

Armenian Genocide Timeline (key events)

13 April 1909: Sultan Abdul Hamid II deposed, bringing the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) the 'Three Pashas' to power.

14 April 1909: the Adana Massacre begins, resulting in approximately 30,000 Armenian deaths.

01 August 1914: Germany and the Ottoman Empire sign a secret alliance treaty.

02 August 1914: Western Armenians are asked to incite Eastern Armenians to rise against the Russian Empire at the Armenian Congress in Erzurum but understandably refused, while pledging loyalty to the Ottoman Empire.

27 September 1914: the Armenian population in Zeitun is required to turn in its weapons.

30 September 1914: the government distributes arms to the Muslim residents in Erzurum.

17 October 1914: gangs of released criminal *chette* begin looting, raping and massacres in Erzurum.

29 October 1914: the Ottoman Empire makes an unannounced attack on Russia as three warships shell Odessa. Three days later, Russia declares war on Turkey.

05 November, 1914: France and Britain declare war on the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire.

18 November 1914: a proclamation of *Jihad* (war) is announced against Christians (Germans are exempted).

23 December 1914: nationwide desecration of churches by Turks, with crosses replaced by crescents.

17 January 1915: Battle of Sarikamish (Kars, north-eastern Turkey) ends with Russian Tsarist forces defeating the Turkish Third Army.

02 February 1915: Talaat Pasha tells German Ambassador Count Hans von Wangenheim that it is the moment to conclude the 'Armenian Question'.

14 February 1915: Tahir Jevdet, the governor-general of Van Province, is reported saying that the government must begin finishing the Armenians in Van at once.

19 February 1915: Allied naval Dardanelles ultimately unsuccessful operation commences against Turkey. Ottoman leaders decide that if Allied naval ships force the Dardanelles, they would burn Constantinople with kerosene, destroy the Hagia Sophia, and kill every Christian inhabitant.

21 February 1915: *chettes* (criminals armed by the Ottoman State) attack the village of Purk near Shabin-Karahisar results in looting, murder, rape.

25 February 1915: Enver Pasha orders all military units that Armenians in the Ottoman Army to be disarmed (most were ultimately killed).

03 March 1915: the Ottoman *Ittihad* (CUP) Central Committee secretly announces the decision to exterminate Armenians. Armenian soldiers in the Erzurum army area are deprived of their uniforms and arms.

05 March 1915: gendarmes and *chettes* are reported attacking many villages inhabited by Armenians and Assyrians in Van Province.

12 March 1915: mass arrests of Armenians are carried out in Dordyol; they are never heard of again.

13 March 1915: parliamentary deputies tour Anatolia, describing the Armenians as 'internal enemies' which must be destroyed.

14 March 1915: Sahag, the Catholicos of Cilicia, advises the Armenians of Zeitun not to resist.

19 March 1915: Six Armenian soldiers are hanged in Sivas to frighten the Armenians, and Greek recruits are massacred near Smyrna.

26 March 1915: Sahag, Catholicos of Cilicia, renews his instruction to Zeitun Armenians not to resist.

28 March 1915: The Armenian Dashnak leader, Murad, resists arrest in Sivas and flees to the mountains, and after many daring escapes reaches the Caucasus.

29 March 1915: Djemal Pasha falsely announces that Zeitun Armenians were in revolt and therefore he would take measures to punish them.

31 March 1915: Deportation of Armenians from Zeitun begins. *Azadamart*, the leading Armenian newspaper in Constantinople, is closed by an order of the government.

01 April 1915: mass arrest of Armenian political leaders is carried out in Sivas and other provinces.

02 April 1915: robbery and arrests of Armenians are reported throughout Bitlis and Erzurum Provinces. In Sivas Province, gendarmes and *chettes* begin regular attacks on Armenian villages with increasing brutality.

03 April 1915: Mass arrests and a search for weapons occur in Marash and Hadjin, and numerous rapes during the house searches are reported.

08 April 1915: the monastery of Zeitun is burned by the Turks.

13 April 1915: the Turkish government forbids American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau to send coded messages to American consuls.

15 April 1915: Armenian refugees from villages near the city of Van notify the inhabitants that 80 villages were already destroyed and 24,000 Armenians killed in three days.

