

Solmaz Roustamova-Tohidi



**GUBA** APRIL-MAY 1918  
DOCUMENTED POGROMS OF THE MUSLIMS



**HEYDAR ALIYEV  
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**Government of Azerbaijan  
Records of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission**

**Guba, April-May 1918  
Documented Pogroms of the Muslims**

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Documents included in the collection were drafted and compiled by the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan in July 1918 with a view to examining the facts of violence, pogroms and loot towards the Muslim residents and their property all over Transcaucasia as of the beginning of World War 1. The present collection comprises records of *The Devastation of the Town of Guba and Villages of Guba Uyezd Case*. The records shed the light on tragic events of April-May in Guba Uyezd (name for administrative districts in Czarist Russia) when more than 4 thousand civilians, women, children and elderly ones among them, were brutally massacred, hundreds of villages, households, mosques and public facilities leveled and plundered, assets of the Muslim population of the Azerbaijani, Lezghin, Tat, Avar and other origins looted and destroyed. The three sections of the book present witness testimonies of residents of the town of Guba and adjacent villages of Guba Uyezd recreating the chronology of Muslims' pogroms, verdicts by rural communities of the Uyezd with numbers of people slain and slaughtered, the size of damages inflicted, the names of villages plundered and devastated, etc. Revealing the details of criminal offences committed by the Armenian militants, the records hereby provided clearly indicate that the events in Guba were a part and parcel of large-scale action plans and operations by the Armenian nationalists aiming at maximum possible decrease of the indigenous Muslim population in all Azerbaijani regions viewed as potential territories for their desired Armenian state.

The Collection also includes the historic essay re-edited by the author with detailed reference information and photographs. The map of Guba Uyezd as of 1918 with special comments enclosed.

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## **Events of 1918 in Guba in the Context of Plans for Mass Extermination of Azerbaijan's Muslim Population**

"...the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission is hereby notified that no persons wounded or maimed by the Armenian gangs were found in Sector 1 of the town of Guba, neither could they be found for the attackers were sharp-shooters, and they did not use 40-50 bullets when one bullet was enough. Besides this, any person they got hold of was slaughtered by daggers and shot to death from rifles with dead bodies mutilated afterwards." These excerpts from the report by police superintendent of Precinct 1, the town of Guba (1), is just one out of hundreds of testimonies related to the bloody events of April-May 1918 in both the town itself and adjacent villages of Guba Uyezd (District). So what was the "guilt" of the population of this part of Azerbaijan, known for its ethnic diversity whereby the dominant Azerbaijani Turks have been living side by side with the Lezghins, the Tats, the Jews, the Russian sectarians, the Armenians and others enjoying good neighborly relations for centuries? A noteworthy detail is that Guba's Armenian population did not exceed 500 persons (2), and their influence was much lower than that of the Armenians in Baku, Shamakhy or Garabagh.

Prior to answering this question a brief background of the area's history and the events preceding the horrible bloodshed in spring 1918 would be hereby appropriate.

\*\*\*

The town of Guba with its deeply-rooted history was mentioned, this way or another, in the earliest sources of the Albanian, Arabic, Persian, and Turkish origin, as well as in the works by various European geographers and travelers. Geographic areas identified as *Guba* after the town located amidst stretched from the North-Eastern ridges of the Greater Caucasus Mountain Range all the way to the Samur-Davachi Depression.

As far as the place name Guba is concerned, this geographic concept was ever more ancient and widespread. The toponym's area of dissemination "stretched from Mongolia all the way to the Central Russia and trans-Caspian, Shirvan and North Caucasus included". (3) The origin of this toponym is explained through a number of va- rious



and sometimes mutually exclusive versions, the most credible are the following ones: the first mosque built by Prophet Muhammad in the vicinity of Holy Mecca was named Quba. No less interesting is the name Bade Firuz-Qubad given to the Azerbaijani ruler Anushirvan in the area of today's Guba back in the 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D. The citadel was named after the Sassanid King Qubad I. According to Sarah Ashurbeyli, a recognized Azerbaijani historian, "it was mentioned by the Arabic historian Mas'udi (943 A.D.) who wrote: 'there is a lot of reports...regarding magnificent constructions erected by Qubad ibn Firuz, father of Hisra Anushirvan, in the location known as Maskat, which present a city built of fine stone'. Speaking of Maskat, what the author presumably means is the area of Guba and the town of Firuz-Qubad, i.e. the modern Guba, a town named after the Sassanid King Qubad I, son of Firuz (488-531)". Linking these two facts together, S.Ashurbeyli assumes that the very name Quba is related to the toponyms imported into the area by the Arabic tribes from the town of Quba, nearby Medina, upon the conquest of territories of Azerbaijan and Dagestan back in the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D. According to her, "the vast range of the toponym's dissemination all over the areas overtaken by the Arabic Caliphate is supportive of this assumption together with the following description of the town of Guba left by Zeyn al-Abidin Shirvani (19<sup>th</sup> century): "In old times, an Arabic tribe moved to Guba and settled there". Upon coming across the name sounding similar to ma town in the vicinity of Arabic Medina, they started calling it Quba, exactly like in case with Maskat". (4)

According to other versions explain place names with element guba or quva known back in the 12<sup>th</sup> century were prevalent all over the territory of contemporary Azerbaijan, as well as North Caucasus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Altay area indicating an ethnic name of Turkic origin. E.g. a well-known Kyrgyz tribe named kuba is believed to be of the Kypchak origin. (5)

As of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, name Guba is found in a number of Arabic sources. E.g. *Geographic Dictionary* by Hamawi (13<sup>th</sup> century) mentions a town named *Qubba*, whereas archives of the Safavi Dynasty (16<sup>th</sup> century) provide affluent information regarding the area called Gubba, also mentioned as Gubbe in some other sources.

It is generally believed that the town of Guba was founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Since its very inception, the fortified town of Guba, as well as eponymous district was a part of the *State of Shirvanshah*, one of the powerful mediaeval Azerbaijani states embracing vast territories known as *Shirvan*. Medieval sources refer to *Shirvan (Sharvan)* as an area on the Western coast of the Caspian Sea, east of the Kura River, encompassing part of ancient *Caucasian Albania* and early medieval *Arran*. Due to various political events in the Middle Ages, frontiers of Shirvan changed over time. Also, they could be altered due to political developments and alterations in administrative subdivision resulting from conquests. In certain periods, parts of Shirvan were incorporated into *Atropatena*, whereas in some other times northern borders of Shirvan could stretch all the way to towns and settlements in South Dagestan. (6)

As far as local population is concerned, it is well known that for centuries, Shirvan had been an arena for diverse contacts among a variety of tribes of Caucasian, Iranian and Turkic origin. This process of intermingling is traced in written sources, archaeological finds and toponymical (place name) data. Besides the earliest Shirvan inhabitants of the diverse origins mentioned above, the Arabs were among the local residents as of the 7-9<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D. onwards. Another visible element in Azerbaijan's ethnic mosaic as of the 16-18<sup>th</sup> centuries were new Kurdish tribes moving to Azerbaijan from Turkey accompanied by domestic migration of other tribes of Kurdish origin from South Azerbaijan to the north. (7)

Meanwhile, in certain periods both urban and rural areas of Shirvan faced devastating effects of frequent warfare between the Safavi Iran and Ottoman Turkey. E.g. in the 16<sup>th</sup> century after the 6<sup>th</sup> war between the Ottomans and the Safavis, the Turks succeeded in getting control over Shirvan (1578) dividing the area into two provinces, i.e. the Greater Shirvan and the Lesser Shirvan. At that time, Guba as the 3<sup>rd</sup> administrative district (*sanjag*) was a part of Lesser Shirvan with Derbend as the capital city. (8)

The year of 1638 brought about the treaty between Turkey and Iran that established peace between the two countries for over 80 years to come (1639-1723). And even though throughout this period Azerbaijan remained under the Iranian control as the north-western outskirt, it managed to retain its administrative integrity spreading from the Kyzyluzen River all the way to the Greater Caucasus in the

north and encompassing a part of Eastern Armenia. The very concept of *Azerbaijan* then embraced the whole of historic *Atropatena* together with *Talysh* and *Caspiana* areas, as well as the lands of Caucasian Albania. (9)

With decline of the central power in Iran as of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the process of gradual detachment of the Azerbaijani lands commenced. The emergence of *Guba Khanate (duchy)* in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century with the capital first in Khudat and then in Guba was a clear indication of this.

Husseynali-Khan (1722-1758) is considered the founder of Guba Khanate per se, whereas the whole dynasty of the khans (dukes) starts from Husseyn I originating from the stock of the *Kaytag Uzmis (rulers of Kaytag)*. Rescued during the blood feud in-between the two branches of the Kaytag tribes, and taken away to Isfahan afterwards, Husseyn I married the daughter of a rich nobleman from Gajar family. Their son Ahmad was the grandfather of Fatali-Khan the famous ruler of Guba Khanate in the years to come. Due to his valor and personal merits, Husseyn I was appointed the khan of Guba by Shah Suleyman-Khan from the Safavi Dynasty. Upon his arrival in Guba, Husseyn I initiated construction of a fort in Khudat and laid out orchards around. There he placed his residence and was running the area since 1680 until 1689. At that time, Guba was a tiny medieval town with residents mainly engaged in crafts and trades.

In 1735, under Husseyn Khan, the khanate's capital moved to Guba since Khudat had lost its value as an administrative center. Majority of Khudat's population moved to Guba too. The khanate (duchy) encompassed hundreds of tiny villages making their living through agriculture, horticulture and livestock farming. (10)

As of mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, a new and very important period of Azerbaijan's history started with the country's actual independence, "even though it did not appear as a centralized state due to being split into a number of independent or semi-independent *khanates*". (11) That being the case, these several decades (in fact, above half a century) may be viewed as the period of real existence of the Azerbaijani khanates (principalities), such as Garabagh, Guba, Shemakha, Baku, Nakhchivan, Ganja, Sheki, Derbend, Tabriz, Sarab, Ardabil, Khoy, Urmiyye, Garadagh, Talysh, Maragha, Maku. Smaller states included Gutgashen, Gabala, Aresh, Gazakh, Shamshadil and Ilisu Sultanates. Jaro-Balakan

communities were located to the north-west of the latter one.

However, lack of the unifying political center in the territory of Azerbaijan in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and quite a secluded lifestyle featuring certain areas, with majority of local feudal lords (*khans, sultans, meliks, beys*) mainly preoccupied with their own independence only nurtured feudal disunity and impeded the formation of a central power capable of unifying the country. Meanwhile, among the local rulers there were some powerful personalities willing to unite Azerbaijan under their rule. This was a very important phenomenon featuring local political situation in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Fatali-Khan Afshar, the founder of Urmiiye Khanatate in the south, and Fatali-Khan of Guba in the north were exactly the characters of this type.

It was during Fatali-Khan's reign (1758-1789) when the role and importance of Guba Khanate in the Azerbaijani history increased dramatically. Succeeding to the power from his father Husseyn-Khan, Fatali-Khan managed to bring together north-eastern Azerbaijani lands in the 1760-1780's. After more than decade-long efforts he succeeded in spreading his control over Salyan Sultanate and the Khanates of Derbend, Baku, and Shemakha. Soon, the Khanate of Sheki found itself dependent on Guba Khanate which by late 1760's grew into one of the most influential states of its kind uniting a number of Azerbaijani lands under single governance. By that time, borders of Guba Khanate stretched all the way to Talysh Khanate in the south, Sheki Khanate in the west and Garabagh Khanate in the south-west. (12)

This period may be considered both the most remarkable and stable one in local history with peace and tranquility guaranteed not only for Guba but a significant part of modern Azerbaijan it had control over. Properly protected from outer attacks, the local residents got a respite from endless wars and devastating invasions. It should be noted in particular that the Azerbaijani language was used in all government edicts and chancery correspondence all over the North-Eastern union created by Fatali-Khan. This is another indication of the high status the Azerbaijani language as the official one.

Upon Fatali-Khan's demise, his sons Ahmad-Khan and Sheikhali-Khan ruling in 1789-1791 and 1791-1810 respectively were unable to retain the power and status their father had left them with both by virtue of their personal qualities and prevalent political conditions,

so the Azerbaijani union formed around Guba at their predecessor's time gradually fell apart.

Domestic and foreign political situation featuring Azerbaijan in late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was quite complex indeed. Social and economic backwardness of the country furthermore aggravated by never-ending attacks of the Russian and Iranian troops into Azerbaijan on the one hand, and personal ambitions of local Khans unwilling to get along with each other on the other hand, left little room for the unification of Azerbaijani lands. Given this situation, the real force capable to withstand imperial plans of Russia and Iran towards Azerbaijan was missing, so there was no one able to counter their overt intents to get the whole of the Caucasus under their control.

The Azerbaijani lands were targeted by the Russian Empire back in the late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with Russia's significant rise under Peter I followed by pressing need to get access to abundant resources in the South Caucasus, Azerbaijan in particular. However the first phase of Russian campaign of conquest failed to yield the desired outcome. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century launched the second phase in the region's takeover. The local Christian population, first and foremost ethnic Armenians, were mostly counted on by the Russian troops as the social base in the course of the conquest. With no state of their own, the Armenians in turn viewed the Russians as their advocates.

Meanwhile, a number of Azerbaijani khans considered Turkey and Iran in particular an even a greater threat given the fact that the Russian policy towards Azerbaijan had been rather cautious then. At that particular period, what Russia was striving for was not too much the conquest of the Azerbaijani khanates, but, rather, binding their rulers with various treaties and thus making them dependent this way or another. As far their unlimited within their duchies is concerned, it remained intact. E.g., taking benefit of the existing relationship between the Khanate of Guba and the Russian authorities, the Treaty of Georgiyevsk was signed in 1802 whereby Sheikhalı-Khan retained control over Guba and Derbend Khanates in exchange for their naturalization by Russia.

Consequently, the Russian campaigns evolved into a pure conquest. In 1801, Eastern Georgia was conquered by the Russian Empire. Gazakh and Shamshadil Sultanates, previously dependent on Georgia, also fell under the Russian control. Jaro-Balakan jamaats (com-

munities) were next to fall to the Russian troops in 1803. In early 1804, the Czarist Army managed to drown in blood the desperate resistance of Ganja defenders led by local Javad-Khan and his son. So the outnumbering Russian troops gained control over the town bringing the Khanate of Ganja to its end and renaming the place into *Elisavet-pol*. Along with Ganja Khanate, the Russian troops overtook Samukh Sultanate as well.

Conquests by the Russian Empire could not help warning Iran, so the war between the two states broke out in 1804. Defeat of the Iranian Shah in the hostilities determined the fate of Baku and Guba Khanates. However, Guba's takeover in September 1806 did not imply a complete subjugation of the area to the Russian rule. On the contrary, this launched a 13-year-long resistance movement of local residents led by Sheikhalı-Khan supported by the Caucasian highlanders. It was only in August 1819 when largely outnumbering Russian troops could finally overcome resistance of Guba residents. This put the end to both the Khanate of Guba and its ruling dynasty.

In 1812, benefiting from the Napoleonic war against Russia, the Iranian Shah decided to regain control over the Azerbaijani territories overtaken by the Russians. A 20-thousand-strong army attacked Garabagh. However, pushed back by the Russian troops, the Iranian military failed to access other areas of Azerbaijan. The peace treaty signed on October 13, 1813 near Gulistan village in Garabagh upheld the Russian control over all Azerbaijani Khanates, except for Erivan and Nakhchivan.

The second Russo-Persian War 13 years later also ended up with the Russian victory. The Russian troops entered Tabriz, and faced with their further advance Fatalı-Khan Gajar was forced not only to withdraw any claims towards the lands conceded to Russia pursuant to the Gulistan Treaty but also to give up Erivan and Nakhchivan Khanates as well. This new conditions were stipulated in the Treaty of Turkmanchay signed near Tabriz on February 10, 1828. *The Gulistan and Turkmanchay Peace Treaties* concluded the Russo-Persian Wars of 1804-1813 and 1826-1828 respectively and specified the final status of the 13 Azerbaijani Khanates, the Khanate of Guba among them, as part of the Russian Empire.

A totally new administrative system was introduced by the Russian authorities in the newly-acquired territories with the khans

stripped of power and the khanates transformed into provinces. This is exactly what happened to the Khanate of Guba, renamed into the province under the same name with all lands, orchards and fishing farms owned by the Czarist administration.

The image of that-time Guba was generally typical of the Oriental feudal townships. Located at the right bank of the Gudiyal-Chay River it was a small but strongly fortified citadel. With the Russian administration getting furthermore entrenched, the citadel was gradually losing its initial importance, and the residential area spread beyond it by the late 1830's.

Turbulent political and military developments of the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century brought about some visible changes into Azerbaijan's ethnic landscape, the Province of Guba included. The indigenous population of Guba Khanate constituting the area's overwhelming majority by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century was indiscriminately styled as '*Muslims*' by the new administration. In fact, these were the direct descendants of local tribes of the Turkic, Iranian and Caucasian origin inhabiting the place from times immemorial. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Turkic population was dominant among the Muslims in Guba Province. Historically, the Turkic people of Transcaucasia and Iranian Azerbaijan were identified by neighboring peoples as '*Muslims*' or '*Turks*' with religious identity prevailing over the ethnic one.

Since the South Caucasus was incorporated into the Russian Empire, the Russian authorities traditionally used to identify the Turkic ethnic groups as '*Tatars*', coined the names like '*Azerbaijani (Aderbeijani) Tatars*' or '*Transcaucasian Tatarts*' with a view to distinguishing them from other Turkic peoples. The so-called Azerbaijani Tatars were indigenous residents of both the town of Guba and adjacent villages named after numerous Kypchak, Oghuz and other Turkic tribes inhabiting the earliest time (e.g. *Guba, Alpan, Shabran, Bayat, Gajar, Samur, Chul, Khuch, Chalakhar, etc.*). They were speaking the language of Turkic origin and professing Islam in both Shiite and Sunni denominations. (13)

Residents of Guba Province of the Iranian origin were mainly represented by the *Tats*, descendants of the Iranians apparently settled in Transcaucasia back at the times of the Sassanid Dynasty (3-7<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.) with a view to protecting the Empire's northern borders. The dominant population of Shirvan by the early 13<sup>th</sup> century

replaced the Albanians under the Sassanid rule subsequently splitting into three congregations, i.e. the Muslims, the Judaists and Gregorians. (14) Tat-populated villages with traditional Tatish names like *Ghendov, Afruja, Rustov, Zuhur* etc., were located side by side with the Turkic (i.e. Azerbaijani) ones. Traditionally Shiite Muslims by faith, with tiny Sunni minority, the Tats were speaking their native Tatish (Tat) language among themselves referring to the Turkic language to communicate with their neighbors. (15)

The Lezghins counted for a significant part of Guba's population. One of the oldest ethnic groups in the area, they dominantly resided in the north-eastern part of Guba Province sharing border with Dagestan and the right bank of the Samur River. Incorporation of South Dagestan into the State of Shirvanshah back in the Middle Ages, as well as exposure to the latter one's strong influence promoted periodic migration of the Lezghins from Dagestan to the adjacent areas (the Khanate of Guba among them), with the new settlements named after their previous residential places. E.g. the Lezghin-populated villages of Guba Province like *Zeykhur, Muruq, Murugoba, Legher, Gedezeykhur, Yeni Zeykhur*, etc, were founded by the residents originating from villages with the same names in Dagestan. (16) The Lezghins were Sunni Muslims speaking their native Lezghin language, also fluent in Turkic.

Besides the Lezghins, the Province of Guba was home to a number of small ethnic communities of the Caucasian origin comprising the Shahdagh linguistic sub-group of the Lezghin language, such as the *Khinalugs, the Kryzes, the Budugs*, etc.

The pure Jewish population of Guba was a sub-ethnic group of the East Caucasian Jewry, also known as *the Mountain (Highland) Jews*. The area of their compact residence was known as Jewish Settlement. The way the Mountain Jews identified themselves was '*Yeudi*' (*the Jews*) or *Juhur* (the Persian name for the Judaists). The adjective '*Mounaineous*' (*Highlanders*) was added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as this was the common name applied by the Russian officials to all Caucasian peoples. By their language and other attributes, the local Jews belonged to the to the Persian-speaking Jewish Group. (17)

As far as the Armenian population of Guba Province is concerned, it migrated to the area in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, specifically during the last years of Fatali-Khan's reign, and was concentrated in



two places, i.e. Kilvar and Khachmaz. Gregorian (Apostolic) Christians by faith, most of the Guba Armenians were speaking Persian, hence in a number of 18-19<sup>th</sup> century sources they were referred to as '*the Armenian Tats*', '*Christian Tats*' or '*Gregorian Tats*'. That being said, residents of this type of Tat-speaking villages used to identify themselves as Armenians, and were also speaking Armenian. (18)

The same ethnic composition was featuring the town of Guba with the indigenous Turkic residents (i.e. the Azerbaijanis) being the dominant ethnic group. The Jews and the Tats were the second largest ethnic group, whereas other ethnicities (the Russians, the Armenians, etc.) were neither large in number, not stable. Migration from Dagestan and northern Iranian provinces (South Azerbaijan) had a certain impact on Guba's ethnic composition as well. (19)

Residents of Guba Khanate and later the Province of Guba and the town itself have always enjoyed smooth good-neighborly relations, with no ethnic or confessional conflicts reported.

In the 1840's, the *Russian Settlement*, also known as *Kryty Khutor* (*Covered Farmstead*) was laid out in the north-western part of Guba, populated by the Czarist military officers. Meanwhile the Russian resettlement policy launched immediately upon the area's conquest was accompanied by intense displacement of the native population. The Royal Law of October 20, 1830 encouraged the migration of Russian peasants, mainly *the Raskolniki* (Old Believers) and sectarians. All together, 19 Russian settlements were created in Guba Uyezd within the time span of 1830-1917. Normally, Russian colonies in the area were laid out on the lands originally owned by the locals with subsequent displacement of native residents by the newcomers. In some other cases the settlements were formed at the expense of so-called 'landed surplus' (or extra lands) implying the lands owned by certain Muslim communities. E.g., the Azerbaijani village of Khuch was populated by Russian newcomers and renamed into *Nicolayevka*. The same scenario happened with Akhtala village alienated from local residents to become *Novo-Mikhaylovka*. (20)

The Lezghin residents of Guba Uyezd were also subject to displacement. For instance, residents of the Lezghin village of Kusnet (nowadays Vladimirovka) were forced to vacate their original *aoul* with rich grazing lands and fertile soil and to move into barren mountains to establish a new *aoul* with the same name. Intense replacement of

ethnic Lezghins also occurred in Guba, Gusar and Khudat. (21)

Resettlement policy initiated by the Russian administration as of the 1830's augmented by suppression of the local urban and rural population, overtaxing, extortions and other abuses by the Czarist officials and landlords generated a serious tension within the first two decades of the new rule. This resulted in a wave of revolts shaking Guba Province in 1837. It took the Russian authorities a year of severe repercussions to contain the situation.

Meanwhile the riots triggered certain developments as well. Following the Administrative Reform of January 1, 1841, the Russian administrative system was applied to Transcaucasia. As a result, the Province of Guba was transformed into Guba Uyezd (District), and the town of Guba was granted the status of '*a chief Uyezd town*' as of 1843.

The second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century featured further development of the capitalist economic system in the Russian Empire which had an impact on economic and social life of the outskirts as well, including the Azerbaijani provinces (*guberniyas*) and *uyezds* that were getting more and more involved in the Russian market. The positive effect of this for the development of Guba Uyezd was tangible indeed.

It was the time when religious leaders of each congregation were dominating in social life and education of respective groups of population in Guba Uyezd. The first one-class public primary school was established in Guba in 1854, transformed into a two-class school in 1870. The local four-class school opened as late as November 1908. It was roughly at this time when the mixed Russian-Azerbaijani schools started emerging in the area offering classes in Azerbaijani, Russian and Farsi. Meanwhile, the School of Horticulture, the first of its kind in Baku Province, was established in Guba in March 1898. The school offering 5-year-long training program existed till 1915.

As of the 1830's, one of the key persons in Guba's cultural life was Abbasguluagha Bakykhanov, an outstanding historian, philosopher, educator and scholar, the son of Mirza Muhammad-Khan II of Baku, and a Colonel Lieutenant of the Czarist Army. Upon his retirement in 1835, A.Bakykhanov spent almost the rest of his life in Guba. Here most of his works were penned. His major historic treatise, *Gulistani-Iram*, retains its value to this very day. The work is dedicated to the centuries-old history of Bakykhanov's native Shirvan and Dages-

tan. Meanwhile, A.Bakykhanov was instrumental in developing local literature and poetry in Guba where he established *Gulistan* literary society (*mejlis*) attended by local poets and intellectuals.

In 1874, a group of Guba-based Russian amateur actors launched a series of theater performances. By late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the first theater shows in the Azerbaijani language were presented. *Story of Monsieur Jordanne* based on M.F.Akhundov's comedy, staged on August 17, 1896, was a tremendous success followed by a series of regular theatrical performances.

In the meantime, the second half of the 1870's presented Guba not only with the bustling cultural life, but a wave of peasant riots. Shortage of arable land, heavy burden of taxes and in kind duties, limited access to irrigation, abuse of peasants' rights, colonial policy in agriculture, stratification in the society due to ongoing market reforms in rural areas and deplorable living conditions generated enormous public resentment all over Azerbaijan. Waves of peasant unrest in Guba and Nukha Uyezds as well as the District of Zagatala in 1877 were a clear example of this.

Notably, the riots occurred at the moment when domestic and foreign complexities in Russia coincided with a new crackdown on the Caucasus. The anti-Czarist and anti-Christian motivation was featuring the Guba revolt, suppressed in blood, with harsh reprisals towards all the participants, let it be the Caucasian highlanders, Guba or Nukha residents.

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Upon suppression of the peasant revolt of 1877, there was an almost half a century-long period of comparative tranquility in Guba Uyezd. Except for the so-called movement of *qachaqs* (highly popular Robin Hood style popular avengers employing guerilla tactics against the Royal administration and landlords) the area enjoyed a relatively lengthy period of domestic stability.

