals are stolen. Finally all the Greek neighbourhoods are set on fire by the bandits. Two days later, following this destruction of Merfizounta, Osman and his band left for Tsorum"*