16 April 1915: Armenian leaders Vramian and Ishkhan are killed in the Kurdish village of Hirj by *chettes* on the orders from Governor-general Tahir Jevdet.

20 April 1915: the deportation of the 25,000 Armenians of Zeitun is completed. Large-scale arrests of Armenians occur in Diyarbekir. The Siege of Van begins when an Armenian woman is harassed, and the two Armenian men who come to her aid are killed by Ottoman soldiers – 1,500 Armenians repel attacks for months by more than 5,000 Turks until Russian troops arrive on 23 May 1915.

24 April 1915: The editors and staff of *Azadamart*, the leading Armenian newspaper of Constantinople, are arrested, and on June 15 are slain in Diyarbekir. Talaat Pasha orders the arrest of more than two hundred Armenian intellectuals and leaders in Constantinople; most were murdered.

The Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople and Zohrab are told by Talaat Pasha, Said Halim and Rifat that the government is isolating Armenian leadership and dissolving Armenian political agencies.

25 April 1915: first Allied landings of the ultimately unsuccessful Gallipoli Campaign.

26 April 1915: Three Armenians are hanged publicly in Mush without trial.

27 April 1915: 26 Armenian leaders are arrested in Marsovan (Merzifon), followed by a two week search for weapons accompanied by acts of violence to Armenians.

29 April 1915: disarming of Armenians in Constantinople.

30 April 1915: the vice-governor of Erzinjan begins to arrest many Armenian intellectuals.

03 May 1915: deportations from the villages of Erzerum Province start.

04 May 1915: mass arrests of Armenian leaders in Aintab begin, and 200 Armenian leaders in Erzerum are arrested.

06 May 1915: The *New York Times* reports that Turkey has adopted a policy to annihilate Armenians.

10 May 1915: 950 prominent Armenians are arrested in Diyarbekir on orders from governor-general Dr. Reshid.

14 May 1915: 38 Armenian leaders are arrested in Chomaklu, Kayseri Province and executed.

19 May 1915: Armenians in the Khnus region of Erzerum Province are massacred.

22 May 1915: Turkish refugees occupy empty Armenian villages in Tortum District, Erzerum.

24 May 1915: the Allied Powers advise the Turkish Cabinet that they are responsible for the massacres of Armenians.

25 May 1915: Armenian parliamentary members Zohrab and Vartkes are arrested in Constantinople and later murdered in Kara-Kopru.

27 May 1915: German Marshal Otto Liman von Sanders reports that the deportations were planned by the CUP.

29 May 1915: 630 Armenians arrested on 10 May 1915 in Diyarbekir and are murdered in the village of Bisheri while in custody, their bodies thrown in the Tigris River.

31 May 1915: German Ambassador Wangenheim advises against German interference in the deportations.

02 June 1915: twenty Armenian Social Democratic Hnchak Party members are hanged in Constantinople.

07 June 1915: Armenian Prelate of Shabin-Karahisar, Vaghinag Vartabed, is assassinated.

10 June 1915: four days of massacres of 25,000 Armenians deported from Erzerum Province start at Kemakh.

15 June 1915: Twenty Armenian leaders are publicly hanged in Constantinople; 12 leaders are publicly hanged in Sivas.

23 June 1915: Massacres of Armenians and other non-Muslims in Mardin are ordered by Dr. Reshid.

24 June 1915: Armenian Trebizond leaders are drowned in the Black Sea.

30 June 1915: 3,000 Armenians from Erzerum are murdered.

01 July 1915: 2,000 Armenian Turkish Army soldiers are massacred near Kharput.

05 July 1915: 2,000 Armenian Turkish Army soldiers are killed In Diyarbekir.

07 July 1915: the German Ambassador in Constantinople sends a telegram to the Imperial Chancellor stating "it is the declared intention of the government [the Turkish government] to destroy the Armenian race in the Turkish Empire."

10 July 1915: 2,700 Armenians are killed in a second Mardin massacre.

12 July 1915: Instructions are issued to distribute Armenian orphans to Turkish homes.

14 July 1915: Djemal Pasha protests to Dr. Reshid about the dumping of dead bodies in the Euphrates River and advises burial. From June 22 to July 17 bodies of massacred Armenians float down the Euphrates River, and are reported by German officers.