Despite the efforts of the Baku Committee of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party (RSDRP), political ideas featuring the 20<sup>th</sup> century never succeeded in getting a strong foothold among the residents of Guba. Even the bloodiest local event of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as the first clash between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in 1905-1907, subsequently evolving into an ethnic massacre almost all over the territory of Azerbaijan and partially spreading to Tiflis Province,

somehow passed detour Guba Uyezd. The local Armenian population, rather small in size, was far from being aggressive then, whereas the Azerbaijani population of both Guba and adjacent villages, way more numerous, succeeded to resist the sentiments of hatred and revenge, quite prevalent in those days both among the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians all over Transcaucasia.

World War I followed by two revolutions in 1917, drastically changed political situation in the Russian Empire, also affecting relatively stable and regular life in Guba Uyezd. Peaceful change of power in the district stirred up certain political activity among some representatives of urban and rural elite, whereas majority of the population remained passively observant.

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News of the February Revolution in Petrograd (that-time name of St.Petersburg) followed by the formation of the Provisional Government reached Tiflis (the then name of Tbilisi), the administrative center of Transcaucasia, on March 15, 1917. In the attempt to retain control over South Caucasus, on March 22, 1917, the Provisional Government established the *Special Committee for Transcaucasia (OZACOM)* comprising members of the *State Duma* (The Czarist Russian legislature). However, with no real power and isolated from the periphery, *OZACOM* was incapable to manage the situation. This left the actual power in Transcaucasia in the hands of various revolutionary organizations. Benefiting from the existing situation, the Social Democrats were trying their best to consolidate their influence all over the region.

On March 19, 1917, *the Soviet of Worker Deputies* was established in Baku actively claiming to replace the former power structures and assume the functions of the supreme authority. Meanwhile, there was another local administrative body established along with this Soviet, i.e. *the Executive Committee of Public Organizations*. The Committee based on totally different grounds comprised representatives of all ethnic parties and groups.

Similar situation with new power structures was observed in the countryside areas, Guba Uyezd among them. On March 6, 1917, the Public Organizations' Executive Committee comprising local officials, landowners and clergy was formed in Guba, chaired by Alexander Janturashvili, the local taxation inspector. (22) Alibey Zizikski, one of

Guba's major landlords and former Russian Army captain, was appointed the Uyezd Commissar by OZACOM. (23)

In the meantime, *the Soviet of Soldier Deputies* was founded in Guba-based military units, followed by the *Soviet of Worker Deputies* in mid-March 1917 dominated by the *Essers* (Socialist Revolutionaries), the *Mensheviks* and bourgeois nationalists. (24) Thus the diarchy power was also featuring the situation in Guba Uyezd.

*The Bolsheviks*, anxious about existing situation, were trying to increase their influence basically among the soldiers of military units deployed in Guba and Gusar, as well as in the workers' dominated areas. This was the way they succeeded in forming cells among railroad workers at Khachmaz and Davachi stations. (25)

In the meantime, the Uyezd's Azerbaijani population was getting increasingly active as well, with branches of *Mussavat* National Democratic Party established by local intellectuals. Habilgasym Roustamov was the founder of the *Mussavat's* branch in Guba, whereas Alipanahbey Sherifbeyov, a representative of one of Guba's high-born landlord families, was the deputy chief of the local committee. (26) In July 1917, outlets of the party emerged in Davachi, Galagah village of Davachi Precinct and other places. (27) Subsequently, branch of *Ittihad* religious party was established in Guba by Alibey Zizikski, Hamdulla Effendi Effendizadeh and other recognized representatives of local elite. (28)

Besides this, Muslim National Committees started emerging in Guba as of May 1917 to include mainly representatives of landlords, merchants and clergy. (29)

That being said, none of the newly-emerging power structures was capable of reforming existing agrarian relations, the core factor determining social and political stability for decades not only in Guba Uyezd, but elsewhere in Azerbaijan or the whole of South Caucasus. Nonetheless, compared to other places, particularly Elisavetpol and Gazakh Uyezds then overtaken by peasant unrest, the situation in both the town of Guba and the rest of the Uyezd was generally under control, and cases of peasant attacks on landlord mansions and farmsteads very seldom.

It should be also noted that local *beys*, landlords, bureaucrats and intelligentsia, sufficiently represented in the local authorities, subordinate first to OZAKOM and then to the Trans-Caucasian Com-

missariat replacing the former one, were generally in control of the situation in the Uyezd and, when necessary, managed to curb both peasant riots and illegitimate actions by some armed gangs.

One of these operations was conducted in January 1918 by an 'vigilante unit' of Alibey Zizikski in Khachmaz. (30) In the meantime, A.Zizikski's units were standing guarantor of security for the Uyezd's Muslim population given the fact that at that particular period, i.e. autumn 1917 to January 1918, the area witnessed increasing number of armed squads manned by WW1 demobs of Russian, Jewish and Armenian origins involved in armed robberies and violent attacks on landlord estates. Attempts by local authorities to disarm these irregulars oftentimes resulted in armed clashes that could create an impression of interethnic ones. Nevertheless, the overall situation in the Uyezd at that moment was generally manageable, to a great extent due to A.Zizikski's vigilantes. (31)

In his new capacity of the Uyezd Commissar, Alibey Zizikski, one of the key figures in Azerbaijan's national liberation movement and a member-to-be of the National Parliament, was in fact maintaining control over the political situation in the area by preventing takeover or violent seizure of power in the Uyezd by the Baku Soviet.

Another highly esteemed and influential public figure in Guba Uyezd, Hamdulla Efendi Efendizadeh, also a future member of the National Parliament, secured stability in the Uyezd's Davachi Precinct.

Given this situation, any attempts by revolutionary forces represented by the Guba Soviet of Worker, Soldier and Sailor Deputies to establish a one-man rule in the area were hard to succeed.

In fact, as of mid-1917, the major struggle in Guba was going not in-between the two power structures but within the Soviet itself, i.e. among the Bolsheviks (communists) on the one hand, and the Socialist Revolutionary (*Esser*) and Menshevik branches on the other hand. The former ones were striving in vain to assure majority in the Soviet. The reason of low *bolshevization* (communist dominance) in the Soviets at the Azerbaijani-populated areas, Guba among them, could be partially explained by "*a bundle of social and ethnic relationships and complexities in tackling bourgeois nationalist and petty bourgeois parties and groups*". (32) However, the very fact of more moderate political forces' dominance in the Soviet provided sufficient evidence of lack of active public support by the Azerbaijani masses to violent

methods of changing power and addressing existing problems.

Nonetheless the Bolsheviks were trying hard to increase their influence upon certain groups of population, mainly targeting peasants of Russian-populated villages and soldiers of the Guba and Gusar Garrisons. However, even with this hard-won majority in just one branch of local authorities, the Bolsheviks were not in a position to control the whole Uyezd with the town of Guba. Neither could they manage even smaller communities.

This being the case, their major efforts boiled down to the foundation of the railroad workers' trade union in Khachmaz, formation of militia-type railroad security force under the trade union's umbrella and holding several meetings involving Russian peasants that passed non-mandatory resolutions 'to support the Soviet power'. One of such meetings held on February 26-27, 1917 in Yelenovka village, Mushkur Precinct was attended by residents of Gusar, Nicolayevka, Petropavlovka, Alexeyevka, Mikhaylovka, Borispol, Novomikhaylovka and Shibyakin villages, as well as Druzhba farmstead. (33)

On March 12, 1918, following the major Bolshevik motto of accomplishing their goals by force of arms, the peasant meeting of Guba Uyezd passed the resolution calling "*all men capable of carrying arms to be armed with a view to conducting self-defense*". (34)

The resolution made no provisions on whom the so-called '*peasants of Guba Uyezd*' were supposed "to conduct self-defense" from. However, the very language of the documents reveals the intent of the Bolsheviks to take over the power in the area by force of arms. This was the reason of their zeal to have local population armed.

Given a relatively low share of the local Russian population potentially supportive to the Bolsheviks, the communists were striving to gain support among other ethnic groups in the area.

In late March 1918, Meshadi Azizbeyov, one of *Hummet* leaders and a member of the Baku and Municipal RSDRP(b) Committees, elected to the Commission to form Red Guard Squads earlier that year, arrived at Khachmaz to hold a meeting with representatives of the Bolshevik organizations. The meeting took note of the importance of Guba Uyezd's location in providing Baku's security. The Bolsheviks were reportedly concerned about increasing movement of highland population in Dagestan. (35) Several days later, "the Bolshevik gathering was held at the household of I.Ifraimov, one of the Red Guard

activists". The meeting arranged in Guba's Jewish settlement decided to facilitate the formation of Red Guard squads. (36)

All these meetings and gatherings aiming at arming the largest possible number of Bolshevik supporters were far from being an idle talk. The Bolsheviks were conceiving serious plans to seize power both in Baku and countryside areas. Awareness of local population regarding these plans was hard to estimate. However, as of early May 1918, part of Guba's Armenian population started moving to Baku either hastily selling their households in town or entrusting them to their Muslim neighbors.

Soon the Baku Soviet led by Stepan Shaumyan started implementing its plans which, as the unfolding events demonstrated, were not merely restricted to the seizure of power. Tragic events of March 1918 indicated the very first step of this policy.

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As a result of pogroms of the Azerbaijani population committed by the Bolshevik and Armenian squads, with partial involvement of Baku's Armenian population, more than 12 thousand people were brutally massacred within just a week. The victims were mainly representing the city's Turkic and Muslim population with civilians providing an overwhelming majority in the death toll.

Three days out of this week, i.e. evening March 30 to April 2, were the culmination of the bloodbath. Dozens of thousands households were looted and set afire in the Muslim neighborhoods together with Muslim-owned industrial, civilian and commercial facilities and a number of social, cultural and spiritual hubs particularly valuable for the local Azerbaijani residents.

It should be emphasized that from the very outset of this carnage, the masterminds of these events led by S. Shaumyan were trying to present them first as "suppression of a riot by the nationalists from the *Mussavat* party and counter-revolutionary elements supporting them", and then as "a civil war". (37) Needless to say, none of these definitions stands to any critical test.

Lack of any Azerbaijani military forces neither in Baku, nor in its environs by March 1918, as well as absence of any armed units of "the nationalists from *Mussavat* party capable of raising "riot" against the 12 thousand-strong Red Army units (38) was mentioned not only by



Mammadamin Rasalzade, the leader of *Mussavat* (39), but by other parties involved in the events and the early Soviet researchers who, despite an obviously biased approach, revealed the very crux of the events of March 1918. (40)

The events of March 1918 with dozens of thousands massacred and injured civilians of one ethnic origin only did not fit into Lenin's interpretation of civil war either as the Bolshevik leader identified civil war as "the most radical form of class struggle whereby armed representatives of one class are fighting against representatives of another class". (41) It was obvious that militant Armenian Dashnaksutyun units (then counting for 70 per cent of the available Red Army forces) committed a massacre of a large number of civilians which did not fall into a definition of a certain 'social class'. Neither could the numerous Armenian population of the city led by the Armenian National Council and actively involved in the preparation of pogroms and massacre of the Azerbaijani population be qualified as 'a social class'.

Apparently, as "a true Russian Marxist", S.Shaumyan realized this factor and, faced with staggering scale of the bloodshed, understood the necessity to comment on the unfolding events this way or another. So Shaumyan had to admit that involvement of Dashnaksutyun units had "*partially transformed the civil war into an ethnic massacre*". As an immediate excuse to this he noted the following: "*Nonetheless this was unavoidable. So we made it consciously... for should they prevail in Baku, the city would be proclaimed the capital of Azerbaijan*". (42)

This born in mind, thorough studies of the documents pertaining to the events in question clearly indicate that despite the importance of seizure of power in the city by the Bolsheviks, the Armenian factor undoubtedly played a key role in the March events of 1918.

The history has also clearly demonstrated that the Armenian national movement was cherishing the dream of cleansing Baku under the guise of "seizing power" with a view to gradually transforming it into "an Armenian city" as part of a step-by-step preparation of the Azerbaijani territory for the long-desired Armenian statehood.

By late 1917, the rapidly changing political situation worldwide dispelled the hopes of establishing *the Greater Armenia* in Turkey cherished by the Armenian nationalist organizations. So they shifted their claims towards Transcaucasia having their eye on vast areas with dominant Azerbaijani population to be incorporated into the so-called Ar-

*menian State*. This in turn necessitated large-scale ethnic cleansing to be accomplished within the shortest period possible.

Following this scheme, since early 1918 the Armenian militants launched expulsion of ethnic Azerbaijanis from the places of their indigenous inhabitation. By March 1918, they succeeded in cleansing certain areas in south-west of Transcaucasia i.e. Kars, Erivan Province, Zangazur, Goycha and a number of districts (uyezds) of Elisavetpol Province and Garabagh for a then non-existent Armenian state. Needless to say, this was accomplished by means of violent expulsion and mass extermination of the civilian Azerbaijani population, native to the area.

The Armenian forces partially succeeded in Baku where in the aftermath of the March massacre the whole power was concentrated in the hands of the Baku Soviet transformed into *the Soviet of People's Commissars* on April 25, 1918. With S.G.Shaumyan as the chairman, a good half out of the 12 ministerial positions was overtaken by ethnic Armenians who were in charge of the key positions, such as foreign affairs, army and navy, the military-revolutionary committee, maritime and railroad transportation, the Extraordinary Committee, the State Control agency, etc. The Armenian armed units involved in the carnage of the Azerbaijani population in Baku and its environs were renamed into '*Soviet troops*' and arranged into three brigades led by the same Armenian warlords, i.e. Amazasp and Colonel-lieutenants Bek-Zurabyan and Arutsunyan. Colonel Kazaryan became the Corps Commander, whereas Colonel Avetisyan was appointed the Chief of Staff. (43)

It was exactly these commanders who perpetrated the same type of ethnic massacre in Azerbaijani countryside areas under the guise of 'establishing of the Soviet regime'.

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Pogroms of ethnic Azerbaijanis in Shemakha Uyezd started on March 30, 1918, almost at the same time with Baku. Here as well, the Bolshevik and Dashnaktsutyun forces were prepared way in advance. An armed assault after a heavy artillery bombardment of a sleeping town was followed by arsons and terrible atrocities towards innocent Azerbaijani civilians. The town was turned into a ruined site of fire. The whole Muslim neighborhood was burnt to the ground together with

all Azerbaijani households in the town's Armenian section, Azerbaijani commercial outlets and other property, as well as all mosques with people sheltered inside. It was only the secondary school building that survived out of the town's 5 thousand households. (44) The death toll exceeded 8 thousand out of 21,127 Muslim residents of Shemakha. The rest Azerbaijani population fled the town to rescue their lives.

Pogroms spread all over the adjacent villages of Shemakha Uyezd. All together, 110 Azerbaijani villages were looted and devastated with total number of victims reaching 10,341, 4,359 out of them women and children. (45) The number of local residents starving to death while trying to find refuge in forests and mountains or even streaming to neighboring areas exceeded the victims of massacre manifold, estimated at several dozens of thousands.

Commencement of the attack on Shemakha just several hours prior to similar events in Baku clearly indicated the common command and control center coordinating the Bolshevik and Dashnakt-sutyun crackdown upon the civilian Azerbaijani population in various parts of Azerbaijan.

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The Guba Uyezd was the third Azerbaijani region targeted by the Bolsheviks in the aftermath of the blood bath of March 1918 in Baku and Shemakha. However, local conditions in Guba were slightly different as opposed to the two previous areas. As it may be concluded from the survey presented above, Guba's Armenian community never played any tangible role in the political, social and economic life of neither the Khanate of Guba, nor the Uyezd of the same name.

By 1918, tiny pockets of Armenian population were residing partially in the town of Guba and in a couple of Armenian villages around. With its own churches, seminaries and other public institutions the Armenian community was lacking an influential elite to represent it in local municipal or district administration dominated by the Russians, Azerbaijanis, Tats, Lezghins and Jews.

As it was mentioned above, local Bolsheviks were also far from being a dominant force in the Guba Soviet of Worker and Soldier Deputies. So the power base for the Soviets was obviously missing. The real power was then concentrated in the hands of *the Executive Committee of Public Associations* officially answerable to the Trans-Caucasian Seim that had recently re-

placed the Trans-Caucasian Commissariat.

It was probably the summary of these facts that forced the Baku Soviet of People's Commissars (*Sovnarkom*) at first to try to gain control over the area in a peaceful manner, the tactics once employed by the Imperial Russian administration. So, Guba residents were offered to comply with the Bolshevik rule voluntarily.

A noteworthy detail is that the major negotiator from the Bolsheviks was someone David Ghelovani, a 30-year-old offspring of the Georgian gentry, quite alien to Baku's political elite, a Menshevik once exiled for his political views to be set free after the October Coup of 1917. A former medical student in Moscow, Ghelovani traveled to the Caucasus to meet his kin in early 1918. However, since he was unable to return to Moscow due to ongoing events, he somehow ended up in Baku at loose ends. One can make assumptions about the reason why he was admitted to the local Bolshevik leadership and whether his ethnic origin had something to do with that. This way or another, the position of Inspector in charge for militia was offered to him by A.Japaridze. (46)

According to Ghelovani's own testimonies, he was given a totally different mission in the immediate aftermath of the March events in Baku. So it was reportedly a mere coincidence that he happened to command a two thousand-strong troop train manned dominantly by ethnic Armenians moving to unknown destination by the Khachmaz railroad. Oddly enough, it was this troop train that instructed him as a 'neutral person' to present ultimatum on complying with the Bolshevik power to Guba residents. (47)

Unlike Ghelovani, residents of areas along the railroad clearly understood the mission of the troop train. According to his recollections, "the Muslim residents en route the train fled their residential areas once they saw the approaching troops. I was trying to stop the Muslims and persuade them to stay as there was no danger for them". (48) Yet the residents of Guba were aware of the atrocities against their fellow citizens perpetrated by the Armenian soldiers in Baku and Shemakha. A large number of Guba-born residents of Baku fled to the place of their origin to avoid hostilities conveying a horrible message of what they came across with.

Meanwhile, reciprocal actions by some Guba peasants trying to avenge local Armenians for the massacre committed by their fellow

tribesmen in Baku and Shemakha resulted in attacks upon several Armenian households. Local authorities coped with this immediately, although in quite a bizarre manner. To protect Armenian residents of the town of Guba numbering 40 to 200, they found no better way to isolate them for time being than placing in the local jail where so-called "prisoners" were safeguarded, well fed and treated very properly having access to their Azerbaijani neighbors who were delivering them food and looked after their households while they were out. The overall situation in town was manageable to the point that Ghelovani, the first herald of upcoming Soviet regime, immediately freed the Armenians realizing that there was no real danger for them at all. (49)

That being said, there was a serious danger to the whole town should the ultimatum to accept the Soviet rule made by Ghelovani be rejected.

The answer of Guba residents, already scared by the events in Baku and Shemakha was easy to imagine given the fact that they had only 2 hours to contemplate under a blunt warning that the whole town would be leveled in case of 'no' answer. The ultimatum was accepted, however the population of Guba 'enjoyed' the Soviet rule for 8 days only. This short-lived period resulted in quite a hullabaloo in Baku's Bolshevik press claiming that "the Soviet power was ceremonially proclaimed on April 23 at Guba's central square met with enormous enthusiasm by toiling classes". (50) The Uyezd Revolutionary Military Committee (*Revvoyenkom*) was established on the same very day, the so-called "political prisoners" set free, a million rubles contribution imposed on the local bourgeoisie (51), and Ghelovani declared himself the Uyezd Commissar.

It should be hereby mentioned that no other power except for the municipality and inferior administrative bodies existed in Guba prior to these events. The previous Uyezd Commissar, Alibey Zizikski, left Guba for Baku after March events in Baku and Shemakha to join units of Najmeddin Gotsynski hurrying to stretch the helping hand to the Azerbaijanis with the support from Dagestan. So at this very moment they were engaged in clashes with the Bolsheviks on distant approaches to Baku trying to liberate the city and its Muslim population. (52)

With no real force to withstand the arriving military units, residents of Guba nonetheless took the Soviet regime seriously, and the

town elders were willing to get better familiar with the 'Soviet doctrine' even before they faced the ultimatum. Aware of Ghelovani's armed unit with dominant Armenian personnel and a handful of Russian and Jewish officers approximating Guba, the local residents formed a mixed delegation comprising representatives of the Muslim, Russian and Jewish population that was supposed to meet with the Bolsheviks at Khachmaz station where the troops were deployed. Local envoys were willing to know the goals of the troops and asked to be allowed to travel down to Baku to meet with the Bolshevik leaders there "with a view to better understanding their program and figuring out its admissibility".

A staunch Menshevik (i.e. Social Democrat), Ghelovani was quite responsive to Guba envoys' request and advised them to meet "the Bolshevik ring leaders" in Baku for further clarification. (53) However, not waiting for 'the voluntary compliance' with the Soviet rule by the Guba elders, he occupied the town in two days' time with a 187-strong unit, so that the local residents had no other choice than facing the fact.

In the meantime, aware of non-violent attitude of local Muslim population, Ghelovani decided "to present general concepts of Bolshevism to the Guba community leaders". With this goal in mind, an assembly (*majlis*) with Guba's recognized figures and leading clerics was convoked at the local mosque involving Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh and Abdurrahman Efendi Imam, the heads of local Shiite and Sunni congregations. Later, the former one claimed that both clerics were convoyed to the meeting under duress and forced to comply with the Soviet regime. This totally contradicts Ghelovani's claims that spiritual leaders of Guba, after being briefed on the fundamentals of Bolshevism, found no contradiction to Shariah. (54)

Meanwhile, based on Ghelovani's testimonies, quite trustworthy in this particular case, the discussion of 'the fundamentals of Bolshevism' with Guba leaders was far from being smooth. When one of the *majlis* participants, town investigator Orujev asked: "What if we start expropriating land from rich landlords, would that be acceptable from the standpoint of Shariah?", Abdurrahman Efendi, after a deep thought, responded in the following manner: "Shariah admits no violence, however should this happen in a peaceful manner, it would be even desirable because those owning large plots of land use forced

labor, and this constitutes a sin." Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh shared this view. They both were given a chance to express their views in an open way with no pressure or duress whatsoever". (55)

This way or another, the Muslim clergy of Guba got involved in addressing political issues beyond their will and they were still to express their views on the ongoing events in town and advocate the rights of their fellow believers.

One may argue about how long the Soviet power represented by Ghelovani as the Uyezd Commissar could survive in Guba, however there was another force historically known in the area, i.e. the rebellious highlanders, armed Lezghin residents of adjacent villages, with their overt aversion to the Soviet regime. After three days of severe fight, the Lezghin vigilantes succeeded in pushing the first group of Bolsheviks out of town.

Was this 'liberation' act by the Lezghins initiated by the residents of Guba? According to numerous testimonies by local residents, the attack was quite unexpected for them too, so they did not take part in the clash. The same idea was upheld by Ghelovani himself, although his unit shot down 27 Guba residents reportedly supportive of the highlanders. (56)

An armed clash between the Lezghins and Ghelovani's units backed up by additional "150 soldiers and 2 cannons from Khachmaz manned exclusively by ethnic Armenians and headed by lieutenant Aghajanyantz" (57) was in fact the first and the last battle for "establishing the Soviet rule" in Guba. Proponents of the Soviet regime, mainly the Armenians with a miniscule portion of Russian and Jewish soldiers, led by the Georgian prince of Menshevik views, were defeated. There were casualties from both sides. The Lezghin units lost 200 warriors. There were also about 70 civilian victims of the clash. While retreating, Aghajanyantz's unit set fire on Boulevard Street, massacred 16 persons at Bazarnaya Street and 7 men at Komendantskaya Street. 35 more civilians were slain near the old prison, within the town. The fleeing Bolsheviks also made arson in the premises of the Uyezd Administration, the Town Hall, and the Peace Court, and attempted to set afire the local Friday Mosque (Juma Mosque)". (58)

Despite the purported "political" character of this first battle featuring the so-called "civil war", active involvement of the ethnic Armenians alien to the area and the brutalities they committed in the

course of their retreat provide enough grounds to speak of an ethnic nature of the hostilities. Another outcome of the clash was that "the retreat of the Bolsheviks was followed by an exodus of all Russian officials, except for investigators Manuylov and Esman, as well as pharmacists and all ethnic Armenians from the area". (59) Numerous witness testimonies indicate that Ghelovani "was walking home by home to evacuate all Russians and Armenians, backed up with the troops". According to Ghelovani himself, it was Aghajanyantz, the commander of the Armenian unit who "gathered all the Christian population of Guba, dominantly Armenians, with a view to evacuating them". This statement sounds trustworthy bearing in mind Ghelovani's further comments: "*We started retreating. I was in the foreground with the unit. The soldiers of Aghajanyantz were fleeing leaving the refugees behind. It should be noted that the refugees were imploring the Armenian soldiers not to shoot the Lezghins. A group of refugees was taken away by my unit, whereas another part stayed at the Leontyev Park where they were massacred by the Lezghins*". (60)

The casualties of crossfire included several local residents of Russian, Jewish and Armenian descent "feeing" or "forcedly evacuated" by the Armenian and Bolshevik units, a Russian and Armenian priests among them. "Some dead bodies were collected by the Bolsheviks, the others were left on the spot. No one could figure out whether they were slain by the Bolsheviks or the Lezghins". (61)

The population of Guba was only given two weeks to recover. On May 1, 1918, a 3-thousand-strong unit led by Amazasp and manned exclusively by ethnic Armenians attacked Guba from three sides.

