

March 16, 1895

PERSECUTION OF ARMENIANS.

Turks Torture the Survivors of Their Massacres in Sassoun.

LONDON, March 15. ? The Daily Telegraph has a dispatch sent from Moosh at a date not given, and forwarded from Kars yesterday.

It says:

"The Commissioners have learned that the Armenian priest, Hatchadoor, and his son were ordered by gendarmes to sign a document ascribing the massacre to the Kurds and clearing the Turks of all blame. The Hatchadoors refused to do so. The gendarmes then placed heated triangles round their necks. The commission desire to examine the two victims, but the latter are too ill.

The Turkish Government tried every means to compel the survivors of the massacres to return to their respective villages and rebuild the huts. They promised money, seed corn, exemption from taxes, and the restitution of property. Nearly all refused and consequently were terribly treated. Some returned and now are literally starving, if not dead. Many who were wealthy and respected are now in abject poverty.

The correspondent quotes an instance of villagers virtually naked and subsisting on milletseed. The stock of this seed, he says, must have given out a fortnight ago. These people had no hope of help, he says, and probably are dying or dead. "If assistance be sent through the delegates in Moosh or the American missionaries in Bitlis," continues the correspondent, "some lives may be saved." He writes of girls of fourteen, six daughters of victims of the massacre, who returned to Semal half naked and died without food or fire in a hut at night during a snowstorm. He names six villages where the few survivors of the massacre are starving.

The New York Times