18 July 1915: In Dersim, 3,000 Armenians are killed but some Kurds shelter many Armenians.

21 July 1915: Turkish attack on Musa Dagh and 53 days of heroic resistance by Armenians starts until 5,000 are saved by French and British ships.

24 July 1915: Talaat Pasha informs the *Ittihad* party that half of the property taken from Armenians is being assigned to the Central Committee, and the other half is to be distributed to *chettes* that took part in the massacres.

30 July 1915: mass arrest of Armenians in Angora before they are killed the next day.

02 August 1915: US Ambassador Morgenthau reports that Talaat Pasha told him that the policy of crushing the Armenians was being pursued and that the deportations were a matter of careful and prolonged deliberation, and indicated that three quarters of the Armenians had already been disposed of, and none were left in Bitlis, Van, and Erzerum.

12 August 1915: Enver Pasha reports that so far 200,000 Armenians had been killed.

19 August 1915: Lord Bryce reports that 500,000 Armenians had been murdered in Turkey.

02 September 1915: 4,750 Armenians are murdered in Jezire.

14 September 1915: the *New York Times* reports the murder of 350,000 Armenians.

15 September 1915: Talaat explains in a circular letter that the real intention of sending Armenians to the Der-el-Zor Desert is to annihilate them.

09 October 1915: Lord Bryce reports that ten thousand Armenians are drowned at sea near Trabzon on one day after being thrown overboard.

03 March 1916: Count Wolff-Metternich recalled is replaced as German ambassador to Turkey at the request of Enver Pasha because he had protested against the Armenian massacres.

16 April 1916: *New York Times* report from German Catholics which stated the number of massacred Armenians as 1,000,000.

10 June 1916: Interior Ministry report from Aleppo advises that 75% of the Armenians previously in the desert are now dead and only 25% remained alive.

14 June 1916: The Arab governor of Der-el-Zor (Deir el-Zor) District, Ali Suad, is relieved of his position and sent to Baghdad for refusing to carry out the extermination of deportees.

04 October 1916: Wilhelm Radowitz reports to the German Chancellor Theobald von Bethman Hollweg that of the two million Armenians in Turkey, one and half million had been deported. Of these 1,175,000 were dead; 325,000 were still living.

04 January 1917: Mr. Goppert of the German Embassy visits Enver Pasha, Talaat Pasha and Foreign Minister Halil to convey that forcible Islamization had no connection with military necessity or the security of the state, and must be stopped immediately.

26 March 1917: Ernst E. Cristoffel, a German missionary in Malatia, who witnessed the massacres and deportations, estimates that 1,000,000 Armenians had been murdered.

28 January 1918: Enver Pasha orders the murder of all civilian Armenians over five years of age and any remaining Armenians in the Turkish military within 48 hours; the Germans attempt to stop this massacre.

21 May 1918: the Ottoman Army invades Armenia to finish the extermination of Armenians, but are defeated in the Battles of Sardarabad, Bash Abaran and Karakilisa.

29 October 1918: 120,000 Turkish gold pounds and jewellery is transferred from the *Ittihad* Party to the *Tejeddut* Party – a small part of the property stolen from Armenians. Dr. Nazim takes 65,000 Turkish gold pounds and 600,000 Turkish gold pounds worth of jewellery to Germany from so-called ‘abandoned’ goods.

29 March 1919: Trabzon trial of Ottoman leaders confirmed the mass burning of an entire Armenian village near Muş was true.

10 June 1919: Talaat Pasha, Enver Pasha, Djemal, and Dr. Nazim, are condemned to death *in absentia* (they had escaped on a German gunboat to Germany) at a Turkish trial.

15 March 1921: the Turkish Hitler Talaat Pasha is assassinated in Berlin by Armenian Soghomon Tehlirian after British and Soviet intelligence agents agreed his death warrant (Soghomon was later found not guilty by a German court due to temporary insanity as his family had all been murdered during the Armenian Genocide).

21 July 1922: Armenian Stepan Dzaghighian assassinates Djemal Pasha, one of the Three Pashas, in Georgia.

4 August 1922: Enver Pasha is killed in Tajikistan by Red Army Armenian soldier Hakob Melkumian.