The way in which "the Soviet rule was reestablished in Guba" is best described by local residents: "*Early in the morning on May 1, 1918, the unit mentioned above led by a recognized representative of the Dashnaktsutyun Party, Amazasp, and his aide Nicolay, with exclusively Armenian personnel, surrounded the town and started heavily bombarding it from cannons, machine-guns and rifles. The mess and panics were horrible, so the armed unit entered the town unimpeded.*" Immediately after that, the town was divided into four parts with special headquarters in each of them: the first was located near the Leontyev Park, the second inside the Armenian church's fence, the third one at the mount next to the Muslim cemetery and the fourth on the hill facing the Jewish settlement. (62)



*"The town's takeover was accompanied by the carnage of the Muslim population and all sorts of atrocities towards it... 715 Muslims were massacred in the downtown on the very first day, most of them women and children. 1012 more people were slain in the town's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> precincts the next day, majority of them low-income population and Persian nationals... Property of the Muslim residents was plundered. According to the calculations made by public figures, the loot of Amazasp's unit included 4 million rubles cash and 4,5 million rubles worth of gold, golden works, jewelry and gems, as well as other goods and foodstuffs worth 25 million rubles. Besides this, 105 buildings and residential premises were set ablaze by Amazasp's unit in the town of Guba, including premises of Muslim religious institutions. The overall damage caused by arson was estimated at 100 million rubles". (63)*

The fact that the whole mission was of a purely punitive nature and had nothing to do with any political goals, was beyond any doubt. *"Immediately after entering the town, the Armenian militants started ruthlessly massacring local Muslims, women and children among them. Having slain everyone they could find in the streets and squares they were breaking into residential premises slaughtering whole families where even infants were not spared. Dead bodies were left everywhere to decompose. The massacre unleashed by the Armenians went unbridled for several days". (64)*

Several appeals by Aliabbasbey Alibeyov, the head of the town administration, to Amazasp to allow collecting dead bodies were left with no response. Only on the fourth day Armenian messengers called the Muslim men to appear with white ribbons on their sleeves to bury those murdered. A number of residents responded, however none of them returned as they were all shot down, so the people started hiding again. Dead bodies were left decomposing in the streets throughout the whole period the Armenian militants' stay in town, i.e. 9 days. (65)

Amazasp himself never denied the punitive nature of his troops' actions. On the fourth day of his assault he ordered the residents of Guba to gather in front of the mosque and addressed them saying roughly the following: *"I am originally from Erzerum. I've been fighting the Turks for a long time. I am the hero of the Armenian nation and the advocate of its interests. I was sent here with this punitive force to avenge for the death of those Armenians who were killed here a couple of weeks ago. Woe to you all when tomorrow I climb this mountain*

*(pointing to the hill with cannons installed) and start bombarding the town that I will level to the ground. Now I'm engaged in a battle with Digah and Alpan villages. Uchgun and Gymyl are the next, and leaving you ablaze I will break my way to Shahdagh, and then you will realize what it means to kill Armenians. I am not here to restore any law and order or to establish the Soviet power, but I am here to avenge you for the Armenians murdered". (66)*

This message by Amazasp, although in various interpretations, was confirmed by all those attending that meeting near the mosque. Amazasp's impudent revelation was a sort of response to complaints by A.Alibeyov, the head of municipality, about atrocities committed towards the civilians. It was also a clear message to the chief local Shi-ite cleric Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh who refused to shake Amazasp's hand saying: *"What a power is this? You are not the Bolsheviks, you are crooks, assassins, rapists and robbers. We never resisted you, so what is the reason of so many people slain and still being murdered by you?" (67)*

The leitmotif of Amazasp's address to Guba residents could be boiled down to the following: *"We were ordered to exterminate all Muslims from the Caspian shore to Mount Shahdagh, as we did it in Shirvan (Shamakhy), and to level your dwellings to the ground to avenge for our Armenian brothers killed by you and the Turks". (68)*

So who could give such bloodthirsty order to Amazasp, a person who in fact needed not to be ordered to slaughter any Muslim of Turkic descent? It goes without saying that the Armenian unit of several thousand militants was dispatched to Guba by the Baku Soviet led by Shaumyan. And the mission was exclusively punitive. This well known fact is supported by a number of historic sources, including Shaumyan himself. The latter one's attitude towards the events in Guba was clearly demonstrated in his conversation with A.Alibeyov, municipal chief of Guba who headed to Baku immediately after the Armenians left the town to find out *"whether the Soviets really sent Amazasp's punitive forces to Guba from the Bolshevik ring leaders Shaumyan and Japaridze, and to communicate them the details of the unit's actions in Guba".* According to Alibeyov's recollections, *"Shaumyan listened with a smile on his face saying that while Muslims and Turks have murdered hundreds of thousands Armenians, Muslims are shedding tears for a couple of their fellows killed by Armenians in Guba. As for Japaridze, he*

*listened carefully saying that the Soviets were not involved in sending the punitive force". (69)*

D.Ghelovani is another person naming Shaumyan as the mastermind of dispatching the punitive unit to Guba. *"There was not a single ethnic Russian in Amazasp's unit, - he wrote, - only Armenian, all of them members of Dashnaksutyun Party to the last person. Amazasp himself was a zealous Dashnaksutyun activist. I believe the punitive force was sent to Guba following Shaumyan's order, however manning the troops was determined by Korganov, the War Minister". (70)*

Another interesting source of information may be found in testimonies of a Guba resident who was informed by Amazasp's friend from Constantinople that *'they spared a number of Muslims because Mullah Hajjibaba rescued a lot of Armenian women, and he also told him that Shaumyan ordered to exterminate the Muslims ruthlessly, but they did not do that for Mullah Hajjibaba". (71)*

Another question that arises in this regard is the following: who managed to put end to Amazasp's atrocities in Guba, and what was the reason for that? Was the religious leader Mullah Hajjibaba really instrumental in rescuing the rest of Guba residents from an unavoidable carnage? In fact, spiritual leader of Guba's Shiite Muslims happened to be in the thick of ongoing events again and reportedly enjoyed a great deal of respect from Amazasp who had even "brought his apologies for the evil committed" claiming that "such things are inevitable in wartime". (72) However, Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh left Guba for good after these events and clearly denied anything attributed to him by local residents, including rescuing the Armenian women and compiling lists of Muslim women and girls raped by the Armenians. (73)

A totally different assumption may be concluded from Ghelovani's testimonies shedding the light on the person who could have really played a role in stopping the massacre in Guba. This person was... Mirjafar Baghirov.

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The future "boss" of the Soviet Azerbaijan holding the post of the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijani Communist Party, was with no doubt one of the well-known Guba residents throughout the whole history of Azerbaijan. By virtue of circumstances, it was him who became quite a visible, if not a key figure

in Guba during the events of April-May 1918. He was oftentimes referred to as 'a Bolshevik', 'a fervent Bolshevik' or 'a local Bolshevik' by both local residents and Ghelovani.

As for Mirjafar Baghirov himself, in his autobiography written in 1923 while the Chairman of the State Political Department (GPU) of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan, he provided quite a detailed information regarding the situation in Guba during the pogroms and shortly prior to them, including the causes that had brought him to the pogrom-makers' camp.

Needless to say, a lot of details presented by M.Baghirov differ, if not contradict other sources. In fact, the Guba period is the most dubious part of Baghirov's life history. The controversy could be created by the author himself as this is far not the most remarkable part of his profile. That being said, not delving into the details of Baghirov's Bolshevik career so eloquently elaborated upon in his biography, it should be admitted that he had already been with the Communists party by the time of the tragic events unfolding in Guba. Moreover, according to the document in question (see the passage below), Baghirov looks almost the driving force behind the attempted seizure of power by Ghelovani:

*"My mission was to get to Baku at any cost to present the details of existing situation in Guba Uyezd and to get the sanction to seize power there. Yet the mission was quite complicated and I was just about to pay my life for this. Then I decided to get back to Guba and seize power with no sanction from the center whatsoever in hope that it would be better to be held responsible vis-à-vis my comrades later than give a chance to Zizikski and Gotsynski to get a stronghold in Guba on their way back from Baku. That was exactly what I did. However I did send a telegram to Baku on the same very day, and this helped a lot in the course of further development of the civil war in Baku Province (Guberniya), so that not only had Zizikski no chance to get reinforced in Guba Uyezd, but he could not even show up there. So he fled to Daghestan with Gotsynski where they got reinforced and were making plans for their assault on Guba later in May. Once the road between Baku and Gyzy-Burun opened, I got in touch with advance guard of the Red Army forces led by comrades George Sturua, Artak (Stambulyanz) and Barsky whom I thoroughly described everything and who recommended me to have someone Ghelovani as the Center's*

*representative in Guba Uyezd". (74)*

By the way, in the same work Baghirov mentioned that "Ghelovani subsequently appeared to be a provocateur", however he abstained from further elaborations on such a serious charge. (75)

Another notable detail in this respect is that neither did Ghelovani provide any information regarding his first encounter with such a seemingly notable figure, even though he mentioned "*another delegation steadily naming itself a Bolshevik one*" that arrived at his headquarters while in Khachmaz. Only once he refers to the person by name in a short passage: "*Japaridze received a telegram signed by a Guba resident Mirjafar Baghirov, my former aide*". (76)

This way or another, according to witness testimonies of Guba residents, it was a Muslim from Guba and a fervent Bolshevik M. Baghirov who, together with Ghelovani and "two Jews", appeared in front of his fellow townsfolk when the ultimatum regarding recognizing the Soviet rule was launched. (77) Subsequently, on a number of occasions, Guba residents saw Baghirov in the company of Bolsheviks from Ghelovani's unit. In some cases, local Muslims were paying Armenian gangsters at Baghirov's home to save their households from arson and plunder, whereas in another case, 9 days after the massacre broke out, all the property looted from the local Muslims was loaded on carts and taken away from Baghirov's home under Ayrapetov's surveillance. (78) The latter episode was confirmed by Baghirov himself, although in a slightly different interpretation: "*After a week of unbridled violence in Guba Uyezd, Amazasp's units collected all valuables of Guba Uyezd and set off to Baku. What I managed to do almost on my knees is to get at least some household stuff back from them for owners of houses burnt down. We collected and stored what we got back for further distribution*". (79)

Meanwhile even prior to Amazasp's assault, Mirjafar Baghirov together with Ghelovani was involved in arranging revolutionary committees in both Guba and adjacent villages, "establishing normal order", capturing district institutions, forming local Red Guard units and calling in a squad run by Oganosov. (80) However, attack by the Lezghin units hampered further steps to establish the Soviet power in Guba Uyezd.

What should be mentioned specifically in this context, is that unlike other Guba residents unanimously referring to "the Lezghins

from surrounding villages" entering the town, M.Baghirov names a specific person, i.e. Alibey Zizikski, as the mastermind of an attack on Guba. He also presents the data on casualties of the 3-day-long battle: *"About 200 killed warriors and around 1500 slaughtered and butchered Muslim civilians, Russians, Armenians, Jews, etc"*. (81) These figures differ a lot from those provided by Aliabbasbey Alibeyov, the head of local municipality, i.e. 200 Lezghins and 70 civilians slain. (82)

Needless to say, there was no way for M.Baghirov to stay in town after these events. As he admitted in his autobiography, as of 1917, the Guba elite and clergy had little love lost with him due to his reported revolutionary activities and links with the Bolsheviks. *"They unleashed the most overt and dishonest agitation against me presenting me to peasants as a spy of the Baku-based Armenians and traitor of the faith and nation. Ultimately, the two mostly influential religious leaders of Guba, Abdulrahim Efendi and Hajji Mullah Baba Akhundov ordered my execution"*, - Baghirov wrote. (83)

If this were true, local religious leaders in Guba could 'anathematize' Baghirov only for leading a gang he made out of "some WW1 demobs of Jewish and Russian origin, as well as a handful of Muslim criminals". The first action of this gang was "a violent attack on the former Uyezd Political Department's armory, thus getting access to firearms and assassinating *beys* (landlords) and their supporters wherever possible". In his autobiography M.Baghirov refers to this gang as *"flying squad"* combating *"counter-revolutionary elements in Guba Uyezd"*. (84)

In 1956, during M.Baghirov's trial, this squad was mentioned again. In the files of the case it was mentioned that the so-called 'flying squad' had nothing to do with revolutionary activities. Rather, this was a mere criminal gang. Baghirov denied any facts of attacking armory and assassinations of local landlords and their aides. (85)

The evidence presented in the course of investigation disproves the fact of Mirjafar Baghirov's joining the Bolshevik Party in 1917. On the contrary, the files indicate that after February 1917 (i.e. abdication of the Romanov royal family) M.Baghirov was appointed the commissar of Guba's Second Precinct (the Jewish quarter). The appointment was made by no one else but Alibey Zizikski, the head of local administration in Guba and the Uyezd (District) Commissar of Russia's Provisional Government. From May to November 1917, Baghirov was

the assistant of A.Zizikski in his capacity of the Uyezd Commissar. (86)

Promotion of "a young people's teacher to the position of a commissar of Guba's Jewish section since the very first days of the February Revolution" (87) and thus his appointment to the position of "one of the leaders of Guba Uyezd" was the result of A.Zizikski's disposition towards Baghirov. Bolshevism was completely out of question then. Yet further paths of Baghirov and Zizkiski parted when the former one took the stance of fighting Bolshevism and anti-national regime of the Baku Soviet, whereas M.Baghirov was trying to undertake the role of a representative of the central power he associated with the Baku Soviet". (88)

It becomes clear why upon Guba's takeover by A.Zizkiski's units in late April 1918, as Assistant Chairman of the Guba Revolutionary Committee (Revkom) M.Baghirov could no longer stay in town. "This was the way M.Baghirov unwittingly found himself bundled with militant Armenian nationalists acting under the red flag of Baku's Bolshevik Government. That was probably the most disgraceful part of his life history". (89)

Description of further events by Baghirov reveals further details of his involvement in Amazasp's unit and in the meantime presents the most important evidence of the squad's real mission: "*...under the lee of a purely Dashnak squad arriving from Petrovsk we retreated towards the railroad. We decided to set off to Derbend. Upon our arrival there, we met train troops of comrade Naneyskhvili returning from the North Caucasus. After a meeting we decided to move to Baku to rearrange defeated units and undertake a new attack upon Guba...With enormous hardships we somehow reached Davachi when we came across four trains from Baku delivering the notorious squad of Amazasp, one of Dashnaktsutyun leaders who stated that they were moving to Guba following the order from the Center, i.e. comrade Shaumyan with a view to wipe the town from the face of earth. However for proper appearance they asked comrade Naneyskhvili to second a representative of our party. Even though a member of the Social Revolutionary Party (SR) named Belunts (more a fervent Dashnak than a true SR) was Amazasp's special commissar, Naneyskhvili, after a deep reflection, offered me to join the squad. I refused blatantly for I understood what the squad was capable of". (90)*

Thus it were not only ordinary Guba residents but, in this case,

the representative of the Bolshevik Party who confirmed that total extermination of the local Muslim population was the crux of the mission of Amazasp's squad in Guba, following the order from the Center, namely Stepan Shaumyan.

A question arises: was M.Baghirov, a Guba-born Bolshevik of Muslim (Azerbaijani) descent, in a position to influence further development of the events this way or another? Not likely. As Baghirov later admitted, *"to my utmost regret and beyond my will, I happened to witness a terrifying picture of what happened in Guba. Not only was I unable to provide any basic support to innocent people suffering from the atrocities committed by Dashnaksutyn activists but I was even incapable to rescue my own kin. My 70-year-old uncle Mitalyeb, his son Mirhashim, son-in-law Hajji Heybat and a bunch of my relatives were all brutally stabbed to death"*. (91) Another note by M.Baghirov either for his acquittal or to shed the light to the situation reads: *"By the way, comrade Naneyshivi while sending me with Amazasp's squad made the latter one's assistants promise ...that I would be protected by them. By the same token, I made Victor Naneyshvili admit that I'm joining them against my own will"*. (92)

Whether it was his will or not, Mirjafar Baghirov suffered the tragic events in Guba with his fellow citizens, although on the opposite side. Meanwhile, he made a certain attempt if not to prevent but at least to put end to 'a terrifying picture of what was happening'. According to D.Ghelovani's testimonies *"Japaridze received a telegram signed by Guba-born Mirjafar Baghirov, my ex-assistant according to which residents of Guba were asking me to arrive to their rescue as Amazasp was massacring everyone to the left and to the right. I agreed and after getting broad authorities I arrived at the site. Upon my arrival I started blaming Amazasp for what he had done there. In response to this, he and his commissar Veluntz said that it were the Shiites and Sunnis who had burnt the town in a blood feud. I never bought into this, so I offered Amazasp to leave Guba with his unit. First he was hesitant, however then he complied, and he really left with all his squad. I followed him"*. (93)

With no comments on Ghelovani's repeated return to Guba, Baghirov admitted the fact of sending telegram to Japaridze. This time, he decided to stay in town, apparently in hope that his stance towards what Amazasp's gangs had committed will be understood properly.



However comrade Levon Gogoberidze, an authorized representative of Alesha Japaridze arriving in Guba 4 days after Amazasp, did not even bother to listen to him. Instead he charged Baghirov and his four aides with involvement in the bloodshed and ordered their arrest. A new Revolutionary Committee (*Revkom*) was established in town led by Churayev. This new *Revkom* was dominated by ethnic Georgians due to the officers and representatives of Georgian descent seconded by Japaridze. They got engaged in negotiations with A.Zizikski, then deployed in Gusar Precinct of Guba Uyezd while arrested M.Baghirov was writing a detailed personal letter to Stepan Shaumyan. (94)

Baghirov did not elaborate on the contents of the letter he wrote while in detention. Instead, "having received reports about a new attack to be made on Guba, secretly, not be apprehended by either Hamdulla Efendi of Alibey Zizikski, and with no Gogoberidze's consent he fled Guba to Baku". (95) After this, he never showed up in Guba again unless the Soviet power was finally established in Azerbaijan in 1920.

Odd as this may seem, the Guba events of 1918 were mentioned almost 30 years later by Mirjafar Baghirov, then the First Secretary of the Azerbaijani Communist party and the leader of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan. This happened during Baghirov's concluding speech at the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Azerbaijan held on January 25-28, 1949 in Baku. The reason of this was an increasing activeness of Dashnaksutyun Party both within the Soviet Union and abroad. While the claim to increase the territory of Soviet Armenia at the expense of the Soviet Republics of Georgia and Azerbaijan constituted the leitmotif of the Dashnaksutyun's anti-Soviet activities abroad (96), within the USSR this found its way through books and publications featuring an overtly anti-Azerbaijani stance.

In that particular case, it was *The Bay Lights* novel by someone Georgy Kholopov (Khalapyan) that became the subject to Baghirov's criticism. The novel dedicated to S.M.Kirov, one of the leading Russian and Soviet state and public figures, was featuring Kirov's being the head of Azerbaijan's Communist Party in 1921-1926. However, according to Baghirov, "*while describing Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, the author intentionally excluded the Azerbaijani people from the narrative and presented its characters in a provocative manner*".

So what was the rationale behind such an overt and abrupt criti-

cism of a literary work in the concluding remarks of the number one person in the Republic at the highest forum of the then ruling party?

The post-WW2 period in fact launched a new wave of a large-scale Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. The new territorial claims were accompanied by the expulsion of ethnic Azerbaijanis from the places of their indigenous residence by the Soviet authorities of the day. Just a year prior to this, in 1947, under the guise of repatriation of the Armenians to the "historic homeland", 130 thousand ethnic Azerbaijanis were deported from the Azerbaijani-populated areas overtaken by the Republic of Armenia in 1918 and retained within the Soviet Armenia afterwards. Despite the efforts by that-time Soviet authorities to substantiate the "relocation" by "economic developments in both republics", they still had to admit that "the lands and premises vacated as a result of relocation of the Azerbaijani population could be used to accommodate repatriating Armenian peasants". (97)

Shortly prior to that, it took M.Baghirov substantial efforts and a smart trick to prevent the new Armenian claims to Garabagh. In autumn 1945, the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Armenia Arutyunov applied to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union with a motion to transfer the Autonomous Region of Nagorno-Garabagh from the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan to the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia. Arutyunov's letter was passed over to M.Baghirov for further comments. M.Baghirov repudiated arguments presented by Arutyunov, however, realizing that the latter one's actions were sanctioned by the higher authorities in the Communist hierarchy, Baghirov expressed his readiness to accept the proposal provided the transfer of three Azerbaijani-populated districts of Armenia to Azerbaijan in exchange. Meanwhile M.Baghirov clearly opposed the transfer of Nagorno-Garabagh's Shusha District to Armenia. No more did the Soviet leadership get back to this issue after such a response. (98)

That being said, provocations by the Armenian nationalists did not end up with this. Besides the purely political steps mentioned above, there were dozens of cases of misrepresenting Azerbaijan's history, culture and art by the Armenian authors. Published in both the Armenian and Central scientific magazines and periodicals, they invariably caused a wave of dissatisfaction and dissent of broad public and political leadership in Azerbaijan. The book by Kholopov (Khala-

pyan) was just an example of this kind, however its direct link with some facts of the then recent history drove Mirjafar Baghirov to draw the attention of the Soviet leadership of the day to the aggressive nature of the Armenian nationalism in its new forms and manifestations.

It should be inter alia mentioned that the text of Baghirov's conclusive speech at the Azerbaijani Communist Party Congress with copies of certain documents and a letter to Stalin were sent to Moscow, and his insistent requests to raise the issue of *The Bay Lights* novel at the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist (Bolshevik) Party upheld. (99)

In the meantime, the value of Baghirov's speech and the 17<sup>th</sup> Communist Congress was not only to draw attention of the party elite to this 'harmful book' and related issues.

Speaking of the Baku events of 1918, even though through the prism of the official version of 'the civil war', Baghirov nonetheless admitted that "errors of some comrades from the Baku *Sovnarkom* (The Soviet of People's Commissars) in 1918 played perfectly into the hands of Dashnaktsutyun and Mussavat parties' activists, the former ones in particular, as they benefited from the momentum to transform the civil war into an ethnic one, in some places, and thus to arrange a massacre". (100)

In fact, this was the first time when the high-ranking Bolshevik public figure dared to qualify the March events of 1918 as a "massacre" of the Azerbaijani population committed by the Armenian Dashnaktsutyun activists due to "errors" of the Bolshevik authorities of the day.

Meanwhile, Baghirov was not confined with this. "Amazasp, Abram Velutz, colonel Avetisov – they all were far from fighting for the Soviet rule, - he stated, - I was a witness, and, regretfully an inadvertent participant of these events, following certain comrades' suggestion. I was representing Amazasp's squad, and I saw what they committed in Guba, let alone Shemakha and other places". (101)

This way or another, more than 30 years after the events in Guba, the representative of the Soviet regime, an Azerbaijani Bolshevik Mirjafar Baghirov speaking at the Communist Party forum to the Communist elite ultimately admitted that the events in Guba had nothing to do with establishing the Soviet rule in the area and that the so-called 'Red Army commanders' led by Amazasp were in fact performing a totally different mission.

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Actions of the 3-thousand strong squad led by Amazasp throughout the whole period of the violent assault on Guba clearly indicate that the unit's mission was not only punitive, i.e. pursuing the goal 'to penalize' thousands of innocent Guba residents with a view to avenging several casualties among local Armenians resulting from a 3-day-long battle, with no civilians involved. Neither was it because of "Turkish Armenians killed by the Turks and Kurds". Amazasp's core mission set forth by the so-called 'Center headed by Shaumyan' was mass extermination of the local Muslim population and its expulsion from the areas of indigenous habitation. Another evidence of such an objective was the behavior of Amazasp's gangs on their way to Guba when the Armenian militants were attacking Muslim settlements en route from Baku to Guba and vice versa. A number of residential areas to the left and the right of the railroad were set ablaze, the mosques and holy books desecrated, the property plundered and all residents found slain. No mercy was shown to either women, elderly ones or kids.

According to the administrative subdivision as of the early 1918, the Uyezd (district) of Guba included the town of Guba and 5 Police Precincts: Davachi, Gusar, Mushkur, Rustov and Fethibey. Each precinct in turn comprised several communities embracing 2-30 villages each. The overall number of villages and winter pastures in the Uyezd varied around 540, united in 55 communities. (102)

Within just two weeks since late April till mid May 1918, Amazasp's squad succeeded in devastating and looting 167 villages in Guba Uyezd at the very minimum. In other residential places the Armenian militants limited themselves to plundering movable property only. Several villages were looted twice, both on the way from Baku to Guba and Gusar, and vice versa. (103)

The overall damage inflicted by Amazasp's bashings and robberies was estimated at dozens of millions rubles. The overall number of casualties exceeded a thousand of slain and injured local residents, women, elderly ones and children included. A noteworthy detail in this respect is that a number of local villagers warned by both Guba residents and their neighbors fled in advance trying to escape an unavoidable death. According to testimonies by Hajji Seyyid Adbulkhalil son of Hajji Seyyidali, a resident of Seyyidler village, Mushkurk Precinct, residents of the village, as well as other neighboring Muslim

settlements were notified about an Armenian armed attack by "Alibey, the Uyezd Chief", i.e. A.Zizikski. (104)

It was really dangerous to stay in the area for attackers did not spare even disabled elderly people and the sickly ones, let alone women and children who failed to flee on time. E.g. an ill woman from Saadan village, Shahnaz Ibrahimkhalil gyzy (i.e. daughter of Ibrahimkhalil) and a disabled local elder Garib Malik oghlu (i.e. son of Malik) were stabbed to death by the Armenian pogrom-makers. The same happened to a girl Pusta Mammadbey gyzy who had both her legs crushed and died 12 days later after her slain mother Imame. (105)

That being said, residents of certain villages having received the warning notices, managed to dispatch their family members to safer places and tried their best to rescue their households. With this goal in mind, they sent their envoys to persuade the Armenian militants to spare their homes. However the envoys were barely back, and the villages were not exempt from arson and plunder. This was exactly the case with a delegation of 15 elders from Davachi-Bazar and Gyzyl-Burun villages that met the Armenians with traditional bread-and-salt welcome but were shot to death on the spot. (106) Alderman of Alikhanly village Mirza Mammad Dostali oghlu sent with his fellow-villager Gulhusseyyn Maharram oghlu as envoys of Alikhanly Community were among those atrociously slain. (107) The same destiny was shared by envoys from Khudat. (108) Neither did the white flags assist in rescuing villagers from murder and villages from plunder. More than 40 residents of Davachi village incapable or unwilling to leave their households were butchered and the village left in fire. (109)

Nevertheless, there were villages that, despite uneven forces, were still trying to put up resistance to upcoming Armenian gangs thus saving their settlements from devastation. E.g. able-bodied men of Tarjal and Mohuj villages, having sheltered their families in the mountains engaged in skirmish with the Armenian squads and succeeded in repelling them off. The same path was followed by residents of Siyazan and Khachmaz who were trying their best to stop the Armenian militants but were forced to retreat in the face of several thousand-strong Amazasp's forces. (110)

It should be also noted that some armed units manned by Guba residents were also trying to resist the Armenian gangs in an organized manner. Cavalry squads arranged by the town's recognized figures like

A.Ziziski, G.Efendi, A.Alibeyov, Mursal-bey, Ibrahim-bey, Nuhbala and others, were patrolling access roads to Guba and major villages trying to prevent the Armenian militants from getting in. (111) Some harsh battles between the Armenian units and local defenders took place in Digah and Alpan villages, mentioned earlier in Amazasp's address. (112) Having overcome the resistance due to manifold superior forces, Armenian militants burned and plundered both villages. The fate of a Lezghin unit from Gusar encircled in a gorge between Digah and Khuchbala villages was particularly tragic as all the warriors were sunken in blood, hence the place was named the Bloody Gorge afterwards. (113)

The condition of residents of the villages devastated and looted by Amazasp's units was so hopeless and desperate that upon their return from woods and mountains some 15-45 days later, sick and starving, they were eager to welcome any power capable of alleviating their hardships this way or another. This explains the fact that the Soviets of Peasant Deputies were created immediately in good 77 villages of Guba Uyezd in July 1918. (114)

The very history of forming peasant Soviets in the provinces "demonstrating tremendous efforts of the Baku Soviet to manage the situation in an unbelievably harsh aftermath of the civil war" (115) clearly demonstrates the aspiration of the Bolshevik and Dashnakstutyun dominated Baku Soviet to establish links with rural areas and win the trust of the Muslim peasantry. In the meantime this reveals the true situation in the countryside. Meshadi Azizbeyov, the Provincial Commissar "got engaged in forming these organizations in villages with the zeal and passion very typical of him", so pretty soon "the passion and seriousness of comrade Azizbeyov started yielding excellent results". (116)

The "results" were overwhelming indeed. The outskirts of Baku villages barely surviving the horrors of massacre in March started recognizing the Soviet rule one after another. However, all resolutions admitted at general meetings of "low income" population of the villages in question, along with expression of their loyalty to the new regime, included specific requests. A typical document of this kind reads:

"1) While recognizing the Executive Committee (of the Baku Soviet) as the supporter of workers and all toiling people:

2) Aware of the fact that there is no link between our village (Fatmai) and the city.

We do hereby apply to the Executive Committee with the request to assist the refugees willing to bury their kin killed in the course of riots since the road from the village to the city is still very dangerous indeed". (117)

Similar resolution was adopted by the general meeting of Galashykhly rural community of Guba Uyezd in early June 1918:

"Complying with the authority of the Soviet of People's Commissars both in the capital and in the provinces, we, the members of the Soviet of Peasant Deputies, are willing to serve and support it in whatever we can.

The Executive Committee of Galashykhly Community elected at the village assembly of almost 3000 residents is in a desperate situation at the moment as the villagers left the fields and fled to the mountains. There is no access to the railroad with crops and pastures on both sides, and the harvest yielding time is coming soon. In our capacity of authorized villagers of Galashykhly Community we do hereby apply to the Soviet of Workers, Soldiers, Seamen and Peasants Deputies to render an immediate assistance and take urgent steps to guarantee personal security of civilians and provide enabling conditions for their return to their households from the highland areas of their current refuge". (118)

Conditions in which the peasant Soviets were formed, as well as the way they were perceived by local population may be inferred from the speech by Meshadi Azizbeyov at the ceremony of joint meeting of the Baku Soviet and the First Congress of the Baku Uyezd Peasant Deputies Soviet: *"They say that Azizbeyov is traveling throughout the villages with armed guard that terrifies the villagers, so that they pass resolutions to support the Soviet Power. Not true, comrades, as I was never escorted by armed bodyguards. I was traveling alone or together with one more person, preferably an Armenian, as I was more scared by our own troops than the Muslims. That's why I was escorted by a non-Muslim"*. (119)

One can imagine a situation in both the city of Baku and countryside areas all over Azerbaijan whereby not only local peasants were fearful to get back to their homes from highlands, but even the Baku Soviet Commissar of Azerbaijani descent did not dare to leave for rural areas other than with an Armenian companion out of the fear of 'his own troops', i.e. Red Army's Armenian soldiers.

This was exactly the environment the Soviet power had to survive in Guba Uyezd, named *'the Red Bolshevik Republic'* by the communists (120) unless the Baku Commissars were forced to resign in

Baku on August 1, 1918 to be replaced by the so-called *Central Caspian Dictatorship (Centrocaspi)*. The resignation was followed by an attempt to flee the city. As far as Azerbaijan's countryside areas are concerned, Guba Uyezd among them, there was no official power per se, so the subsequent situation was controlled by local leaders unless Baku was liberated by the Turkish and Azerbaijani forces in September that year and the jurisdiction of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was spread all over the area.

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On May 28, 1918, Azerbaijan was declared an independent state at the first meeting of the National Council created by the Azerbaijani faction of the Transcaucasian Seim upon its dissolution. The Independence Act provided legal grounds for the newly-formed democratic state. The first Government was formed at the same meeting with F.Khoyski as the Chairman (Prime Minister), M.Hajjinski the Minister of Foreign Affairs and K.Khasmammadov as the Minister of Justice.

By mid-July 1918, a month and a half after starting its activities and moving from Tbilisi (Georgia) to Ganja (Azerbaijan), the Cabinet of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan decided to express its attitude towards the ongoing events in the country in general, and the facts of violence against civilian Azerbaijani population in particular. The report by the Minister of Foreign Affairs M.Hajjinski reads the following: *"For the period of four months so far, various parts of Azerbaijan have been torn apart by gangs acting under the guise of the Bolsheviks, irresponsible Armenian squads and others perpetrating unprecedented atrocities against the Muslim civilians sparing neither their lives nor assets. In the meantime, a totally different public opinion is created in Europe due to the perverted information channeled by the masterminds of these gangs"*.

The rapporteur therefore stressed the necessity of establishing an agency in charge of compiling "precise files regarding each and every case of violence and preconditions conducive to their commitment, identification of culprits and the damage inflicted". The agency in question was viewed as a tool for advocating interests of both the affected groups of population and the whole nation. This was the way the idea of a special investigation commission was conceived. Outcomes of the investigation published in Turkish and in various Eu-



ropean languages were to be broadly promoted. The report emphasized the necessity of the soonest possible commencement of the Commission's work "for numerous facts traceable in the immediate aftermath of the events, such as interviews, photographic and other substantial evidence available, may get less accessible if not totally lost afterwards". (121)

During the same meeting on June 15, 1918, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a Resolution on the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission (AH IC) to be formed "with a view to investigating the acts of violence towards the Muslim population and its assets throughout the whole Transcaucasia since the outset of the European War". Alakbar-bey Khasmammadov, an attorney at law, was appointed the AHIC Chairman. The Commission included 7 more members, mainly trained legal experts, with representatives of judicial and investigation authorities in Baku and Ganja involved at the later stage. A.F.Novatski, N.M.Mikhaylov, A.E.Klughe, M.Tekinski, W.W.Goodwill, A.Alexandrovich (Litovski) and other professional lawyers and public figures were among the most active participants of the Commission. (122)

The AHIC members split into groups and started investigating violent actions in urban and rural areas either already controlled by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan or freshly liberated from the the Bolshevik and Dashnaksutyun (i.e. Communist and Armenian) forces. E.g. as of September 1918 active investigations were ongoing in various uyezds of Erivan and Elisavetpol (Ganja) Provinces. Upon Baku's liberation in September 1918, the official Government moved to Baku from Ganja launching investigation of the events of March that year in the capital city and its environs almost immediately.

In December 1918, Andrey F.Novatski, a member of the Ganja District Court, arrived in Guba with his assistant to initiate investigation of the events in April-May that year in both the town of Guba and all over the Uyezd. Within several months, Novatski's Investigation Team succeeded in questioning dozens of witnesses, inspecting the scenes of accidents and collecting other evidence summing up in 3 volumes, 451 pages each. The investigation resulted in the *Report on the Devastation of the Town of Guba and Villages of Guba Uyezd and the Atrocities towards Residents of the Town and Villages Mentioned Above* presented to the AHIC Chairman. (123)

In November 1919, the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission estab-

lished by the Government of Azerbaijan "having examined the case regarding the devastation of the town of Guba and villages of Guba Uyezd, Baku Province, and atrocities towards residents of the town and villages mentioned above and the relevant Report by A. Novatsky, the Commission member in charge for this case", passed the Resolution to institute criminal proceedings against a number of persons. Offences incriminated to these persons are the following:

*"Due to religious and tribal hostility towards the Muslim population...making a conspiracy among themselves and other persons not identified in the course of the investigation, they formed a criminal gang several thousand-strong, armed with cold weapons and firearms pursuing the goal to exterminate the Muslim population, looting and plundering its assets, and attacked the town of Guba, Baku Province, in early April 1918, devastating the place, murdering about two thousand men, women and children, plundering personal assets of the town's residents, setting fire to municipal premises and leaving 105 households ablaze. En route to Guba, the same criminal gang devastated 122 villages stealing all personal assets of their residents and murdering them with no mercy to women or children". (124)*

No doubt, Amazasp was the first in the list of accused persons followed by his "comrades-in-arms" like Nicolay, the aide, Veluntz, the commissar, and Armenian residents of Guba and its villages actively involved in pogroms of the local Muslim population.

Involvement and active participation of a certain part of the local Armenian population in violent actions against the Muslim residents of Guba and adjacent villages, even though not as large in scale as in Baku and Shemakha, still had a very serious effect on Guba's Muslim population, let it be the Azerbaijani Turks, the Lezghins, the Tats, the Avars, as well as migrant workers of Iranian nationality (so called south Azerbaijanis). Looting of local Lezghin and Tat villages along with the Azerbaijani ones provides a clear evidence of all Muslim population, irrespective of ethnic origin, being targeted by the Bolshevik and Dashnaktsutyun forces. (125) Another noteworthy detail is that not a single Russian village of the area was affected by the pogroms.

A relatively small number of Armenian residents of Guba involved in the massacre of local Muslim population may be attributed to the fact that these persons were identified by the victims who witnessed their involvement and were unaware of all those local Arme-

nian residents who were either personally active in pogroms or tipping the Armenian militants from Amazasp's squad.

Another evidence of the involvement or at least the awareness of local Armenians regarding the forthcoming events may be concluded from certain facts revealed by local Muslim residents in the course of investigation. E.g. one of them testified: "I found out that as of March 1 of the present year, a lot of Armenian residents of Guba started selling out their personal assets and real estate and leaving the area. This happened to Alexander Melikov, Jevad Parsegov, Mirza Parsegov, Magax Pogosov, Artashes Melikov, Nerses Sarumov, etc. When I asked Alexander Melikov and Bagdasarov why they sell everything out and leave they said: "Something is to happen between you and us, so the Committee is calling us back". (126)

Another witness stated: "I saw armed Armenians from Guba in Amazasp's gang, such as Arutyun, son of Karomez, with his own son, and son of Gregory who had sold out all his property in Guba several months prior to the events. The said Gregory used to tell the Muslims: "We have sold our houses to you. So whom are you planning to sell them to?" (127)

Majority of Guba residents had hard times answering the investigators' questions regarding "the reason of such an atrocious and mass massacre of the Muslims by the Armenians". However, when local residents asked the Armenian soldiers the same question the reported answer was either "a revenge for the Armenians killed by the Turks and Kurds in Turkey and the Caucasus" or "retribution for the local Armenians murdered during retreat of Ghelovani's unit", or, finally "for what the Muslims did back in 1905". (128) The latter 'argument' was particularly shocking for local residents unanimously stating that "not a single Armenian suffered in Guba in 1905, not a single!" (129)

No matter how unfounded the reasoning of such a brutal attitude towards the Muslim population by alien Armenian militants from Amazasp's gang was, what caused a true burst of indignation among Guba residents was the stance of "their own Armenians" in this case. E.g. one of the persons interviewed recalled: "Arutyun Mirzajanov, a local Armenian from Guba I met at the mosque told me that should the Armenians have murdered hundred times more Muslims, they still would be short of what the Muslims had done to the Armenians". (130)

This kind of reports were accompanied by testimonies like: "I sheltered four Armenians and three Russians fearful of Lezghins" (131) or

"The Armenian village of Kelva is located at my landed estate. This village has been never attacked by Muslims neither before, not after these events, not a single resident was exposed to violence and not a straw was stolen from Armenians by Muslims". (132) A more detailed testimony reads: "When some thugs started threatening the Armenians, we made a stand for them, and while they were isolated in properly guarded prison premises we were bringing them food. I personally was feeding an Armenian merchant Mirza Amirjanov. In response to this, the Armenians from Guba repaid us with treachery. The matter is that long prior to the events described they sold out all their movables and real estate and left Guba. When asked why they were leaving they said they wanted to reside in Baku. Now we understand the reason of their flight as they were aware of what their Armenian brethren was planning to do to our town, and they never warned us about this". (133)

Brutalities of the Armenian gangs towards the innocent civilian Muslim population of Guba do not fit into any human norms. According to some witness testimonies, "17 men captured in one household were all executed to the very last person. Among these victims there were a father and a son, the latter one married a week before. When the Armenians wanted to murder him, the father offered them one thousand rubles to spare his son. He was ready to be killed instead of his son. The Armenian attackers got money and then murdered the son in front of his father who was the last to be slain." Another resident of Guba, Alipasha Kerbelai Maharram oghlu was ordered by the Armenians to deliver money and girls. He refused. In response to that his son was stabbed to death, with multiple bayonet hits to the eyes, face and stomach, and the victim himself severely beaten. (134)

Murdering children in front of their parents was among the most 'intricate' methods employed by the Armenian gangsters, as one may conclude from the following testimony: "Myself, my wife Hekuma Kerbelai Jafar gyzy and two daughters, Hekuma, 14, and Busra, 6, were enjoying tea at our home when the Armenians broke in and started volleying fire at us. My daughter Hekuma was killed on the spot, I got injured in my left shin, whereas my wife was wounded in her left wrist and Busra in her left shoulder and leg. My wife grabbed and embosomed her. One of the Armenians got a dagger and slashed Busra's face all the way to the throat, so she fell down dead. My wife and

myself fainted from the shock, however once my wife recovered she started imploring the Armenians to kill her too, so that she won't see her daughters dead. The Armenians responded that they won't kill her just for one reason, as they wanted her to die thrice a day watching her daughters' dead bodies. They slightly stabbed her neck with a bayonet causing some insignificant injuries and bashed me up". (135)

Testimonies of kids who luckily survived these events are no less bloodcurdling. Memories of 7-year-old Ismayil son of Kerbelai Mammadtaghy speak for themselves: "When the Armenians came into town, all our family hid out in the garden of our grandma Sitara. About 15 Armenians armed with daggers and rifles bursted into the place and started shooting, stabbing and slashing us all. They killed my grandma Sitara, my grandpa Hajiagha, my father, my sister under aged Soltannisse, my four-year-old brother Mammadpasha who was an infant, my uncle Heybat and his 5-year-old son Gasym, uncle Ali-mardan, uncle Aghababa, and aunt Jamilya. My mother was wounded in her chest but survived. I was stabbed by dagger to my left shoulder and fell among dead bodies pretending to be dead. There I stayed for five days, however when the bodies started decaying I could no longer be there, so I went to the street and went to Hajji Mammadtaghy, our neighbor. My mother stayed among dead bodies four days. She did not know that I was alive, so she left four days after". (136)

Investigation of pogroms in Guba and adjacent villages conducted by A.F.Novatski, a member of the AHIC, with enormous summary of facts and evidence collected provided explanation of "such an atrocious mass murder of Muslims by Armenians" through figuring out the latter ones' ultimate goal, i.e. "extermination of the Muslim population, as well as plunder and destruction of their property". (137)

The rationale "encouraging" Armenians to form "a criminal gang several thousands strong, armed with cold weapons and firearms" with a view to accomplishing the goal mentioned above was equally clear and exhaustive, i.e. "religious and tribal hostility towards the Muslim population". (138) The conclusion speaks for itself!

Needless to say, political assessment of the case examined was far from being the goal of neither A.F.Novatski as investigator, nor the Ad Hoc Investigation Committee in general. Their mission was purely juridical, i.e. legal review of the events the causes of which went far beyond ethnic or confessional animosity, and the goals way beyond mere

extermination of the Muslim population and appropriation of assets.

There is one more important issue not to be overseen. The investigation did not confine with victims and witness testimonies. In each given episode, what the investigators were trying to identify was not only the culprits' personalities but their ethnic origin. Inquiries among Guba residents regarding involvement of ethnic Russians and Jews in the massacre and looting in both the town of Guba and adjacent villages of Guba Uyezd clearly indicate that pogroms of the area's Muslim population were masterminded and executed by armed forces manned exclusively with ethnic Armenians.

E.g. testimonies provided by Guba residents mention Russians dominantly as members of Ghelovani's unit involved in a three-day "war" with the Lezghins. Indirect references to ethnic Russians in Amazasp's units are found in only two files, with no evidence of their direct involvement in pogroms whatsoever. On the contrary, the files read the following:

"We saw no Bolsheviks, however those who came across them state that they were exclusively of Armenian origin. There was a handful of Russians who never got involved neither in arson, not in murder, instead, they were trying to hold back the Armenians from violent actions towards the Muslims".

"We did not see the Bolsheviks, but those who did say they were only Armenians with some Jews and a few Russians. Yet it were only the Armenians setting fire on villages". (139)

It was only the head of local municipality A. Alibeyov who mentioned Russians and Jews being involved in pogroms along with Armenians, however he never clarified whether these were local Russians or outsiders. (140) Only one name of a local Russian resident involved in violence was mentioned by Guba residents. Someone Sasha Lukyanov was identified by a nephew of an interviewed witness. (141) Yet this name is missing in the list of persons charged with devastation of Guba and its environs in official files of inquiry.

As far as Guba's Russian population is concerned, there is sufficient bulk of testimonial evidence indicating that almost all local Russians had left the town with retreating units of Ghelovani. And they did this against their will. Excerpts of witness testimonies read the following:

"They took Russian officials and all Armenians. Some Russians and Armenians were killed in exchange of fire";

"The town's population was only Muslim since all Armenians and Russians had left before";

"He (Ghelovani) was walking home by home gathering all Russians and Armenians to take them away";

"...They gathered all Armenians and Russians they could find in town and together with them they left for Khachmaz";

"The Bolsheviks...while retreating...evacuated all Christians from the town...". (142)

The fact of "all Guba's Christian population, dominantly Armenians", had left the town with his unit while retreating under the Lezghins' onslaught was supported by Chelovani himself, however as he also admitted, "it was lieutenant Aghajanyan who collected them". (143) Testimonies concerning forced exodus of civilian Christian population of Guba, Russians among them, "threatened by the town's bombardment and arsons" were provided by O.O.Gank, the chief veterinarian of Guba Uyezd. (144)

There is no evidence whatsoever of the local Russian population's involvement in the pogroms of the Muslims. It is also clear that none of the Uyezd's Russian villages became subject to violence committed by Armenian militants.

The situation with local Jewish population was slightly different, and way more complex.

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The issue of involvement of the ethnic Jews, both outsiders and the local ones in tragic events of April-May 1918 in Guba, as well as the fate of the Jewish population of Guba Uyezd is of a very high importance in the overall understanding of the events in question and finding out the historic truth. As one may conclude from the files of investigation, residents of Guba made a difference between the Jews and the alliance between the Bolsheviks and the Armenians. Yet there were some Jews in the first Bolshevik units deployed at Khachmaz railway station. Two out of them were involved in negotiations with representatives of the town community, along with D.Ghelovani and M.Baghirov. (145)

Meanwhile, even before the outsider Jews arrived in Guba, as it was mentioned earlier, residents of Guba had already seconded a delegation to Khachmaz Station to figure out the Bolsheviks' intents in the area. The delegation in question included investigator Manuylov, a local Jewish resident Nuvah Aghababayev and Shukur Babayev. (146) This

clearly indicated a commonly-shared concern of the town's three major communities, i.e. the Muslim, the Russian and the Jewish, about the appearance of armed forces nearby. However, once Ghelovani forced the residents of Guba to recognize the Soviet power, he left the town for a short while to be back with a unit of 200 soldiers. This was the time when "about 200 Jews joined them". (147)

Bearing in mind that under Ghelovani's control no crackdowns of civilian population occurred in town, except for "the murder of 27 Muslims reportedly welcoming the Lezghins on their way to the town" (148), no other references were made neither to these 200 Jews in general, nor to their involvement in that particular case in particular.

8-10 days later, "a unit of ethnic Lezghins approached the town from the Jewish settlement and opened fire on the town to kick the invaders out. The Bolsheviks responded from machine guns. Exchange of fire lasted for three days". Pressed by the Lezghins, the Bolsheviks started gradually retreating. As it may be concluded from a number of testimonies, including those of Ghelovani himself, either on their own will or under duress, "all Russian officials except for investigators Manuylov and Esman, left the town with retreating troops, together with all pharmacists and all Armenians... The unit was returning fire to the advancing Lezghin units. Armenians and Russians evacuated by the unit were moving ahead of the retreating squad. Casualties among them included the Armenian priest M.Kasparov, a Russian priest, pharmacist Golubchin, excise officer Polokhny, doctor Michels, forestry warden Abrasimov, and two more Armenians Alexander Bogdanov and Dukhan Pogoso". (149) The list of those killed in cross-fire is far from being complete. According to A.Alibeyov, the chief of municipality, at least 70 civilians were killed in the skirmish. Were there ethnic Jews among the victims? Of course they were, as one may conclude from the list of names provided by A.Alibeyov. Some local Jews could also leave with Ghelovani's retreating squad.

In two weeks time, a 3-thousand strong unit of Amazasp attacked Guba committing massacre and looting everywhere? So what was the reaction of the local Jewish population to this like? Witness testimonies on this matter are far from being clear: "I heard that the Jews from Guba were pointing to the houses that Armenians set fire on then...", or "According to what Armenians said, their squad had about 3 thousand persons of exclusively Armenian origin. Some



people said there were also Jews among them, either local or outsiders, however I never saw them". (150)

There were some hearsay remarks regarding purported involvements of ethnic Jews in actions against Muslims in some villages around Guba. Reports on this matter read: "We saw no Bolsheviks, however those who came across them note that they were all Armenians, with some Jews and few Russians. However it were only Armenians who were setting villages ablaze", or "I could not see the squad from a close distance, so I could not identify anyone personally. Neither can I say anything on whether there were Russians or Jews in the squad besides Armenians". (151)

However alderman of Nughedy community Rustam Fileydan oghlu stated that "after the devastation of the town of Guba, a cavalry and infantry squad manned by Armenian and Jewish soldiers arrived in our village... They started plundering the residents loading the loot on carts and taking it away. Those who tried to resist were threatened by death...". (152) A 60-year-old resident of Digah village, Alpan community Omar Shykh Kerim oghlu even provided names of attackers: "...when the Armenians set havoc in Guba for the second time, a big unit arrived in our village from there. The unit was dominantly composed of ethnic Armenians, with some Jews around. We all managed to flee. The three elderly men and two old women incapable to flee were all slain. The Armenians and Jews devastated our village completely. All households were burnt, except for just 2 or 3 out of 84. The same happened to the mosque with Holy Qur'an in it... The Armenians plundered our village twice: the first time on the way to Gusar, and the second time on their way back. I saw a number of Jews from Guba among them, such as Daniel son of Joav, and others whom I only know by face...". (153)

A. Alibeyov, the mayor of Guba, also admitted involvement of Jews in plunder and violence against Guba's Muslim population: "Along with Armenians, Russian and Jewish members of the squad took part in the atrocities described above". (154)

So what may be concluded of all these files and quotes? Obviously, the Jewish residents of Guba never supported violence against the Muslim population of Guba and its environs, unlike the Molokans in Shemakha. That being said, according to some recollections, certain representatives of Guba's Jewish community took part in violent actions.

The same Aliabbasbey Alibeyov whose testimonies are viewed as the most trustworthy ones provided a very important piece of information regarding the fate of Guba's numerous Jewish community that was forced to make probably far not the best decision right before Amazasp's withdrawal from Guba: "On the 9<sup>th</sup> day when I attended Amazasp to get permission to bury the dead bodies, in my presence he addressed the local Jews in the following way: "Woe on you when just in an hour or at night the Muslims and Lezghins attack you and massacre you all to the last person". This caused panics among the Jewish population, so about 6 thousand out of them left the town with the Armenians". (155)

This latter information by A.Alibeyov is further confirmed in the report by the Commissar Kasradze from the Joint Red Army Battalions that took off from Khachmaz towards Derbend on May 16, 1918. Kasradze wrote: "On the way back from Khachmaz we witnessed a panic flight of the Jewish masses from Guba and other villages. Bare-foot, tormented, homeless and living in mud they inevitably became a source of epidemics of typhus, smallpox and other diseases". (156)

The question arises: did the Muslims and Lezghins pose a real danger to the Jewish population of Guba? So far, there is not a single hint, even an indirect one, which would indicate any hostile intents of Guba's major population towards the town's Jewish residents, neither before, nor after the tragic events. It should be also hereby noted that after Amazasp's withdrawal, by and large, the Soviet rule was restored in town and around, dominantly represented by ethnic Georgians. No interethnic tensions or crackdowns on any particular ethnic group of the town, let alone the Jewish one, were registered ever since.

The new political regime was trying, even though in vain, to re-establish contacts even with such recognized local figures as Alibey Zizikski, Muhubali Efendi and others. Upon collapse of the Soviet regime in late July that year, it were these leaders who, together with representative of Guba's other ethnic groups like Russians, Jews, etc., kept the overall situation in the area under control, effectively preventing hostile actions by certain groups. Guba retained peace and stability throughout the whole period of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan.

As of December 1918, the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission's group led by A.F.Novatski started operating in Guba. The group addressed both the authorities and the population to provide any infor-

mation available on the acts of violence perpetrated by the Armenian gangs towards the civilian population of both the town and adjacent areas. As the files show, the Commission planned to interview not only the local Muslim population of the place. Witness testimonies by representatives of other ethnic groups "not involved in violence against the Muslim population and capable of providing the Commission with data regarding the attack of Armenian gangs on Guba, its devastation and perpetration of violent actions towards the town's Muslim residents" (157) were also welcomed.

As a matter of fact, in Baku, testimonies by the Russians, Jews, Poles, Georgians and even Armenians provided to the AHIC were given equal legal grounds as those provided by the local Muslims (i.e. Azerbaijanis). (158) As far as Guba is concerned, throughout the whole period of AHIC's work here, none of Guba's Jewish residents, staying or repatriating, ever lodged any complaint about violence or damage inflicted.

Meanwhile, the list of persons wounded or injured in the course of Armenian gangs' attack presented by Mammadbayov, the police inspector of Guba's Section 2, and found among the AHIC files mentions names of the 6 local residents of Jewish descent, such Abraham Avshalumov, Nouri Rahamil, Rafael Israel Nafshakl, Gurshum Pesah, Zakaria Nissim, and Shuluim Izhay. (159) However the list provides no further information regarding no further details regarding the time, the venue and other circumstances of the wounds suffered.

Based of the AHIC files with due consideration of the circumstances mentioned before and reported facts of collaboration of certain Jewish residents of Guba with Armenians, one may conclude, that unlike the area's Muslim population, local Jews were not and could not be subject to pogroms and violence committed by the Armenian gangs. Neither were they ever exposed to any "Muslim and Lezghin violence" which Amazasp, famous for his egregious atrocities to the latter ones, was scaring them with in the most cynical manner. Another detail not be hereby overseen is that with substantial number of ethnic Jews among the Bolsheviks, including commissars of the Baku Soviet, violent actions towards the Jewish population would never pass unpunished for the Armenians.

Meanwhile there could be some victims among the Guba Jews as a result of cross-fire, during Ghelovani unit's retreat and in the course of Amazasp's assault on Guba from three directions preceded by the town's massive artillery bombardment. As far the mass Jewish flight

from Guba together with withdrawing Amazasp's units is concerned, more likely that not, it was nurtured by the deeply-rooted centuries-old sense of anxiety of becoming innocent victims of the events out of their control, as it happened numerous times in various places of Jewish residence throughout history. Proficiency of Amazasp in speculating on this worrisome apprehension in Guba was out of question indeed.

In this respect, dozens of local Jews killed during tragic events of April-May 1918 in Guba, as well as hundreds of their tribesmen dying from infectious diseases, famine and other travail as described by commissar Kasradze, shall be also viewed as victims of aggressive ethnic violence policy unleashed by Armenians, as it was the case with their fellow Muslim townsfolk in the area

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Upon withdrawal of the Armenian squads led by Amazasp from Guba, the town came across another serious danger, i.e. epidemics. Decomposing and mutilated dead bodies of men, women and kids slain during the initial and follow-up assaults of Amamzasp's gangs were left decaying wherever they were killed all over the town, in the streets, neighborhoods, households and courtyards.

As it was mentioned earlier, all requests by the town's mayor A.Alibeyov to allow collecting dead bodies and bury them were denied by Amazasp. Leaving dead bodies unburied for a long time is viewed as a sin among Muslims, so this was another "intricate" method of "penalizing" local population employed by "the hero of the Armenian nation", the one he probably enjoyed in particular. (160)

According to recollections of various Guba residents, the Muslims murdered by Armenians were first buried on the forth day after the pogroms commenced. "Dead bodies were scattered everywhere, in the streets, houses, courtyards. Decomposing bodies produced a horrible stench. The forth day seemed to be quieter, so some dead bodies were even buried". (161) It was probably due to this stench that the Armenian militants allowed the local resident to bury the murdered ones. The following witness testimony describes what happened to those who tried to do this: "On the forth day public criers passed the message that Muslim men should show up with white ribbons on their sleeves and start collecting the dead bodies. A lot of people responded, however none of them got back home as they all

were executed by the Armenians. Everyone decided to hide again. So the dead bodies remained in the streets unless the Armenians withdrew. Majority of those slain were women and children, many of them decapitated". (162)

That was the way when except for the people found killed in their households and buried by their relatives in their own courtyards (163), thousands of dead bodies of butchered residents of Guba were left decaying for several days.

This absolutely egregious situation was the major cause of mass burials of the Guba massacre's victims, as the town residents and clergy used to testify later on. The clerics had particularly hard time in performing traditional funerary services for the victims. According to mullahs (Muslim clerics), they buried 2800 dead bodies. (164) Mullah Shykh Husseyn Akhundzade involved in burying 300 persons in his parish, Section (Mahalle) 1, Guba, testified the following: "A lot of dead bodies were mutilated by daggers, with slashed hands and noses, many of them defaced". (165)

Parish mullah of Guba's Section 2 Mussarza Askarzadeh had his own figures: "250 residents shot from guns and stabbed by daggers with 300 more people passing away from shock and fear, 550 persons all together". He also added that the dead bodies remained in the streets not collected for 5 days. With just one bullock cart available, the residents had no other choice than burying 5 dead bodies in one grave". (166) Data on numbers of victims in other parts of the town, like Sections 3 and 4, as well as the Jewish quarter were missing.

With sparse information on burying the murdered victims, testimonies provide virtually no information regarding exact places and parts of the city where dead bodies were consigned to the earth. Oddly enough, it was only a Guba-born Baku resident Aliabbasbey Balabey oghlu Hassanbeyov who mentioned burial places stating: "In Guba I got all details of the Muslims' bloodbath, I attended the cemetery where I saw above 300 new graves dug, and people told me that the number of dead bodies in each varied from 2 to 4-5". (167)

Lack of testimonies regarding burying dead bodies of Muslims executed by Armenians either by their murderers or by local residents is explained by the fact that survivors tried not to appear outdoors fearful of being immediately slain, as those who responded to the Armenians' call to collect and bury dead bodies never got back home

themselves. Therefore there were virtually no residents wounded or maimed by the Armenians among surviving local residents, witnesses among them. This is furthermore supported by the report of the police superintendent of Guba's Section 1: "...no persons wounded or maimed by the Armenian gangs were found in Section 1 of the town of Guba, neither could they be found for they were sharp-shooters, and they did not use 40-50 bullets when one bullet was enough. Besides this, any person they got hold of was slaughtered by daggers and shot to death from rifles with dead bodies mutilated afterwards". (168)

In this respect, the document submitted to the AHIC by the town's police superintendents in response to the request regarding murdered, wounded and maimed persons is of high importance indeed. The document reads: "The number of Guba residents who passed away out of fear caused by advancing Armenian and Bolshevik units is above 100. Besides this around 300 persons were unidentified outsiders also murdered by the Armenians and Bolsheviks. Their dead bodies were buried in Guba, fifty per each grave". (169)

However far not all victims of the Armenian violence were buried even in common graves. The same Abbasbey Hassanbeyov mentioned: "While traveling from Khachmaz to Guba in May I saw numerous dead bodies of Muslims scattered along the road, in ditches eaten by jackals and other beasts". (170)

In this regard, further story of those masterminding and perpetrating this horrible tragedy with dozens of thousands of innocent Muslims' deaths in Guba and around is interesting indeed. The major "heroes" are obviously D.Ghelovani and Amazasp.

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Pursuant to the files of ACIC, David Ghelovani was interviewed twice, his testimonies very confusing, contradicting, distrustful and far not often coinciding with evidence provided by Guba residents, the latter ones almost reiterating each other. From the very outset, it was a bit unclear why a militia inspector (D.Ghelovani's official position) instructed "to restore proper railroad communication with Gudermes station" was accompanied by troop trains with 2000 soldiers, dominantly manned by Armenians, with no clear route to follow. Then, having provided almost exact location of the place where he reportedly came across "about 120 dead bodies of men, women and children...

mainly Armenians, with some Russians" (171) Ghelovani in the meantime refused to identify the place which was reportedly shown to him by the Armenians appearing out of nowhere. Finally, how could an official representative of the authorities of the day, a member of Communist party subordinate to the party rules and discipline, change the itinerary on demand of "indignant" Armenian soldiers of a troop train who "started getting anxious"? How could the same official enter Guba and "as a neutral person" demand the civilian population to comply with the Soviet regime within two hours?

According to Ghelovani's testimonies, this was the way he was trying to hold back a troop train of furious Armenian soldiers, although in view of reported "120 murdered Armenians" "devastating Guba" would be more logical for them than trying to establish the Soviet rule in the area. It should be noted that the circumstances of Ghelovani's appearance in Guba, the way he describes them, totally differ from the version of M.Baghirov presented above. The latter one seems more trustworthy. (172) However A.F.Novatski, while interviewing Ghelovani, did not get into the depth of these questions. Instead, he was trying to determine Ghelovani's role during the first wave of violent events in Guba resulting in deaths of civilians and arsons of public and private property in town.

In this respect, Ghelovani fully denied his guilt, as well as the guilt of his and even Amazasp's squads stating the following: "While retreating from Guba with Amazasp, our squad perpetrated no violence, not a household was set on fire, and there was a burning house somewhere below, however it caught fire from a cannon shell". (173)

Meanwhile, Ghelovani did not dispute his involvement in exchange of fire with the Lezghins? And this was exactly the moment when civilian casualties occurred. Trying to acquit himself, Ghelovani stated: "I was resisting the Lezghins for two days and did not surrender for two reasons: first, this would be contrary to the concept of officer's dignity? And second, I have never received an offer to surrender. What I received instead was threatening mail with no security guarantees neither to my whole unit, nor myself that we would not be executed upon surrender". (174)

Meanwhile, in his testimonies Ghelovani fully acknowledged the facts of atrocities committed by Amazasp with regard to civilian Muslim population of both Guba and its surroundings. He flatly denied

cynical and false statements by Amazasp and his commissar Veluntz that "the city was burnt and massacre committed by Shiites and Sunnis in a blood feud." His statement regarding "the punitive squad dispatched to Guba on Shaumyan's will with selection of troops to be made by war minister Korganov" was of a particular importance for the investigation. Like the Guba residents, Ghelovani admitted there was "not a single Russian in Amazasp's squad manned exclusively by Armenians, all of them Dashnaktsakan to the last person. Amazasp himself was a zealous Dashnaktsakan". Ghelovani noted specifically that "Davachi and Alpan villages located several miles away from Guba were set ablaze by Amazasp's squad just because of their Muslim origin". (175)

This way or another, either due to trustworthy nature of his statements or lack of malice and personal hostility in his actions or the overall summary of the case, David Chelovani was not indicted in Guba's devastation case.

A notable detail is that even after the downfall of the Bolshevik regime, Ghelovani stayed in Baku employed by the Labor Inspection under the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In late October 1919 he was assassinated near the Sabunchu Train Station by two shots. The assassin, an ethnic Armenian named Sarkis Teruntz, dropped the gun at the crime scene and tried to abscond, however he was apprehended by an Azerbaijani soldier (askar) Aminov, who, together with three other persons witnessed Teruntz while shooting Ghelovani. S.Teruntz steadily refused his guilt claiming that "he did not shoot, he just tried to run away once he heard the shots, and that was the reason of being detained". (176) He never admitted his guilt in the course of further investigation, despite sufficient number of witnesses including two policemen and two gendarmes and the material evidence, "a Mauser smoking with gunpowder", so the true motif of the criminal offence was never established.

Meanwhile, with no credit to Teruntz's testimonies, the investigation was trying to find out Chelovani's links with Dashnaktsutyun party, and the case of Teruntz was passed over to the Military Prosecutor of the Azerbaijani Tribunal. This born in mind there are sufficient grounds to believe that Ghelovani's assassination had a political motivation.

It should be also hereby noted that by late 1919, the investiga-



tion conducted by the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission was over, and draft resolutions were passed over to the Supreme Court of Justice. By that time, a number of persons charged with involvement in the March events in Baku and Shemakha were provisionally arrested, more than 100 detainees were ethnic Armenians. Investigation initiated by the AHIC got a broad response, with the Armenian community and press outraged and the whole campaign against the AHIC launched by Dashnaksutyun party in the Azerbaijani Parliament. (177)

One can only assume whether the Armenian public figures were aware of D.Ghelovani's testimonies charging Armenians with massacring Muslims and naming the major masterminds and perpetrators starting with Shaumyan and Amamzasp and all the way down to the Armenian military officers and Dashnaksutyun party's rank-and-file. Could that be the rationale of his assassination? Bearing in mind the political and legal implications of AHIC's activities this option is not excluded at all. It is also possible that it was D.Ghelovani's cooperation with the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission that won him such an unflattering reference of his former aide M.Baghirov in later years.

This way or another, a nobleman by birth, a Social Democrat (Menshevik) by his political views David Alexandrovich Ghelovani, upon joining the Bolsheviks and collaborating with ultranationalist Armenians (Dashnaksutyun members) ended up being everyone's outcast. The reason of his being named as "provocateur" by his former political comrade-in-arms Mirjafar Baghirov is still unknown, whereas his murder committed by a tribesman of his former Dashnaksutyun Armenian fellow-fighters speaks for itself.

Lack of further investigation and judicial files pertaining to the events in Guba gives no grounds to figure out whether the persons mentioned in the AHIC Resolution of November 1919 were held responsible for the devastation of Guba and massacre of its Muslim population. (178) What is clear so far is that on January 29, 1920, "the AHIC files regarding the devastation of the town of Guba and villages in Guba Uyezd were handed over by the Supreme Judicial Court of Azerbaijan to the Attorney of the Baku District Court for further proceedings. Three volumes attached to the files included:

- 1) Devastation of the Town of Guba,
- 2) Devastation of Villages in Davachi and Mushkur Precincts,
- 3) Devastation of Villages in Gusar, Fethibey No.5, and Other

Precincts of Guba Uyezd. (179)

However, no "further proceedings" either on these files, or on other cases instituted by the AHIC were ever conducted due to a very significant political event. On January 11, 1920, the Supreme Council of Allied States granted a unanimous de-facto recognition to the independent Republic of Azerbaijan. This truly milestone event was followed by the Amnesty Law adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan on February 9, 1920. Pursuant to Section 2 of the law in question, all perpetrators of "criminal offences motivated by ethnic hostility" prior to the Law's enactment were relieved from responsibility, whereas pursuant to Section 10 all criminal cases instituted by the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission were discontinued once and forever. (180)

Later that year, following the resolution of judicial bodies of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan, 'the case of devastation of the town of Guba and villages of Guba Uyezd' was dismissed in accordance to the Law of February 9, 1920, and the files shelved in archives. (181)

Nonetheless, neither the Amnesty Law inspired by the recognition of the national independence, nor the rapidly changing political situation in Transcaucasia in 1918-1921 rescued Amazasp Srvantsyan, the major mastermind of Guba pogroms, from the punishment deserved.

Soon after the tragic events in Guba, "the hero of the Armenian nation" Amazasp one more time proved his ability to "wage war" against unarmed and innocent Muslim populations of Turkish, Kurdish, Azerbaijani, Lezghin and Tat and other origins. This is exactly what he demonstrated in Kars, Van, Bitlis, Huzan, Zangazur, Baku and Guba and other places.

Meanwhile, faced with the regular Turkish and Azerbaijani armed forces advancing towards Baku, Amazasp withdrew his cavalry squad at the very height of the fight when the fate of the Soviet regime in Baku was at stake. Defecting the frontline at the most crucial moment, Amazasp left G.K.Petrov, the Military Commissar of Baku District bewildered. "I fail to understand how come the people claiming their willingness to 'sacrifice their lives for the just cause of the people' may ever act in such a manner," – Petrov telegrammed Shaumyan and Korganov on July 24, 1918, just a week before the Bolshevik power fell. (182)

Similar situation occurred two weeks prior to this event, during the battle at Shemakha when all of a sudden Amazasp "fell a strong stomachache", so he mounted his horse and left the combat posi-

tion accompanied by bodyguards. Consequently he withdrew all his troops with no order to do so and retreated towards Baku. Anastas Mikoyan, then the unit commissar, charged Amazasp with treason and sent Shaumyan a telegram requesting his arrest. (183)

Another time when "the hero" fled the frontline leaving his troops in the lurch was in September 1918 when Amazasp fled Baku to Persia confronted with advancing troops of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus and the Azerbaijani troops.

Upon completion of World War 1, Amazasp returned to the Caucasus to be appointed "the commander of the Armenian Army at Nor-Bayazet region". (184) After the Soviet regime was established in Armenia in November 1920, Amazasp stayed in Yerevan relying on "his merits to the Armenian nation". However the Armenian Bolsheviks played a fatal trick on him. In mid-January 1921, he was arrested with a group of officers to be then deported to Baku. Nonetheless he was hatched to death in prison. His reported last words were: "Bastards, is this the way to kill people?!" A person initiating terrible atrocities towards thousands of civilians was defaced to the point when his son could only identify him by his boots. (185)

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The Investigation Case on the Devastation of the Town of Guba and Villages of Guba Uyezd shelved in archives as of 1920, was "discovered" good 70 years later, when the files of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission together with other documents related to the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan were generally made available to experts and Azerbaijani scholars in the late 1980's. It was the period of perestroika in the former Soviet Union when previously classified archive records became accessible. Meanwhile this period marked a new phase of Armenian aggression against the Azerbaijanis with the Nagorno-Garabagh Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict unleashed in 1988. This in turn necessitated substantial research of the issue based on historic documents. Further studies of archive files revealed egregious facts of mass murder, repression, expulsion of ethnic Azerbaijanis from the places of their indigenous habitation by the Armenian militants, a policy that could be qualified as genocide.

Events that took place in various urban and rural areas of Azerbaijan from May to September 1918, the Guba events in particular,

thoroughly studied and properly recorded due to the efforts of the Ad Hoc Investigation Committee, take the special place in the chain of bloodthirsty and malign aggression the Azerbaijani nation became subject to times and again, the violence that was not given due legal assessment for quite a lengthy period of time.

As it may be concluded from the records, a small team of experts led by A.F.Novatsky started investigation of the events in Guba in early December 1918. Due to excellent arrangement of the preparation phase, very cooperative local authorities and enormous personal input of Novatski and his assistants the investigation team succeeded in collecting and compiling 3 volumes of records, 451 pages in total within just a month. During this period, Novatski personally interviewed 20 residents of Guba, 30 rural community elders of Guba Uyezd, and David Ghelovani as one of the main witnesses for the prosecution. The investigation team succeeded in collecting hundreds of other pieces of evidence, such as statements of damages, lists of killed and murdered residents, etc.

All together, these records provide a broad context of the tragic events of 1918 in Guba and create a comprehensive view of the scope of detriment inflicted to residents of Guba and its environs, both in terms of human loss and property damage.

Meanwhile, a number of tasks identified by the Commission appeared unattainable. E.g., on the very first day of the work, A.F.Novatski made various types of requests, such as family names of potential Muslim witnesses among Guba's permanent residents, as well as the list of persons affected, wounded or maimed as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack on Guba.

As it appears from the records, the Commission was planning to get witness testimonies of ethnic groups' representatives not involved in violence against the Muslim population and could provide information regarding the Armenian gangs' foray on Guba, the town's devastation and violence towards the population. However absence of such a group of witnesses clearly indicates that the Commission was short of accomplishing this goal. Response by one of the local police officers concerning "absence of adherents of different creed in Section 1 at the moment" (186) is far from being an exhaustive explanation of this issue.

Another open-ended question is related to the absence of

a number of esteemed and recognized figures of Guba's that-time community who not only witnessed the events in question but took an active part in resisting Amazasp's squads. These are Alibey Zizikski, Hamdulla Efendi, Mohubali Efendi, and Khatam-Agha Jagrawi, just to mention few. A well-known fact is that soon after the of bloody events in Guba a group of local public figures formed a commission to collect witness testimonies on the tragedy in its immediate aftermath. According to certain sources, part of these documents were kept at the archives in Dagestan up until mid 1990's. The search for these files yielded no results so far. (187) No records mentioning this initiative in the files of the AHIC, let alone the absence of documents themselves is something looks really bizarre.

Non-involvement of Alibey Zizikski and Hamdulla Efendi in the investigation group's efforts could be partially explained by the formation and first steps of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan in December 1918 where both of them were representing Guba Uyezd. It was exactly the time when the investigation group started its work.

Another Guba resident not interviewed by the investigation group due to unknown reasons was retired colonel Hajji Alakbar Meshadi Mahmud oghlu. Back of July 18, 1918, three days after the AHIC formation he sent the letter to A.Khasmammadov, Chairman of the Commission, requesting him and other members of the Commission to arrive in Guba urgently with a view to recording facts of bigotry and vandalism committed by the Armenian punitive squad. He also mentioned "sufficient evidence and live witnesses" in Guba capable to expose criminal offences of the Armenians who had slaughtered above three thousand children, women and elderly men with inconceivable atrocity and "turned a big part of the town into a cemetery". The letter's author demanded arrest and military trial of masterminds of these crimes, i.e. "Shaumyan, Japaridze, Military Commissar Korganov, killer D.A.Ghelovani, cutthroat Amazasp and his mates Nicolay and others". The letter's conclusion emphasized that "this address is passing the message of dozens of thousands Guba residents whose households were ruined and innocent kin drowned in blood", hence taking urgent steps was hereby required. (188)

Nevertheless, the number of Muslim witnesses from the town of Guba interviewed by the AHIC was slightly over 20. Such a low number of witnesses in the Guba devastation case compared to the

scale of destruction and number of victims shall be attributed to very limited potential of the AHIC investigation team in Guba comprising A.F.Novatski, his assistant and interpreter Eyub-bey Khanbudaghov and some service personnel provided by the municipality of Guba. Acute shortage of investigators and pressing deadlines were among the major challenges of the AHIC in general. This obviously affected the output of the investigation teams operating in various regions of the country. A letter by A.F.Novatski to the police superintendent of Guba dating December 11, 1918, requested to provide names of 15-20 local Muslim residents capable of advising the Commission details of the Armenian gangs' attack on the town. So it is far not by chance that majority of persons interviewed by Novatski were honorable representatives of the community, such as the town mayor, Shiite and Sunni religious leaders, etc.

The list of interviewees also included some influential representatives of rural communities, such as Hassan-bey Shyhlarski (a representative of Shykhlar landlord family), Shamsaddin Efendiyev, brother of Hamdulla Efendi and the police superintendent of Davachi Precinct, Beybala Gayibov, landlord of Alpan village and others. Evidence provided by them, as well as by other witnesses and victims, including a seven-year-old boy and his mother, still create a comprehensive picture of the tragic events that broke out in Guba in April-May 1918. Absence of non-Muslim witnesses, the Jewish ones in particular, was already mentioned above. Meanwhile, no Armenian residents of Guba applied to the Commission either. This could be hardly explained by the fact that local Armenians had not returned to the town by that time. The remark regarding absence of "representatives of other confessions" made by the police superintendent of Guba's Section 1 did not apply to the whole of the town. It is also hard to assume whether this was the result of Navatsky's reservation regarding representatives of other ethnic groups "not involved in violent actions towards the Muslim population in general, and the population of the town of Guba and Guba Uyezd in particular" as specified in his letter to the police superintendent of Guba. (189)

This way or another, even if the version of absence of the Armenian residents in town at that particular moment is true, it should be noted that those Guba Armenians who had left for Baku before or during these events were never denied a possibility to apply to the

AHIC even being in Baku. This was exactly what the Armenian residents of Baku affected by the March events did.

The overall context of that particular period is not to be overlooked as it was the time of the British administration in Baku province, and the leaders of the Armenian community were extremely active in lodging various complaints to the Azerbaijani Government, Turkish and British military missions and foreign diplomatic services. This born in mind, lack of any testimonial evidence regarding violence against the Armenian residents of Guba perpetrated by the Muslims in 1917-1918 in fact nullifies any claims of purported "slaughter of Guba's Armenian population" as the excuse of subsequent mass pogroms of Muslims all over Guba Uyezd.

There is one document of this type, though, found in the History Archive of the Republic of Armenia. The document's authors presented it as *The Application by a Representative of Former Armenian Population of the Town of Guba to the Baku Armenian National Committee Regarding Murder, Plunder and Violence towards the Armenians, Treachery of the Bolshevik Commissar Ghelovani in March 1918 and the Distressful Conditions of the Remnants of Guba's Armenian Population*. (190)

The document in question dating February 6, 1919, and reportedly compiled in Baku fails to name neither the purported author 'a, representative of former Armenian population of Guba', nor any specific victim of 'murder, plunder and violence'. What it basically mentions is the well-known episode when part of Guba's Armenian population was provisionally placed by the Muslim public figures in local prison premises to prevent any potential acts of violence by certain local Muslim residents to avenge for what the atrocities committed by their fellow tribesmen in Baku and Shemakha. This episode was described in details in witness testimonies quoted above. Even the anonymous author of the document admits that "they were incarcerated to rescue their lives" unless they were released by the Bolshevik commissar Ghelovani. He also notes that "thanks to some nice people they did not starve to death". Despite general claims of "murder and violence", the author emphasized facts of "plunder" the Armenian "prisoners" were subject to: "I will not go into the details of all the atrocities committed by malefactors, humiliation and violence towards women and minors, however what I'd like to note is that some money and jewellery were saved in women's hair and nos-

trils, whereas some other valuables were sewn into dresses." Then he adds: "Due to the treachery of the Bolshevik Commissar Ghelovani, the residents rescued from prison numbering 132, surrendered on their way to liberation. The attackers killed all men in front of their mothers and wives and captured women taking hold of everything that had not been robbed..." (191)

The "facts" of the Armenian women's being robbed by "malefactors", some esteemed representatives of Guba's nobility among them, is a complete responsibility of an anonymous author, although it is hard to imagine that with whole groups of armed bodyguards, these persons would hardly stoop to rob women, however the very fact that Ghelovani is mentioned in this document as an accomplice of Muslim robbers exposes the false nature of the paper. A well-established fact is that the Armenian sources named Ghelovani "provocateur" and "traitor" only after he started cooperating with the AHIC. His assassination by an Armenian terrorist followed soon after. This also makes clear why the "representative of former Armenian population of the town of Guba" lodged the request to recover the loot neither to the AHIC, nor to the Government of Azerbaijan but to the Armenian National Council of Baku. An interesting fact also worthwhile being hereby mentioned is that the Armenian National Council took no action on this document.

What makes the document in question notable is that it mentions Alibey Zizikski, the Uyezd Commissar, as a "person heavily pulled into the atmosphere of ethnic war" in the area. This is quite indicative as the first sign of a consistent ill-intentioned campaign initiated by the Armenian activists with regard to one of the most outstanding representatives of the Guba community renowned participant of liberation movement in Azerbaijan and the member of the Azerbaijani Parliament representing Guba Uyezd.

It is well known that A.Zizikski could not be personally involved in the events bound with sheltering Armenians in Guba's prison for he was out of town at that moment. In the meantime, as it was mentioned earlier, Zizikski was among the key figures in armed resistance to the Bolshevik and Dashnaksutyun squads in Guba Uyezd. The local residents, Armenians among them, were quite aware of that.

Upon the Soviet takeover, Zizikski moved to the Iranian Azerbaijan settling in Ardabil. He repatriated in 1923 and got legalized with the help of his former subordinate Mirjafar Baghirov, then the chairman of



the Azerbaijani Cheka (The Extraordinary Commission, predecessor of KGB). Despite such a high level of protection, he still remained under surveillance, and was arrested on December 28, 1926 during another campaign against "former enemies" based on informants' reports". A notable fact is that with all his life history perfectly known to prosecutors, what they charged him with was a "new discrediting evidence", i.e. illegal support to Mussavat party, active work against the working class, links with counter-revolutionary organizations abroad and involvement in uttering counterfeited banknotes. (192)

The investigation had been working hard for the whole year and a half, trying to link 'the Zizikski Case' with 'the North Caucasus Highlander Counterrevolutionaries' Case' with H.I.Kantemirov as the key figure. However either due to the lack of evidence, or by virtue of other causes, investigators decided to file the papers regarding Zizikski's activities in 1918.

On June 9, 1928, an investigator from AzGPU (Azerbaijan State Political Department, the then Cheka name) interrogated one Guba-born resident of Baku. Interrogation transcript of the first witness for the prosecution on "Zizikski's Guba past" case presented him as "an exploiter and torturer of the impoverished Guba peasantry", who "foreseeing the imminent establishment of the proletarian dictatorship in Guba conspired to form a gang and launched a furious activity against the Soviet rule".

Description of A.Zizikski's further activities using the same language led to the only possible conclusion: "...in no way can the suspect ever come to terms with the proletarian dictatorship, and the proletarians of Guba loathe him deeply for the tortures he had been inflicting to them for a number of years". (193)

Apparently such an ideology-dominated style of unmasking testimonies lacking specific evidence was not sufficient for the investigation agencies which, back in the 1920's still tried to abide by judicial procedure, at least formally. This was the reason why on July 11, 1928, a letter was sent by the deputy chief of AzGPU to the head of the Guba Information Unit (GIU) making the latter one "personally responsible for interrogating persons capable of confirming A.Zizikski's above-mentioned activities and dispatching the whole records to AzGPU within one week's time".

What the "A.Zizikski's above-mentioned activities" implied was

the following: "...back in 1918, together with Uzun Hajji (i.e. Najmuddin Gotsinski – S.R-T.) he was in charge of an advance of counterrevolutionary forces towards the city of Baku via Khyrdalan station. Upon the failure of the advance in question and due to the Soviet regime being established in Guba Uyezd, A.Zizikski stirred up a rebellion resulting in takeover of the town of Guba, annihilation of a Red Army unit, massacre of the Armenian population and death of a large number of innocent Guba residents, exclusively the most impoverished one". (194)

The GIU performed the task by interrogating 7 witnesses on July 16-19, 1928 and dispatched the records to Baku. On July 28, 1928, another letter was received from Baku indicating that the files dispatched were valuable but insufficient. The letter provided the name of a specific person with the request to interview "him and the persons he finds necessary who may provide this evidence or another", all together numbering 10. The importance of timely execution of this task was stressed in the letter's conclusion as "the case was to be reported by August 1". (195)

The instruction was performed in time even though received on July 30 only. Seven more witnesses were interviewed on July 31, and the records mailed to Baku urgently.

According to records of interrogation of all the 14 witnesses, they upheld "word by word" the "aspects" of A.Zizikski's activities emphasized in the letter by AzGPU. Meanwhile, there is one peculiarity featuring the witnesses of the prosecution. All their testimonies were based on either what they "heard" or what they "were told", as they "saw nothing" personally. Not a single fact exposing Alibey Zizikski's reported criminal offences against Guba residents, let it be Muslims, Jews or "massacred Armenian population" was indicated, let alone his personal involvement in these actions. By the way, there was not a single ethnic Armenian among the witnesses interviewed by investigator Babenko. The testimonies generally boiled down to the already known events of April-May 1918 in Guba supporting already known features of A.Zizikski's life story. The most "incriminating" pieces of testimonies could sound like these: "In 1918 Alibey got someone's telegram from Baku after which he called a meeting in Guba and sent his envoys to the rural areas notifying that the Armenians were massacring the Muslims in Baku", or "While recruiting people into his gang Alibey and his aides were agitating that the ethnic fight is cur-

rently going on, so we should stand for our nation", or "I personally have never seen him, however as I was told, Alibey was gathering a squad, agitating people in rural areas and telling them that the Bolsheviks in junction with the Armenians are planning to exterminate the Muslims...". (196)

According to the witness testimonies, the squad Alibey managed to gather varied from 1,5 to 4-5 or up to 7-10 thousand fighters. The witnesses confirmed the fact that Zizikski's units "launched an offensive" on Baku after he received the telegram with a view to rescuing the city's Muslim population from the Bolsheviks. They reached all the way to Baku's suburb of Khyrdalan, however they were defeated and returned to Guba where they kept on their armed resistance to the Bolshevik troops.

One of the witnesses stated that when the Bolsheviks had taken Guba for the third time, he was one of the four envoys they sent to meet Alibey Zizikski with the offer to give up arms and start cooperating with the Bolsheviks holding a high-ranking position. He refused. This evidence was upheld by another witness stating the following: "The Bolsheviks asked to dismiss the gang as they were not here to wage the war against the civilians, so they asked Alibey to arrive in Guba to take a service with them. In response to this Alibey said that he would never comply with the Bolshevik brigands and promised to clear both Guba and Khachmaz from them". (197) It should be hereby noted that the conversation took place after the withdrawal of Amazasp's units from Guba and the arrival of a the Bolshevik squad led by Levon Gogoberidze.

No doubt, these testimonies provided sufficient grounds to charge Alibey Zizikski with the fight against Bolsheviks, which was in fact true. Meanwhile, as one may conclude from the files, what the investigator was also striving to get was some evidence or facts about the local Armenian population. If not the massacre per se, at least involvement of Zizikski's squad, if not him personally, in "plundering" the Armenian population was exactly what he wanted to get. However, responses gave little comfort: "No specific facts that I'm aware of". Most of the persons interrogated explained this by either their being absent in town at that moment or trying to stay at home. One of the explanations reads: "I'm an illiterate man, so I've forgotten everything". (198)

Even "the witness" recommended by the AzGPU failed to pro-

vide specific evidence on this matter, despite a clear wish to please the investigation. It still remains a riddle why investigator Babenko did not even try to interview the Armenian residents of Guba and its surroundings. That is exactly the issue we'll address later.

To add to this, throughout the whole investigation, Alibey Zizikski never confessed in any of the items in the indictment. Despite some confessions of other persons accused in the North Caucasus Highlander Counterrevolutionary Case, he held himself upright at all confrontations. He spoke reservedly of the Guba period of his service and flatly refused to provide any testimonies of the March-May events in 1918, stating that there was nothing to recall due to the matter's long standing. When offered by the interrogator "to ease his lot by coping a plea" on his role in the Guba events in 1918, Zizkiski stated clearly: "I was never an art and part in the Guba events". (199)

It is hard to assume whether the records sent from Guba were sufficient for the AzGPU investigators, however, the Final Resolution on his case was passed on August 2, 1918 whereby as 'a political gangster' he was charged with counterrevolutionary activities and ties with foreign counterrevolutionary agencies, as well as involvement in printing counterfeited banknotes. Based on this document, on August 6, 1928, Alibey Zizikski was sentenced to capital punishment (execution) by the AzGPU Panel "to the extreme measure of social protection, i.e. execution". (200)

It took a little bit more than a year to support the motion by the AzGPU on non-applying the Amnesty Act adopted by the state bodies of Azerbaijan, Trans-Caucasian Federation and the Soviet Union due to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the October Revolution to this particular case. Once the plea was upheld, Alibey Zizikski was executed immediately during the night of 16/17 September 1929.

Another document worth being hereby mentioned, also signed by the Armenians and related to the events of 1918, reveals lack of specific evidence pertaining to the involvement of the Azerbaijani public figures in violent actions against the country's Armenian population. The document in question deals with Hamdulla Efendi, another prominent figure in Guba Uyezd and a member of the Azerbaijani Parliament in 1918-1920.

Resident of his family estate, Galagah village, Davachi Precinct, Hamdulla Efendi was an offspring of a renowned cleric family enjoying

an enormous esteem in the whole area. The grave of his grandfather Ibrahim Efendi was a well-known shrine among the Muslim residents, whereas his father and uncle Ismail Efendi and Abdul Vahab Efendi were exiled to Siberia back in 1880 as "masterminds of muridism" (a religious doctrine in the Caucasus suppressed in the Czarist Russia). Ismayil Efendi died in exile whereas Abdul Vahab Efendi returned 17 years after. (201)

Hamdulla Efendi was also a public figure, known as a person of high integrity that won him a great deal of respect among the population, both Muslim and non. Throughout the period of chaos and anarchy in the country, units of Hamdulla Efendi were keeping law and order at Davachi Section, whereas during the Guba events of 1918, several hundreds of Hamdulla Efendi's supporters together with the Lezghin squads led by Mohubali Efendi and Khatam Agha were trying their best to resist the Bolshevik and Armenian military forces.

Attempts to arrest Hamdulla Efendi immediately after the final establishment of the Soviet regime in Azerbaijan triggered an anti-Soviet revolt in the Uyezd in 1920-1921 "resulting in hundreds of lives of the Red Army soldiers". A while after these events, Hamdulla Efendi hiding in the mountains, managed to get "rehabilitated" by the new authorities and was issued "a mandate" to free and peaceful life.

Efforts by AzGPU to eliminate Hamdulla Efendi in 1920-1926 were of no avail due to the population's vigilance and the latter one's "smart policy". Classified documents of that period refer to him as a very dangerous figure for the Soviet regime: "Not a single peasant in Bighiji, Zigli, Gendob, Ugah, Leyti, Lestjed and other villages in the area is actively involved in cooperating with the authorities due to Efendiyev's influence. Any elections may only be possible under Efendiyev's instruction and control. One will hardly meet any (Communist) party or Komsomol member for Efendiyev does not allow this...". (202)

No surprise, when a new wave of "elimination of counterrevolutionary elements" was actively pursued by NKVD (the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) all over former Soviet Union, with the list of persons to be purged compiled, Hamdulla Efendi was the first in the black list of Davachi District of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan. In August 1927 he was arrested and convoyed to Baku to face charges with gangsterism brought against him at the AzGPU pursuant to Article 76 of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan SSR.

Given this very complex political situation, along with his co-believers, it was the population of the Armenian village of Kilvar, Davachi District of Guba Uyezd, that stood at Hamdulla Efendi's defense. Files of Hamdulla Efendi's case include an address signed by 91 Armenian peasants, residents of the village named above. The letter reads: *"On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, year of 1927, we, the undersigned citizens of Kilvar village do hereby confirm that resident of Kalaghe village Hamdulla Efendiyev has been always kind to us, residents of Kilvar village, and did nothing but good to us, i.e. in 1905 during the time of unrest, he always advised the neighboring villages to live in piece with us, thus preventing any possible disturbances. In 1918-1920, again, he never allowed anyone to do anything neither to us, nor to our assets, as well a never did he ever foster ethnic hostilities between us and our neighbors. All of the actions mentioned above he committed out of innocence with no mercenary motives whatsoever. This is what we, the undersigned, ask to take into consideration with our signatures hereby enclosed"*. (203) Most of the 91 signatures following this address were made in Armenian. (The copy of the document is enclosed in the book).

What is really notable is that the Armenian residents of Kilvar village did not confine themselves to just signing the document but asked the Chairman of the Village Soviet to certify their signatures with the seal. Their request was granted. (204)

Meanwhile, the story of the letter had a follow-up. The investigation, obviously perplexed by both the letter itself, and the active response of the Armenian population, interviewed Ambartsum Ambartsumov, the Chairman of the Kilvar Village Soviet, regarding not only the compilation of the letter but its certification with a seal by an official of his level of authority. And here is quite a remarkable piece of the interview indeed: according to A.Ambartsumov's testimony, once he refused to sign such a "Sentence regarding Hamdulla Efendi's good behavior...the population of Kilvar village presented him a signed note according to which the villagers undertook responsibility for the consequences instead of the Village Soviet". (205)

Of course, this letter could not affect the ultimate fate of Hamdulla Efendi. On March 4, 1928, he was charged with "criminal offences against the administration and the Soviet social system, and the involvement in gangsterism". On July 17, 1928 he was sentenced by the AzGPU panel "the extreme measure of social protectio, i.e. execu-

tion". (206) The sentence was enforced on August 3, 1929, immediately after the motion by security agencies of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan on non-applying the Amnesty Act due to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the October Revolution to this case was upheld. (207)

That being said, the petition lodged by the Kilvar Armenians ready to be held responsible for the "consequences" of their motion in such a ruthless time was extremely valuable indeed. It demonstrated not only the high integrity and rewarding nature of those signing it but served an irrefutable evidence to the fact that even during the bloody and tragic events of 1918 in Guba Uyezd, the local Muslim community leaders made a clear distinction between the Armenian armed gangs massacring innocent civilians, the ones they were desperately fighting with on the one hand, and the local Armenian population, which they not only never attacked but protected to the best they could from some of their own fellow citizens.

It should be *inter alia* mentioned that Alibey Zizikski and Hamdulla Efendi were not the only recognized Azerbaijani public figures executed by the Soviet regime. A number of highly esteemed representatives of Guba community fell the victims of Stalin's administration in several years' time. Their major 'guilt' from the Soviet point of view was that they were properly serving their nation, but under different administrations, i.e. the Czarist and the Mussavat times. Among the victims, there were survivors of the tragic events of 1918, as well as those actively involved in combating the Bolshevik and Armenian units. Two out of hundreds of Guba residents arrested by the NKVD were actively cooperating with the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission back in 1918 either by providing testimonies or assisting the investigation in other ways.

Aliabbasbey Alibeyov, the former Chief of the Guba Municipality, was arrested by the Guba District NKVD Department on August 6, 1937 at the age of 67. The 1920's were a period of quite an unrest for A.Alibeyov. Holding position of the mayor until the Soviet takeover of Azerbaijan in April 1920, Alibeyov never left the town in the face of advancing Soviet troops, like it was the case in the troublesome 1918. He prevented panics among the population and entered into negotiations with Bolsheviks like he did it with Amazasp earlier, notwithstanding the obvious danger involved. Realizing the situation, Aliabbasbey Alibeyov never allowed a handful of the Azerbaijani Army officers deployed in

Guba to bombard the highly outnumbering and well equipped Soviet troops. Thus a serious clash fraught with fatalities was prevented.

Nonetheless, as a person enjoying a great deal of esteem among the local population, A.Alibeyov was immediately arrested by the new authorities. Even though he was released shortly afterwards, all his assets, including a 2-storeyed house and stores, were expropriated. In 1929, as 'a former kulak' (rural entrepreneur), he was disfranchised, however he succeeded in accomplishing rehabilitation two months later.

With substantial experience in judiciary dating back to the time of the Czarist administration, A.Alibeyov was practicing law and was a Bar member in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan until his repeated arrest in 1937. No specific charges were brought against Ali-beyov by the NKVD investigators this time, let alone any evidence of his proven guilt. The only "charge" the prosecution could come up with was that Alibeyov "maintained close ties with the former Uyezd chief Khankhoytski (Amirkhan) who appointed him to the position of the mayor. Expropriated and disfranchised by the Soviet administration, he engaged in systematic agitation expressing dissatisfaction with the existing regime. Frequently raving about the time of Mussavat Alibeyov expressed his desire to see the old regime restored". (208)

This is the excerpt from the records of the *Special Troyka* meeting at the Azerbaijani NKVD on August 26, 1937 when A.Alibeyov's verdict was passed, just 20 days after his arrest. It should be noted that charges with anti-Soviet agitation were based exclusively on the testimonies provided by prearranged witnesses, with no evidence to support these unfounded claims provided whatsoever. Meanwhile, "defendant Alibeyov never confessed to his guilt". Despite all this, the verdict was straightforward: "execution with expropriation". The sentence was enforced within a week's time.

When unaware of this outcome A.Alibeyov's family applied to the NKVD main headquarters in 1940 with the request to revisit his case, the response communicated back through the Guba District NKVD Department read the following: "Please be advised that A.A.Alibeyov was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment to be served in a special regime penitentiary with no right of correspondence". Cynicism of such a response requires no comment. (209)

In fact, as one may conclude from Aliabbasbey Alibeyov's investigation case, all inquiries, examination records, other files, as well



the whole investigation was nothing but a formal lip service centered around one major document, i.e. the Excerpt from the Approved Seizure List of the NKVD of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan (List No.1, Category 1, Reference No.42). The reference number implied Aliabbasbey Alibeyov, whereas Category 1 indicated the predetermined list of persons subject to a certain penalty. (210)

The same excerpt from the *Approved Seizure List of the NKVD of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan on Guba District* may be found in the files of the case of another Guba resident, Mehsadi Hajjiagha Kerbalai Ahmad oghlu Gasymov, aged 52, "a disfranchised former rich merchant". The criminal case was instituted on February 10, 1938, on the day of Gasymov's arrest. The personal data on the arrested person was followed by Gasymov's "profile" that was supposed to provide grounds for further charges. The Profile reads: "an anti-Soviet element known for his detest to the existing Soviet regime and for dissemination of rumors regarding the imminent demise of the Soviet rule in the nearest future". (211)

Throughout the whole investigation that only took 20 days, Meshadi Hajjiagha Gasymov never pled guilty to the charges brought against him, i.e. "engagement in counter-revolutionary anti-Soviet agitation" even despite two confrontations whereby he was 'reminded' of commenting in public a newspaper article read out loud at one of local tea-houses in the following way: "Finally, the Soviet regime will soon collapse. Nothing will help it anymore". (212)

Whether M.G.Gasymov really said anything that could be viewed as "dissatisfaction with the actions by the Soviet power" or "defamation of the party and government leaders", is unclear to this day. In real life, this did not matter that much for the investigation. The really ominous issue for them was "a high and indisputable esteem" Gasymov enjoyed among the population of Guba and the rest of the Uyezds. These allegations constitute the leitmotif of all the 'witness testimonies', and that was exactly the reason of mentioning M.Gasymov's name in Category 1 of the NKVD's "Approved Seizure Lists".

No surprise, "execution with expropriation" was the verdict on Meshadi Hajjiagha Gasymov's case too. The sentence passed by the *Special Troyka* of the Azerbaijani NKVD on March 9, 1938 was enforced during the night, March 22-23 1938. (213)

To conclude, all Guba residents mentioned above and purged

by the NKVD of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan in 1920-1930's as 'people's enemies' were finally posthumously acquitted. The positive image of these people of integrity was restored, and files of their cases shelved in the archives long time ago. Yet, decades after, their names popped up again in other archive records revealing the truth about another tragic period in their lives, as well as in the history of their nation, i.e. the Guba events of 1918.

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*Report on the Devastation of the Town of Guba and Villages of Guba Uyezd* by Novatski, a member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission, with the most important information regarding the events of April-May 1918 in Guba was first published in 1990. (214) In later period, both the whole Report and various files of the case were subject of studies by scholars and experts researching a broad spectrum of issues related to the history of Azerbaijan, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, the national liberation movement of 1917-1820, Azerbaijani-Armenian relations, Armenian nationalism in the South Caucasus, etc. (215)

That being said, throughout all this period, the AHIC files have never been published completely. In 2009, the first collection compiled by this author was published with the support of the Ministry of National Security of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The collection comprised part of the AHIC files related to the March events of 1918 in Baku and its environs. (216)

In 2010, the second collection of The *Ad Hoc Investigation Committee Files* series came into the world including all dossiers of the *Devastation of the Town of Guba and Villages of Guba Uyezd* Investigation Case. (217)

In 2011, while researching the foreign archives, the author succeeded in discovering 102 photographs made by the AHIC experts and dispatched to France in 1919 to the disposal of the Azerbaijani Delegation to the Paris Peace Conference led by Alimardanbey Topchubashov. All these photos together with other AHIC files supporting the fact of their being made by the Commission were published in 2012 in the Russian, English and Turkish languages. This new illustrated edition also included reports by the AHIC members describing tragic events in Azerbaijan's countryside areas. (218)

The Collections' publication was caused by an extremely high

value and significance of the said documents in raising public awareness in Azerbaijan and world over regarding the true scale and nature of the horrifying terror resulting in extermination of more than 50 thousand innocent Azerbaijanis in 1918 with hundreds of the country's Muslim-populated residential areas leveled, social and cultural infrastructure destroyed and architectural landmarks demolished.

This born in mind, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation launched the new edition of these collections of documents in various languages in a more concise version targeting a broader audience.

As part of the AHIC dossier, files of the Devastation of the Town of Guba and Villages of Guba Uyezd Case are of a tremendous scientific, historic, political and diplomatic significance. Meanwhile, as an excellent material for source studies, these files provide a clear evidence that the Guba events were a part and parcel of far-reaching plans and intents of the then authorities in Baku led by ethnic Armenians and closely linked with Armenian ultranationalists aiming at maximum possible decrease of the Muslim population in the Azerbaijan's countryside areas and regions which they viewed as potential territories for their state-to-be.

The files of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission become ever more important today in the light of recent discovery of mass burials with human remnants found out during archaeological excavations in 2007.

The value and significance of these documents was the reason of publishing them in a separate collection offered hereby. The contents and nature of the files included in this book predetermined their placement in three sections with their original reference numbers relevant to the complete version of the Collection published in 2010 encompassing 266 files in total.

Section 1 of the Collection comprises documents related to the correspondence of A.F.Novatsli, the AHIC member in charge for the investigation of the Guba events, with local authorities in the town of Guba and adjacent villages of Guba Uyezd. As a professional lawyer Novatski succeeded to collect quite a voluminous scope of evidence on the events in Guba reflecting a broad spectrum of legally proven facts.

E.g. while working with the municipal authorities and town residents the Commission acting through precinct police officers and elders tried to get the lists of looted and plundered Muslim households in Guba Uyezd, together with the files providing specific data, such as

names of all victims, both murdered and passing away in refuge, exact number of devastated and burnt residential premises, mosques and other facilities, looted and destroyed property, etc.

To facilitate collection of evidence, community elders were provided with sample forms to fill out in the Azerbaijani and Russian languages (File No.21). According to the documents A.F.Novatski together E.Khanbudagov and the mayor of Guba A.Alibeyov made several field trips with a view to identifying the exact number of private and public premises in Guba burnt in the course of the town's devastation. The Section encompasses the records of this examination. According to the records, in the course of the examination photographs of scorched houses were made by photographer Baghirov (see File No.16). However the photographs in question are missing in the files of the case.

As one may conclude from the reports by police superintendents from various precincts of Guba Uyezd, public gatherings were held in most of rural communities and the documents requested by the Commission compiled in due course. Some documents presented by the local authorities in response to the Commission's requests present some valuable pieces of general information, like for instance report by Guba's mayor A.Alibeyov regarding the size of the town's population, including the Armenians, the date of first attacks by Armenian squads, etc. (see File No.5).

A.Novatsky's report *on the Devastation of the Town of Guba and Villages of Guba Uyezd and Violence Towards Residents of the Said Town and Villages* presented to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission is among the most important documents of Section 1. The Report provides the summary of facts with names of culprits established in the course of investigation and *The Resolution of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission on the Devastation of the Town of Guba and the Villages in the Uyezd* bringing charges against persons exposed in perpetrating criminal offences against the Muslim population in the course of pogroms in Guba (see Files No.No.37 and 38).

Documents of investigation agencies and judicial authorities of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan terminating proceedings on this case in late 1920 are concluding the Section (see Files No.No.41-45).

**Section 2** of the Collection consists of 2 parts including documents related to the devastation of the town of Guba. The first part includes witness testimonies of Guba residents providing detailed ex-

planation of both the events preceding the pogroms of local Muslims and what happened when Amazasp's squads were in town. The documents contain extremely valuable information enabling to recreate the timeline of tragic events in Guba in April-May 1918 together with specific cases of atrocious murders of the town's Muslim residents, women, children and elderly ones among them. The documents recount cases of rape of dozens of Muslim women including under-aged ones, people held captured in mosques, Muslim-owned public facilities destroyed, libraries looted, Qur'ans and other holy books destroyed, etc. The files name the persons involved in pogroms and present data on murdered and wounded civilians.

Testimonies by Aliabbasbey Alibeyov, the head of Guba municipality (the mayor), local clerics and David Ghelovani, the representative of central authorities in Baku, are particularly important among the witness testimonies (see Files No. 56, 61, 68, 69 and 70) as they name the direct masterminds of Muslim pogroms in Guba, such as Shaumyan and Korganov. In the meantime they reveal the true goal of Amazasp's punitive mission, i.e. mass extermination of the local Muslim population.

It should be also noted that one of the major witnesses, Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh, the head of Guba's Shiite congregation, was interviewed by A.F.Novatski in Baku's Taza-Pir mosque where he was staying then. This is another proof of a very serious attitude of the investigator to his mission, while getting testimonies related to this case.

The second part of the Section comprises documents regarding loss and other detriment inflicted to Guba residents in the course of Amazasp's raid. These documents inter alia contain general lists on Guba's various sectors (1-4) with names of victims and the value of property stolen or destroyed, as well as the citizens' applications and requests. Each general list of damages is signed by mullah (priest) of the respective parish. The files also included the damage inflicted to the residents of Guba slaughtered by the Armenian militants.

Individual applications and requests also provide lists of stolen pieces of property with the cost of each of them and the total sum of the damage. Some testimonies describe the circumstances under which the damage was inflicted. The applications indicate that all groups of population were attacked, both the affluent and lowincome ones. Even the households of the town mayor A.Alibeyov and the chief

of local crime detection unit Majid Gasymov were looted. Among the patrimonial estates plundered and set ablaze there were the ones belonging to esteemed local landlord families like the Shykhlyarskis, the Ibrahimbeyovs, etc. A.Zizikski's household was not spared either.

An interesting though wordy testimony by O.O.Gank, veterinarian of Guba Uyezd, provides another proof of forced exodus of Guba's Christian population threatened by bombardment and arson during retreat of Ghelovani's and Armenian squads. According to this document, Christian women and children fleeing Guba did not suffer as they were convoyed by the Lezghins and sheltered in the house of Ibrahim-bey Shykhlyarski. (see File No.87)

**Section 3** of the book, also comprising two parts, includes files pertaining to the devastation of villages of Guba Uyezd. The first part provides testimonies of rural community elders and villagers revealing the details of attacks by Amazsp's units on the villages of Guba Uyezd on their way to Guba and back. What becomes clear from the testimonies is that majority of village residents were warned about imminent attacks of Armenian militants by either Guba townsfolk or residents of neighbor villages. This saved dozens of thousands of lives. The testimonies describe cases of atrocities and extreme brutality of Armenian soldiers who spared neither infants nor women, nor the elderly ones.

This part of the collection also comprises records of victims' medical examinations conducted by A.Novatski assisted by a physician. The records were held to identify the degree of bodily harm inflicted by the Armenian attackers. All testimonies by rural residents mention the number of homes, mosques and other facilities set afire, as well as killed and wounded villagers. Meanwhile some testimonies also report of armed resistance to the Armenian squads.

Applications and requests by rural residents of Guba Uyezd reporting the damage inflicted as a result of arson, destruction of storehouses and other facilities, livestock lifting and theft of other personal stuff are also found in this part of the book.

The third part of this section deals with verdicts (conclusions) by rural communities of Guba Uyezd regarding the damage suffered and in compliance with the format offered by the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission. The conclusions were compiled by common gatherings of all residents in each village affected to provide all required data such as the number of men, women and children killed, wounded

or those passing away in refuge from diseases, starvation or out of fear, the number of households devastated or set afire, with separate reference to looted mosques, rustled livestock, stolen personal belongings, lists of victims with damages inflicted to each of them, etc. Summary of total damage suffered by each village concludes each document signed by all villagers involved in the gathering and certified by the village elder's seal.

What makes these AHIC files ever more important is the precise data regarding the number of victims, their names, age, gender, the list of devastated villages, public and private institutions, etc.

Conclusions (verdicts) by village gatherings and lists of murdered Guba residents compiled in the Azerbaijani language written in the then official Arabic script were partially translated into Russian. This could be the reason of some village names being misspelled in both the AHIC documents and Novatsky's report. Another missing element is verdicts (conclusions) of all the affected villages mentioned in the lists presented to the Commission in advance (see Files No.No.23-25). As a result, some of the villages noted in the lists but failing to present their conclusions were not included in the affected villages log in Novatski's report. Apparently while compiling the log, A.F.Novatski referred to the official files with all required data included. This was the reason why the Report presents an uncertain total number of Guba Uyezd villages attacked by Amazasp's squads.

E.g. studies and comparative analysis of the records in Russian and Azerbaijani available in the files of the case revealed 122 affected villages, whereas the real number of devastated villages in the area was at least 167, the town of Guba excluded.

Another wrong figure stated in Novatski's report was the number of persons killed and wounded during the Guba massacre (60 and 53 respectively). According to the documents with lists of names, the overall number of people slain was 580, and 55 more wounded. Casualties resulting from fear stress, diseases and starvation in the course of refuge in highland areas include 781 deaths, also missing in the report.

Novatski's report also mentions the total loss suffered by the residents of Guba Uyezd as 58,121,059.00 rubles. This, however does not include the damage inflicted to the residents of the town which totals to 63,703,760.00 rubles. The latter figure was calculated through general lists and individual statements of loss. Thus the overall damage

inflicted to the Muslim population of Guba and the Uyezd amounts to 121,824,819.00 rubles.

All these figures from the AHIC documents are presented in Annex 3 *General Data on Human Casualties and Property Damage Inflicted to the Population of the Town of Guba and Guba Uyezd Resulting from Pogroms of the Muslims in April-May 1918*.

The Collection also includes the following Annexes:

*Annex 1: Ethnic and Religious Composition of the Town of Guba and Guba Uyezd, 1917*, providing a clear picture of correlation of various groups of the population in the town and uyezd prior to the events;

*Annex 2: The Log of Guba Uyezd Villages Affected by Pogroms in April-May 1918*, providing the list of villages and settlements devastated during the massacre together with names of relevant communities and police precincts they belonged to as well as the ethnic origin of local residents;

*Annex 3: The Map of Guba Uyezd* indicating all villages of the area affected by pogroms.

*The Index of Place Names, also included in the book, provides information regarding all settlements of Guba Uyezd including those not attacked by the Armenian militants and the present-day communities which were a part of Guba Uyezd back in 1918. A noteworthy detail is that majority of places mentioned as 'no longer existing' were in most cases totally destroyed by the Armenian squads and never restored afterwards. The Index provides information of all other places mentioned in the files.*

Footnotes are numbered with sources mentioned in the end of the text.

The language of historic documents preserved intact.

The Collection also provides official constituent documents adopted by the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan (1918-1920) to form the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission on July 15, 1918.

The photos depict yester-year Guba, representatives of various ethnic groups residing in Guba and villages of Guba Uyezd, Guba residents interviewed by the AHIC, certain AHIC documents and letters of the Armenian residents of Kilvar village, as well as the mass burials found in the course of archaeological excavations in Guba in 2007.

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## **Resolution by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Establishment of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission**

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### **REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT**

For the period of four months so far, various parts of Azerbaijan have been torn apart by gangs acting under the guise of the Bolsheviks, irresponsible Armenian squads and others are perpetrating unprecedented atrocities against the Muslim civilians sparing neither their lives nor assets. In the meantime, a totally different public opinion is created in Europe due to the perverted information channeled by the masterminds of these gangs. To better advocate the national interests, as well as interests of the affected groups of population the foundation of an agency appears absolutely necessary. The agency in question shall be in charge for the following:

1. To keep precise records of all cases of violence;
2. To keep records of the circumstances under which this violence took place;
3. To identify culprits and the scope of damage inflicted by their actions.

This organization shall be formed as the *Ad Hoc Investigation Commission*<sup>1</sup>, its works published in major European languages (i.e. Russian, French and German, and, of course, Turkish) and promoted wherever possible.

The process of establishing this Commission shall start immediately, for numerous facts traceable in the immediate aftermath of the events, such as interviews, photographic and other substantial evidence available, may get less accessible if not totally lost afterwards.

Should the Government approve this goal, then one of the Ministers shall be instructed to arrange the Commission in question, and the allocation of 50,000 rubles shall be temporarily assigned for the Commission's operation.

M.Hajinski<sup>2</sup>, the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Elisavetpol, July 15, 1918

**Reference: The State Archives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, fond (stack) 1061, opis (dossier) 1, delo (file) 95, list (sheet) 1 (hereinafter SARA, f.,op.,d.,l.)**



**Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
Extract from the Resolutions Register  
(Logbook)**

**July 15, 1918**

**The Matter Reported:** Report by the Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding the establishment of the *Ad Hoc Investigation Commission* to examine violence towards the Muslims and their assets.

**The Decision Taken:** To approve the Report by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and to commission him with the arrangement of the *Ad Hoc Investigation Commission* with a view to conducting examination of the violence committed towards the Muslim population all over Transcaucasia since the beginning of the European War.

True copy

Signed by the Assistant Secretary

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.95, l.2**

**DECREE**

**August 31, 1918, Ganja**

In pursuance of the Government Decree of July 15, 1918, the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission shall be established to include:

- The Chairman Alakbarbey Khasmammadov<sup>3</sup>, an attorney at law,
- Members: Ismayilbey Shahmaliyev<sup>4</sup>, the Ganja District Court, Andrey Fomich Novatsky<sup>5</sup>, the Ganja District Court, Nasraddinbey Safikurdski<sup>6</sup>, Assistant Prosecutor, the Ganja District Court, Nicolay Mikhaylovich Mikhaylov<sup>7</sup>, member of the Ganja Settlement Office, W.Goodwill<sup>8</sup>, former Chairman of the Board of the Justices for Peace, Councilor of the State, Mirza Javad Akhundzadeh, a teacher.

*Daily rate shall be fixed as follows:*

Chairman of the Commission: 60 rubles,

Public servants: 40 rubles,

Others: 50 rubles.

Transportation expenses shall be compensated based on the actual costs. The Commission is authorized to invite the secretary, experts and other persons it finds necessary.

Signed by F.Khoyski<sup>9</sup> (acting on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, A.Khasmammadov, the Chairman of the Commission.

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.105, 2**

# **SECTION 1**

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## **Correspondence of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission**

***Records of the Investigation and Judiciary  
Agencies of the Democratic Republic of  
Azerbaijan and the Soviet Socialist Republic  
of Azerbaijan***

**File No.1**

**The Government of Azerbaijan  
The Ministry of Justice  
The Ad Hoc Investigation Commission**

**December 11, 1918,  
Reference No.12  
Guba**

**URGENT**

**To: Municipal Police Superintendent, Guba**

The Ad Hoc Investigation Committee hereby requests Your Most Honorable Sir to provide around 15-20 names of permanent residents of the town of Guba of Muslim origin, as well as several names of representatives of other ethnic groups not involved in any violent actions towards the Muslims in general, and residents of Guba in particular, who could be in a position to advise the Commission regarding the assault on Guba committed by the Armenian gangs followed by the town's devastation and the violence towards the town's Muslim population.

Signed by: Novatski, member of the Commission

**Note on the reverse side**

The list enclosed to the original correspondence is hereby mailed to the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission in Guba. Please be also informed that no representatives of other faiths are available in Precinct 1 of the town of Guba at the moment.

December 11, 1918,

Signed by Police Superintendent, Precinct 1, Guba

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, f.96, l.3 and the reverse**

**File No.5**

**The Republic of Azerbaijan  
The Municipal Duma (Council) of Guba**

**December 12, 1912  
Reference No.204, Guba**

**URGENT**

**To: H.E. Member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Committee**

In response to your letter Ref.No.9 dd.:Dec.11, 1918 we have an honor of presenting Your Honorable Sir the following information:

- 1) Prior to the devastation of Guba by the Armenian punitive squad, the town's overall population was estimated at 20 thousand residents, men and women, with estimated 10 thousand houses.
- 2) Attack on Guba resulting in its devastation occurred on May 1, 1918.
- 3) Around two hundred Muslim-owned households and other facilities plundered and set afire in Bazarnaya, Komendatskaya, Bakikhonovskaya and Bulvarnaya Streets.
- 4) No burnt or looted mosques were found, however an attempted arson was prevented by one of the witnesses.
- 5) Armenian residents of Guba were scattered all over the city numbering around 500.
- 6) A town plan stored at the Guba Municipality burnt together with the building, therefore I have hard times presenting precise data, the fact to be officially confirmed while providing testimonies to you.

Signed by Alibeyov<sup>10</sup>, Head of the Guba Municipality  
Secretary: Vahabov

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.1-2**

**File No.12**

**The Government of Azerbaijan  
The Ministry of Justice  
The Ad Hoc Investigation Commission**

**December 11, 1918,  
Reference No.15  
Guba**

**URGENT**

**To: Police Superintendent, Precinct 1, Guba**

The Ad Hoc Commission hereby requests Your Most Honorable Sir to notify whether there are wounded and maimed persons in Guba as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack, and if so, given names and family names of the victims are requested.

Signed by: Novatsky

**Note on the reverse side December 12, 1918**

With this, the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission is hereby notified that no persons wounded or maimed by the Armenian gangs were found in Precinct 1 of the town of Guba, neither could they be found for they were sharpshooters, and they did not use 40-50 bullets when one bullet was enough. Besides this, any person they got hold of was slaughtered by daggers and shot to death from rifles with dead bodies mutilated afterwards.

December 12, 1918

Police Superintendent, Sector 1, Guba

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.13-13(verso)**

**File No.16**

**Records of Examination**

On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba  
Member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission Novatski accompanied by witnesses Aliabbasbey Alibeyov and Eyyubbey Khan-

budaghov<sup>11</sup> examined the upper part of the town of Guba with a view to identifying the number of houses in Guba set afire by the punitive squad of the Armenian troops in the course of the town's devastation. During the examination, the ruins of the following buildings were taken photo of by photographer Baghirov: the residence of Mammadali Useynov, premises of the Uyezd Administration, the Hajji Muslim Baghirov domain housing the Muslim National Committee, as well as residential houses of Hajji Majid Mammadov and Mammadhusseyn Huseynov.

The examination revealed the following:

1) **Bulvarnaya Street:** 10 households set afire, 2 out of them belong to the Muslims Ibrahimbey Shykhlyarski and Meshadi Ali Husseynov. The rest 8 households belonged to the Armenians. Two more Armenian households located in the same street were spared. According to A.Alibeyov's witness testimonies, the burnt Armenian households were set ablaze by the Armenians themselves in the course of the punitive squad's withdrawal from Guba.

2) **The following households burned down in a street with no name:** residence of a Muslim Bekir Mehraliyev housing the Town Hall, an Armenian household of Sona Khanum Ter-Grigoryeva, Muslim homes of Sattar Mammadyarov and Mammadali Aliyev, the Magistrate building owned by an Armenian Ter-Sarkisov, the Armenian household of Karakoz Telmyarov. Another household of the same Armenian across the Magistrate building was spared. According to A.Alibeyov's witness testimonies, the Armenian households were burnt down by the same Armenians while withdrawing from Guba.

3) **2<sup>nd</sup> Bezymyannaya Street:** household belonging to a Muslim Idayat Amirbeyov looted.

4) **Bazarnaya Street:** 23 burned down Muslim households owned by the following residents: Gafar Orujov, Alibey Zizikski<sup>12</sup>, Rajab Orujov, Youssufbey Abusalambayov, Youssuf Ismayilov, Iskender Abdullayev, Hamid Mammadov, Museyyib Dadashov, Abasgulu Jafarov, Hajji Kerim Orujov, Abdulhalyq Maharramov, Mammad Rahimov, Mammadali Useynov, Hajji Muslum Baghirov, Aghahusseyn Mammadov, Badal Tahirov, Hajibala Mammadyarov, Jabrayil Efendi Efendiyev, Hajji Husseynbey Khalilbeyov, Mammad Tahirov and an Armenian household of Isay Arutsunov. Eleven more houses set ablaze on the same street are owned by Aliabas Karimov, Youssuf Hajji Kerim

oghly (son of Hajji Kerim), Hajji Husseyngulu Mamadov, Hajjibaba Baghirov, Ismayil Hajji Jafar oghlu, Mammadtaghy Taghiyev, Mammadhusseyn Husseynov, Husseyngulu Sultanov, Alihusseyn Melikov, Hajji Mirkazym Mirhusseynov and Meshadi Abasgulu Samadov, with shops attached.

5) **Malaya Kladbischenskaya Street:** household of Mullah Sahib Efendiyev burned down.

6) **Bolshaya Kladbischenskaya Street:** the following Muslim owned houses and structures destroyed: residence and timber wharf of Husseyngulu Soultanov, Meshadi Mammad Kerbelai Abutalyb oghlu, Ismayil Hajji Jafar oghlu, Husseyngulu Soultanov and Meshadi Baba Meshadi Ahad oghlu.

7) **Bolshaya Shosseynaya and Khachmazskaya Streets:** the Hajji Majid Mammadov residence set afire.

8) **3<sup>rd</sup> Bezymyannaya Street:** Mammadhusseyn Husseynov's household burned down.

9) **Bazarnaya Street:** the Hamid Husseynov residence also burned down.

The records complete

Signed by witnesses: A.Alibeyov, the Head of Municipality,  
E.Khanbudaghov

Commission Member: A.Novatski

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.109-110 (verso)**

### **File No.18**

**To: the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission**

**From: The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Republic of  
Azerbaijan, Guba Uyezd Supervisor  
No.918 Dec 26, 1918**

Please find enclosed the holy Muslim book of Qur'an burned in Eni-Bulaq village of my Uyezd by the punitive squad led by Amazasp in the house of the parish mullah Alihassan Kerbelai Taghy oghlu.

Signed by: Khoyski<sup>13</sup>, the Guba Uyezd Supervisor  
Husseynov, the Secretary

### **Records of examination**

Novatski, a member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission, in the presence of witnesses and with expert assistance of Guba resident Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh examined the burned pieces of paper hereby presented.

It was established that the burned pages were of the Holy Qur'an and another ecclesiastical book not exactly identified. Two other burned books appeared to be a Holy Qur'an and Shariah.

Signed by: the expert (using the Arabic characters)

E.Khanbudagov, the witness

A.Novatski, the AHIC member

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.33**

### **File № 21**

#### **Copy of the official letter by the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission to the Uyezd Superintendent of Guba, dd.: Dec.11, 1918, No.11**

The Ad Hoc Investigation Commission hereby requests Your Most Honorable Sir to instruct the area police superintendents and elders of looted and plundered Muslim villages to present the following documents no later than December 18 this year:

1) Verdicts by local communities naming all residents affected in each village and enumerating assets plundered and destroyed, the total sum of damage and the number of destroyed and looted households, mosques and other premises;

2) Rosters (lists) of all persons murdered in the course of forays with indication of gender and age;

3) Rosters of persons dying while being on the run from starvation, diseases and other deprivations;

Verdicts and rosters may be compiled in the Muslim language, the Russian language is not mandatory. Samples of verdicts in both Muslim and Russian are hereby enclosed.

The authentic copy signed by the Commission member

Authenticity verified by the office clerk

**Note:** URGENT



Recipient: Police superintendent of Muskur Precinct.

Data requested to be submitted within 3 days.

Guba, December 11, 1918

Signed by the Chief Assistant for the Uyezd Superintendent.

**Note:** Dec.12

All elders instructed to present data requested no later than the term indicated.

**Received by** \_\_\_\_\_ (signature): Dec.12, 1918

**SARA, fond 1061, opis 1, delo 97, list 132-132 rev.**

### **File No.23**

#### **The List of Villages Subject to Attack and Devastation by the Armenian Gangs, Davachi Precinct**

Nº	Village Name	Distance to the town of Guba (in versts, 1.6 km)
1	Davachi Bazar	43
2	Davachi	45
3	Gulamli	46
4	Surra	45
5	Tagay	55
6	Arab Gamie	60
7	Kelany	51
8	Aghasibeyli	53
9	Arabali Mammad	60
10	Saadan	63
11	Charkhana	66

12	Darazarat	66
13	Alvanly	51
14	Kuyi Bulaghy	55
15	Eyni Bulaghy	55
16	Siyazan	70
17	Nardaran	66
18	Lower Zukhul	44
19	Sarvan	42
20	Garagashly	50
21	Khalilli	40
22	Rahimli	38
23	Barbar	35
24	Andrey Abad	35

Signed on behalf of the Davachi Precinct Police Superintendent  
**Reference: SARA f.1061, op.1, d.97, II.1-2(rev.)**

**File No.25**

**The List of Villages Subject to Attack and Devastation by the  
Armenian Gangs, Mushkur Police Precinct**

№	Village Name	Distance to the town of Guba (in versts, 1.6 km)
1	Chinar Tala	26
2	Palchukhly Oba	27
3	Garayanyq Oba	30
4	Ispat Oba	30
5	Jagatay	36
6	Chakhmakhly	35
7	Ilkhychy State-owned plots	38
8	Garabaghly	35
9	Dadaly	43
10	Shykhlar	20
11	Gulevli	17

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12	Charkhy	26
13	Khyrda Oymaq	26
14	Khachmaz	26
15	Murshud Oba	24
16	Garajaly	40
17	Naburlu	38
18	Babali	36
19	Ganjali	34
20	Azizli	30
21	Babshly	35
22	Mashy Oba	22
23	Gara Gurdlu	27
24	Narajan	27
25	Chilighir-Gyshlaghy	30
26	Mullah Babay Oba	29
27	Muzaffar Oba	27
28	Agharahim Oba	25
29	Mashi Oba	24
30	Chukhur Oba	22
31	Hajji Issa Oba	25
32	Hajji Melik Oba	18
33	Gulalan 2	28
34	Garaghy	27
35	Laman	28
36	Ustarjal	28
37	Padar	23
38	Charchakhly	24
39	Ergun	19
40	Mursaly Gyshlaghy	26
41	Goby Kyraghy	26
42	Bey Gyshlaghi	26
43	Mullah Mahmud	20
44	Chamahir	20
45	Mergaly Gyshlaghi	21
46	Dandalik	23
47	Lefjet Oba	50
48	Unur Oba	30
49	Lowe Zeykhur Community	TBA
50	Sayad Community	TBA

True copy. Signed by office secretary

**Note on the reverse side: URGENT**

To: the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission

Please find enclosed the log of villages set afire and looted in Mushkur Precinct with indication of each place's distance from the town of Guba.

December 19, 1918

Signed by: the Senior Assistant on behalf of the Uyezd Chief,  
The Secretary

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, ll. 70-70 (verso), 72-72 (verso)**

**File No.37**

**Report by a Member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission to H.E. the Chairman of the Said Commission Regarding the Devastation of the Town of Guba and Villages of Guba Uyezd and the Violence Committed towards the Residents of the Aforementioned Town and Villages.**

In April 1918, while the city of Baku and Baku Province were controlled by the Bolsheviks, David Ghelovani<sup>14</sup> with a unit of 187 armed soldiers arrived as a representative of the Bolshevik administration and proclaimed himself the Uyezd Commissar offering the local population to accept the Soviet rule immediately. Residents of Guba complied with this demand. Ghelovani started enforcing the Bolshevik administration in town. Faced with the peaceful attitude of the Guba Muslim population, he set free about two hundred local Armenian internees realizing there was no danger to them from the Muslims.

Several days passed quietly unless, unexpectedly for Guba residents themselves, the Lezghins from adjacent villages approached the town offering Ghelovani either to withdraw or surrender with the whole squad. Ghelovani denied the offer, so the Lezghins opened the fire resulting in hostilities for several days. Even though Ghelovani was supported by another army detachment with cannon and machine-guns, he was ultimately forced to retreat. While withdrawing from the town, he forcedly removed all local Christian population, mainly Armenians.

The Lezghins were pursuing the retreating ones opening fire at them. Several Christian civilians taken away by Ghelovani were killed in the exchange of fire. These were Magak Kasparov, an Armenian priest, Alexander Bogdanov and Dukhol Pogosov, both ethnic Armenians. Casualties among the Russians included an Orthodox priest, pharmacist Golubchik, revenue officer Polesny, forest warden Abrosimov, doctor Mikhels and many others. After that, the life in town was running in its course. Upon pushing Ghelovani out of Guba, the armed Lezghins returned to their homes.

About two weeks after the events described above, the news arrived to Guba about a large military units armed with cannons and machine guns heading from Baku to Guba. Some residents fled to the forests leaving their property, however the majority remained as they could not imagine any threat posed by the unit. On May 1, 1918 in the morning, the unit led by Amazasp<sup>15</sup>, a notorious Dashnaksutyn member, and his aide Nicolay, manned exclusively by ethnic Armenians, encircled the town and started bombarding it from cannons, machine guns and rifles. This caused an enormous panics and confusion. Consequently the squad entered the town with no resistance whatsoever. Takeover of the town was accompanied by massacre of the local Muslims and all sorts of violence towards this group of population.

The Armenians were mercilessly slaying anyone they came across in the street, men women and children, they were breaking into homes and massacring whole families sparing no one, even infants were shot down or stabbed on their mothers' hands. This was the way the following residents were murdered: Kerbalay Mammadtaghy oghlu with the household of 14 persons, Mammad Rasul oghlu with his family consisting of his wife and their three children (the father was disemboweled, and the kids beheaded), Hajji Dadash Balagasym oghlu with his wife Meshadi Bibikhanum and son Abdulgasyim were burned alive in their home, two daughters of Kerbelai Abuzar Mastan oghly, Hekuma and Busta, were stabbed to death in front of their mother, the same happened with Meshadi Gambar Mullah Magomedسادyg oghlu, his mother and several infant children of theirs.

The death toll also includes Mullah Shabaz, Usta Magomedrasul Bayram oghlu, Rasul Kyazym oghlu, Abdul Tulugchi with son, Meshadi Mussa Zeynal oghlu, Meshadi Ali Meshadi Feyzulla oghlu, Kerbalai Dadash Baghyr oghlu, Jabbar Mammadali oghlu, Saiba, Safarali Me-

shadi Talyb oghlu, Meshadi Mussa Zeynal oghlu and others. The cases of tortures and mockery were far not infrequent. E.g. the soldiers ordered honorable elders to deliver Muslim women for them. Refusal to execute this order resulted in the murder of Alipasha Kerbelai Maharram oghlu and his son, the latter one was stabbed to death by bayonet in front of his father with his eyes picked out and face and stomach chopped. The overall number of slain men, women and children ranged around two thousand. About a hundred Muslim women and maidens were raped by the Armenians, the names of victims are kept in secret by their kin.

Assets of Muslim residents were mercilessly looted. According to the estimates made by public figures, Amazasp's squad looted four million rubles cash, gold, golden works and gems worth four and a half million rubles, various goods and foodstuffs amounting to twenty-five million. Besides this, the gangs of Amazasp set fire on one hundred and five residential and public premises in Guba owned by Ibrahimbey Shykhlyarski, Meshadi Ali Husseyinov, Orujali Ahmadov, Bakir Mehraliyev, Sattar Mammadyarov, Hudayat Amirbeyov, Gafar Orujov, Alibey Zizikski, Rajab Orujev, Youssufbey Abusalambeyov, Iskandar Abdullayev and others. The houses burned down included those belonging to religious institutions. The overall damage caused by arson is equal to one hundred million rubles.

Even before arriving in Guba, Amazasp's squad attacked a number of Muslim residential areas adjacent to the railroad, plundering, looting and slaughtering those who failed to flee, showing no mercy neither to women, nor to children.

In some cases, local population sent truce envoys to meet the Armenians with white flags and expressions of compliance. However the Armenians never bothered to talk to the envoys and looted the villages they came from. This is exactly what happened in Alikhanly community where the Armenian unit killed the local elder Mirza Mammad Dadash oghu and Gulhusseyin Maharram oghlu, both sent as truce envoys. Another case of this kind occurred in Davachi Community where fifteen honorable elders were sent with traditional bread-and-salt welcome. The Armenians blatantly refused welcoming attributes and slaughtered the envoys. Infuriated Amazasp's squads displayed no esteem to the Muslims' religious sentiments, with a number of mosques desecrated, the holy books of Qur'an torn into

pieces and burned to ashes. As it was established later, the unit led by Amazasp left behind 122<sup>16</sup> totally devastated and looted Muslim-populated residential areas in Guba Uyezd, such as Davachi, Saadan, Charkhaneh, Darazarast, Zaghlyjan, Alikhanly, Eynbulag, Arab Al-Mammad, Aghasibeyli, Kelany, Arab-Khamiye, Tughay, Nardarin, Siyazan, Rahimli, Sura, Gulimlar, But-But, Andrey-Abad, Khalillar, Garagashly, Ashaga-Kushi, Sarvan, Amirkhaim, Tura. Aykun, Jey, Kybla-Grez, Gara-Gurtly, Karaj, Narijan, Khudat, Lower Budug, Khachmaz Station, Old and New Khachmaz, Murshid Sube, Azizlyar, Garagilly, Nabur, Khasbulat, Bibishi, Babashlu, Ashali, Mehrali, Bey-Gyshlaq, Guyu-Guraki, Dendenik, Mursali-Gyshlaq, Charkhi, Khyrda-Oymaq, Garachayly, Lanluk-Oba, Khyzry Feriz, Er-Qoj, Gluli, Hassan-Efendi, Arab, Arab-Sof, Gara-Baghy, Chahmakly, Jagatay, Kazsiniye-Ilkhy, Avaran, Khural, Chilakir, Khazri 2, Ajiakhur, Zubul, Dustair, Okur, Greater Muruq, Gijan, Kusary, Imam-Gulu, Yukhary-Zikhur, Hassan-Gala, Urva, Ashagelik, Lower Leki-Khel, Old Khudad, Avkhchik, Zeykhur, Kuzun, Chatkun, Ghezun, Yesab, Nughedy, Amsar, Aski-Igrih, Dashty-Yatagh, Teki, Kamysh-Kyshlaghi, Alibey-Gyshlaq, Igrikh, Anygh, Lower Khuch, Alpan, Digah, Elzik, Mirza Mammadkand, Uchken, Hajji Gayib Gyshlaq, Susay, Khuch Bala, Jim, Buduk, Rustov, Yengikend, Tlyabi, Chichi, Sahub, Nudin, Zirgva, Akhurcha<sup>17</sup>.

60 men, women and children were murdered and 53 persons<sup>18</sup> wounded in the course of the devastation of the villages named above. Devastation of households, premises and public facilities followed by loot of personal assets and livestock resulted in an overall damage equal to 58,121,059 rubles<sup>19</sup> inflicted to the local residents.

As it may be concluded from Ghelovani's testimonies, Amazasp's squad was sent to Guba with exclusively punitive mission following the instruction of Commissar Shaumyan<sup>20</sup>, without any knowledge or consent of other commissars. Selection of troops was made by the then Military Commissar Korganov<sup>21</sup>, so the squad was manned exclusively by ethnic Armenians, all of them members of *Dashnaktsutyun*<sup>22</sup> party and led by a zealous Dashnaktsutyun activist Veluntz. The squad was styled '*Punitive*', with no political agenda to be pursued whatsoever.

This fact was admitted by Amazasp himself who, addressing the residents of Guba made it absolutely clear by stating: "I am the hero of the Armenian nation and the advocate of its interests. I was sent

here (to Guba) with the Punitive Squad to avenge you for the death of the Armenians that had been killed here two weeks ago. I am not here to restore the law and order or to establish the Soviet rule. What I am here for is to exterminate all Muslims from the Caspian Sea all the way to Mount Shahdag in the Caucasus and to level your dwellings as it was done in Shemakha<sup>23</sup> for all our Armenians murdered by you and Turks, however I spared you”.

Besides Amazasp, his aide Nicolay and Commissar Veluntz, the squad included the following Guba residents actively involved in the violence against the town’s civilian population: Arytyun Ayrapetov, barber Javad Arutyunov, Avakov, another Avakov, son of the fish farmer, students Amirjanovs, nephews of merchant Mirza Amirjanov, another active participant of the events, a dukan (tavern) owner Melikov, Vartan, son of Grigory, a household owner in Guba, Arutyun, Mirzajanyan’s grandson, Arutyun, the mill owner, Vartan Avakov, Arutyun son of Baba, Alexander Mukasyantz, Tatevos son of Yagub, Babajan with his son, and Arutyun son of Karapet with his two sons and a nephew. All the persons named above were identified by the following Guba residents affected by the events: the head of municipality Alibeyov, Hajji Ismayil Orujev, Hajji Hidayat Mussayev, Meshadi Ibad Baghirov, Mammadmussa Mammadali oghlu, Kerbalai Abuzar Mastan oghlu, Meshadi Husseyngulu Baghirov, Meshadi Hamdulla Aliyev, Shukur Turab oghlu, Meshadi Mullah Youssuf Nasariya Khan, Hajji Ahmadali Murad oghlu, and Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh.

Besides the victims named above, the summary of these facts was confirmed by the following Guba residents affected by the events: Mammadali Kerbalai Irzagulu oghlu, Meshadi Husseyngulu Sultanov, Meshadi Soltan, Askarov, Meshadi Hajjiagha Kerbelai Ahmad oghlu, Durna Meshadi Talyb gyzy (daughter of Meshadi Talyb), Kerbalai Pasha Turab oghlu, Ismayil Kerbelai Mammadtaghy oghlu, Zahra Youssuf gyzy, Mullah Shykhuseyn Akhundzadeh, the elder of Davachi Community Shaban Sharkar oghlu, the elder of Saadan Community Dadash Mussa oghlu, the elder of Alykhanly Community, Najimaddin Ismayil oghlu, the elder of Tugay Community Husseynalibey Husseynbey oghlu, the elder of Siyazan Community Balaali Zulfugar oghlu, the elder of Boyat Community Dilal Meshadi Mammadbaghyr oghly, the elder of Jey Community Israfil Mammad oghlu, the parish mullah Sayfaddin Hidayat oghlu, the elder of Garagurtlu Community Sheyda Shykhali



oghlu, as well as by a resident of Seyyidler village Hajji Seyyid Abdulla Khalil Hajji Seyyid oghlu, the elder of Norajan village Hammad Barat oghlu, a resident of Shollar village Rasul Khanmammad oghly, the elder of Lower Budug village Mastan Nasir oghlu, the landlord Hassanbey Shykhlyarski, a resident of Susay village Ulubey Khierbey oghlu, the elder of Avaran Community Hajji Sheyda Nazarali oghlu, residents of Makhuj village Murad Rasul oghlu, Fatulla Jafar oghlu, the elder of Amsar Community Tajji Moustafa oghlu, a resident of Digah village Omar Shykhkerim oghlu and the landlord of Alpan village Beybalabey Gayibov. These facts are furthermore confirmed by the records of on-site review of the town of Guba and the records compiled by the affected communities.

Taking into consideration summary of the facts mentioned above, charges pursuant to Articles 13, 129, 927, 1633, 1634, 1453 and 1607 of the Penal Code shall be brought against the aforementioned participants of Amazasp's 'Punitive Squad' that devastated the town of Guba together with 122 villages of Guba Uyezd, i.e.: Amazasp, his aide Nicolay, Commissar Veluntz, Arutyun Ayrapetov, barber Jevad, the Avakovs, the Amirjanovs and others. No criminal prosecution shall be instituted against former Commissars Shaumyan and Korganov due to the latter ones' demise.

Signed by A. Novatski, the Commission member.

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.95, II.5-8**

### **File No.38**

### **DECREE**

On this day of November 1919, the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission at the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan,

**upon examination** of the case on the devastation of the town of Guba and villages of Guba Uyezd, Baku Province and the violence perpetrated towards the residents of the said town and villages, and the Report by the Commission member Novatski regarding the case in question,

**mindful** of the fact that files of the investigation together with

testimonies of the witnesses and aggrieved persons mentioned in the report, i.e.:

the head of municipality Alibeyov, Hajji Ismayil Orujev, Hajji Hidayat Mussayev, Meshadi Ibad Baghirov, Mammadmussa Mammadali oghlu, Kerbalai Abuzar Mastan oghlu, Meshadi Husseyngulu Baghirov, Meshadi Hamdulla Aliyev, Shukur Turab oghlu, Meshadi Mullah Youssuf Nasariya Khan, Hajji Ahmadali Murad oghlu, and Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh, Mammadali Kerbalai Irzagulu oghlu, Meshadi Husseyngulu Sultanov, Meshadi Soltan, Askarov, Meshadi Hajjiagha Kerbelai Ahmad oghlu, Durna Meshadi Talyb gyzy (daughter of Meshadi Talyb), Kerbalai Pasha Turab oghlu, Ismayil Kerbelai Mammadtaghy oghlu, Zahra Youssuf gyzy, Mullah Shykhuseyn Akhundzadeh, the elder of Davachi Community Shaban Sharkar oglu, the elder of Saadan Community Dadash Mussa oghlu, the elder of Alykhanly Community Najimaddin Ismayil oghlu, the elder of Tugay Community Husseynalibey Husseynbey oglu, the elder of Siyazan Community Balaali Zulfugar oglu, the elder of Boyat Community Dilal Meshadi Mammadbaghyr oghly, the elder of Jey Community Israfil Mammad oghlu, the parish mullah Sayfaddin Hidayat oghlu, the elder of Garagurtlu Community Sheyda Shykhali oghlu, as well as by a resident of Seyyidler village Hajji Seyyid Abdulla Khalil Hajji Seyyid oghlu, the elder of Norajan village Hammad Barat oghlu, a resident of Shollar village Rasul Khanmammad oghly, the elder of Lower Budug village Mastan Nasir oghlu, the landlord Hassanbey Shykhlyarski, a resident of Susay village Ulubey Khierbey oghlu, the elder of Avaran Community Hajji Sheyda Nazarali oghlu, residents of Makhuj village Murad Rasul oghlu, Fatulla Jafar oghlu, the elder of Amsar Community Tajji Moustafa oghlu, a resident of Digah village Omar Shykhkerim oghlu and the landlord of Alpan village Beybalabey Gayibov,

**as well as** records of on-site inspection of the town of Guba and the acts compiled by the affected villages

**provide sufficient evidence establishing the guilt of the following persons:** Shusha residents Amazasp, his aide Nicolay, the Guba Commissar Veluntz, together with Guba residents Arytyun Ayrapetov, barber Javad Arutyunov, Avakov, another Avakov, the son of a fish farmer, students Amirjanovs, nephews of merchant Mirza Amirjanov, another active participant of the events, a dukan (tavern) owner Melikov, Vartan, son of Grigory, a household owner in Guba, Arutyun,

Mirzajanyan's grandson, Arutyun, the mill owner, Vartan Avakov, Arutyun son of Baba, Alexander Mukasyantz, Tatevos son of Yagub, Babajan with his son, and Arutyun son of Karapet with his two sons and a nephew, who, driven by confessional and tribal hostility towards the Muslim population, conspiring among themselves and other persons so far not identified by the investigation, created a several thousand-strong gang armed by firearms and cold weapons which, pursuing the goal of exterminating the Muslim population, plundering and misappropriating its assets, attacked the town of Guba, Baku Province, on April Eve 1918, devastated the said town, slaughtered about two thousand men, women and children, despoiled personal assets of the townsfolk, set fire of a number of buildings and left almost 105 households ablaze en route to Guba.

The same gang attacked the Muslim villages, looted 122 residential areas in Guba Uyezd only, plundered the residents' assets and murdered a number of residents of these villages showing no mercy to neither women, nor children.

Taking into consideration summary of the facts mentioned above and guided by Section 396 of the Criminal Court Charter and the decrees by the Government of Azerbaijan dd. March 21, 1919 and proposals No.3066 passed by the Minister of Justice on June 25, the same year.

### **HEREBY DECREES:**

To institute criminal proceedings against Amazasp, his aide Nicolay, the Guba Commissar Veluntz, together with Guba residents Arytyun Ayrapetov, barber Javad Arutyunov, Avakov, another Avakov, the son of a fish farmer, students Amirjanovs, nephews of merchant Mirza Amirjanov, another active participant of the events, a dukan (tavern) owner Melikov, Vartan, son of Grigory, a household owner in Guba, Arutyun, Mirzajanyan's grandson, Arutyun, the mill owner, Vartan Avakov, Arutyun son of Baba, Alexander Mukasyantz, Tatevos son of Yagub, Babajan with his son, and Arutyun son of Karapet with his two sons and a nephew pursuant to Articles No.No. 13, 129, 922, 927, 1630, 1633, 1634, 1453 and 1507 of the Penal Code.

Signed by:

A.Khasmammadov, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Investigation

Commission

Mikhaylov, Alexandrovich<sup>24</sup>, Novatski, members of the Commission

*A pencil note: Alakbar Khasmammadov passed away<sup>25</sup>*

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.95, ll. 9-10 (verso)**

## **File No.40**

### **Provisions of the Law on the Benefits Granted to the Population in Connection with the International Recognition of Azerbaijan's Independence**

***Adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan on  
February 9, 1920***

In connection with the international recognition of the Republic of Azerbaijan and on the occasion of the final triumph of the new state order, based on the ideas of the law and freedom, putting the end to the period of oppression and enslavement in the life of the Azerbaijani people, the Parliament hereby decreed to ease the lot of those involved in criminal offences, as well as to relieve the burden of certain tax and duty payers on the conditions named below:

2. To suspend prosecution of all those who prior to the date of this Law, were involved in criminal offences nurtured by ethnic hostility.

10. All criminal cases instituted by the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established on July 15, 1918. With a view to investigating the acts of violence towards the Muslims and their assets all over Trans-Caucasia since the European War shall be cancelled once and forever.

On behalf of the Chairman of the Parliament

Signed by M.Y.Jafarov<sup>26</sup>, the Senior Deputy

Secretary: B.Rizayev

Head of the Chancellery: M.Vekilov<sup>27</sup>

**Reference: SARA, f.895, op.3, d.301-17, l.16**

**File No.41**

**The Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan  
The Guba Uyezd and Town Revolutionary Committee (Revkom)  
No. 2076, July 07, 1920  
The Town of Guba**

July 14

**To: the Guba Municipal investigator**

Please find hereby attached for further action files of cases of the Guba Municipal investigators No.No.529, 93, 413, 57, 4, 26, 55, 22, 28, 218, 69, 40, 14, 18, 11, 15 54, 36, 45, 31, 33, 38, 41, 42, 47.

Signed by: the Revkom Chairman,  
The Executive Officer

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.95, l.12**

**File No.42**

**RESOLUTION**

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, year 1920,

The First Guba Investigation Commission,

**Upon examination** of the present three-volume case concerning the devastation of the town of Guba, the villages of Guba Uyezd and the violence committed towards the residents of the said town and villages,

**Mindful** of the sentiments of ethnic hostility, i.e. ethnic hostility as a driving force of the perpetrators of the criminal offences mentioned in the files, committed in early 1918, and

**Aware** of the suspension of the prosecution and penalty of the perpetrators due to the pardon issued by the former Government of Azerbaijan dd. February 9, 1920 and applied to all cases under investigation, and cancellation of the present three-volume case pursuant to the abovementioned pardon of February 9, 1920, and the Resolution of the Board of the Public Commissariat on Justice (*Narkonyust*) of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan dd. June 1, 1920,

The Investigation Commission does hereby

**DECREE:**

To forward the present three-volume case (No. 413-1920) to the People's Grave Crimes Court of Guba Uyezd for further cancellation pursuant to the pardon dd. February 9, 1920.

Signed by: The Chairman

Members of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.95, ll.13-14**

**File No.43**

**RESOLUTION**

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1920, the Third Investigation Commission of Guba Uyezd,

**Upon examination** of the present case,

**Mindful** of the case's subject-matter's being related to the devastation of villages of Mushkurk Sector by the Armenians in 1918, and

**Aware** of the cancellation of the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators following the pardon of the Azerbaijani Government dd. February 9, 1920 due to the ethnic sentiment as the driving force of the criminal offences in question,

**DECREES:**

To forward the present case to the People's Grave Crimes Court for further cancellation.

Signed by: The Chairman of the Investigation Committee

Members of the Investigation Committee

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.188**

**File No.44**

**The Mushkurk Sector (Precinct) Investigation Commission,  
Guba Uyezd**

**Ref. No.: 270  
December 26, 1920**

**To: The People's Grave Crimes Court**

Please find hereby attached two Cases (No.No. 36 and 76) subject to cancellation.

Signed by: The Chairman of the Investigation Revolutionary Committee

The Secretary

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.189**

**File No.45**

**Extract from Case No.24**

The People's Grave Crimes Court of the town of Guba and the Uyezd, on its executive meeting dd. January 16, 1920<sup>28</sup>, attended by:

The Chairman, the People's Justice K.Kayibov,

People's Assessors: Rzayev, Kyazymov, Kuznetsov, Shamsaddinov, Ibrahimov, Gebeyov

Secretary: Movsumov

**Upon examination** of the case on the devastation of Mushkurk and Davachi precincts, Guba Uyezd,

**DECREES:**

Following the Law of February 9, 1920, proceedings on the case shall be cancelled and the files handed over for archive records.

True copy

Signed by the Secretary

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.100**

## **SECTION 2**

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### **Documents on the Devastation of Guba**

#### ***PART I***

#### ***Witness Testimonies of Residents of the Town of Guba***



## **File No.46**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Hajji Ismayil Orujev, aged 55, a Guba resident, literate.**

I am a Guba resident. As far as the devastation of Guba is concerned, I can provide the following information. This year in spring time, not quite sure about the exact time, Ghelovani a Georgian delegate of the Bolsheviks deployed at Khachmaz station arrived in Guba and demanded that we recognize the Bolshevik rule giving 2 hours for consideration. We asked to extend the time period at least to 24 hours, so that we could meet with peasants and discuss this requirement. However the request was denied. Then the residents of Guba and adjacent villages had no other choice than recognizing the Soviet power since delegate Ghelovani threatened to destroy the town and villages should we fail to comply with the Bolsheviks.

Two days later, a Bolshevik squad numbering 200-300 arrived in town. There were 2 Lezghins, a handful of Russians and Georgians among them, and the Armenians were the majority. So they occupied the town. The Armenians used to hurt the Muslims, however no murders or loot were committed at that moment. Some 10 days later, a Lezghin unit approached the town from the side of the Jewish Settlement and opened fire to get the invaders out. The Bolsheviks returned the fire. The fire exchange lasted for three days. Ultimately, the Bolsheviks left the town and under the cover of a large unit rushing to their help retreated to Khachmaz station. The Lezghins left too.

About two weeks later, we were informed about a 3-thousand strong troops advancing towards Guba from Khachmaz. About a tenth of the townsfolk fled to the mountains and surrounding villages. The rest remained in town. I fled too. So the information I got about what happened here was by hearsay. They said the unit was manned by the Armenians only. They surrounded the town, bombarded it and advanced. They faced no resistance. Only one young man resisted but

he was killed. Upon entering the town, the Armenians started mercilessly slaughtering the residents, anyone they came across, let it be men, women or children.

According to the mullahs involved in burial procedure, 2800 dead bodies were buried during these days. Besides this, the Armenians were actively involved in looting the residents' personal assets. Then they started setting fire on residential premises leaving 120 town's best houses in ashes together with about 40 estates in orchards. Violence and atrocities by the Armenians lasted for ten days, and then the Armenians urgently called back to Baku to be replaced by the Georgians. The Georgians leaved with us peacefully, they never hurt or affected us. Neither did the Russians offend us. The Georgians stayed in Guba unless the Turks arrived. During the Georgians' stay in the area, someone Churayev was the Uyezd Commissar, so they established a Council (Soviet) where I was a member too.

While retreating from Guba to Baku, the Armenians were retreating from Guba to Baku, they plundered all Muslim residential areas en route. By the way, when the Bolsheviks arrived, we requested delegate Ghelovani to have no Armenians in a unit that was supposed to overtake the town. Ghelovani promised to fulfill this, however, there were Armenians there.

Speaking of separate cases of violence I could note the following: an Armenian named Grigory, the family name unknown to me, sold his hose in Guba to a local Muslim Mullah Shahballu. The son of Grigory, name unknown to me either, was opposed to the sale. So when the Armenians took over the town, Grigory's son killed Mullah Shaballu. Even upon my return to the town after the Armenians had left, in the local cemetery I saw a dead body of a Guba resident Mummammad Rasul Mahmud oghlu, his stomach ripped open, together with dead bodies of his wife stabbed to death by a dagger and their three beheaded children.

The Armenians were mainly outsiders, some of them Persian nationals, however there were some local Armenians as well, such as Arutyun, the mill owner, Mirza Amirjanov, owner of a crockery shop, barber Jevad, They were also involved in murder, arson and loot. No more Armenians that I am aware of.

The Armenians threatened to eradicate all Muslims for their Armenian brothers killed by the Kurds in Turkey and the Caucasus. The

squad leader, Amazasp, told some of the Muslims that they were ordered to exterminate all Muslims all the way up to the mountains, however they spared a part of the Muslims. This is all I can say.

Read aloud and signed by Hajji Ismayil Orujev (signed by the Arabic characters)

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.14-16**

## **File No.47**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Hajji Hidayat Moussayev, aged 60, a Guba resident, literate.**

In early spring, this year, no exact time available, a Bolshevik squad arrived in Khachmaz station. We sent our envoys to talk to them and to figure out the goals of their mission. As the Bolsheviks explained, they were there to secure the Shollar waterline<sup>29</sup>.

Two days later, several persons from the squad visited us led by a Georgian Ghelovani. The latter one presented us with an ultimatum to comply with the Bolshevik rule with the deadline of 2 hours. We asked 24 hours to negotiate, however our request was declined. Then we agreed asking just about one thing, i.e. not to let the Armenians in as we knew they intended to slaughter and massacre all Muslims. Ghelovani made a promise but failed to keep his word. Several days after, the Bolshevik squad dominantly manned by Armenians entered the town. Having killed several persons, the Armenians seized power. About ten days after that, a three-day exchange of fire with the Lezghins, the squad left the town for Khachmaz. A week later, the Bolsheviks, mainly Armenians, numbering up to 3000, returned and took over the town with no resistance whatsoever as the Lezghins had already left. On the very day, the Armenians slaughtered 1500 civilians, men, women and children.

I fled the town to return only after the Armenians left. They were replaced by the Georgians. Both in town itself and in the orchards a number of the wealthiest households were set ablaze, mine among them. All my personal property, gold and were plundered. I saw piles of dead bodies in the streets, among them Usta Muhammad Rasul Bayram oghlu, 70, Gasym Kyazym oghlu, 80, Abdulla Tulughchu, 80, and his 22-year-old son together with the two dead bodies of the daughters of Kerbelai Abuzar Mursal oghlu, both beheaded and defaced.

My own brother, Harun, passed away from fear. Among the Armenians involved in the atrocities, slaughter, loot and arson I came across a Guba resident Arutyun, the grandson of Mirzajan and son of Georgy, a former householder. I suffered the total loss of 200 thousand rubles as a result of my house's being looted and set afire. There is nothing I can add to this.

Read aloud and signed by Hajji Hidayat Moussayev (signed by Arabic characters)

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.17**

## **File No.48**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Meshadi Ibad Baghirov, aged 45, a Guba resident, illiterate.**

This spring when the Armenian gangs were taking over the town of Guba, I found shelter in the mountains o return only after they left to be replaced by the Georgians. Upon my return, I found the town totally devastated: a number of luxurious households were burned, they tried to set fire on my hose too, but it did not burn to the end. My personal property was plundered, and the streets were piled with

dead bodies of slain Muslims, men, women and children. My mother Parijahan got blind and deaf from the shock, and this was exactly the reason why my sister Madina had also passed away. My nephew Mammadmussa Mammadali oghlu was in town together with his father and brother who were killed by the Armenians. It was him who identified the Armenian residents of Guba among the killers and arsonists. These were: Vartan Avakov, Arutyun son of Baba, barber Jevad, Mirza Amirjanov, Sasha Lukyanov, Tatevos son of Yagub.

The total damage I suffered as a result of plunder of my personal assets is about two hundred thousand rubles. This is all I can testify.

Records read aloud to an illiterate interviewee.

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l8.**

## **File No.49**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Mammadali Kerbalai Irzagulu oghlu, aged 40, a Guba resident, literate.**

On May 1 this year, closer to the evening, the rumors were spread in Guba that the Bolsheviks were 5 versts away from the town ready for an assault. My sister Meshadi Bibikhanum visited me to confirm this news. I advised her to get together at my place rather than in hers to wait and see what happens. My sister said there is no way she could stay with us and left. I sent my wife with children to Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh and sent someone to advice my sister to go there too. Meanwhile I decided to stay at home.

When it got dark in the evening I heard the sounds of gunfire, however I never left my home, so I had no idea of what was going on. The next day, Meshadi Mussa Zeynal oghlu, a lunatic passed by my hose shouting something. I looked at him through the gap in the

door, heard two shots and saw him falling down dead. The same very day, four Armenians came with a wish to kill me, however, after I paid them off 4 thousand rubles, they left. A while after another group of people came asking for money and threatening me with death. I gave them another 3 thousand rubles. Finally, two more persons arrived to grab my last thousand rubles.

Two days later, I got to know that my sister had been murdered. I did not leave home that day, however, when I visited my sister's home, I found the house completely in ashes with burned dead bodies of my sister and my 70-year-old brother-in-law Hajji Dadashbala Gasum oghlu and my nephew Gasym, 19. I buried the dead bodies. Luckily, no one from my own family was affected.

The Bolsheviks were represented by the Armenians only. I could not identify any of them. They originated from very various places, even from Persia. I also heard that the Guba Jews were pointing to the households that the Armenians later set ablaze. Nothing was stolen from me. As for the assets of my sister and brother-in-law, I'd estimate it at 100 thousand rubles. I have nothing to add to this.

Signed (in Arabic characters)

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.19**

## **File No.50**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Mammadmussa Mammadali oghlu, aged 24, a Guba resident, literate.**

About a month after Novruz Bayramy<sup>30</sup> (the Spring Holiday – A.F.) armed Armenians numbering above 3000 took over our town of Guba early in the morning. Upon entering the town, they immediately started slaughtering the Muslim men, women and children,

looting the houses and setting them ablaze. All our family, i.e. my father, mother, grandmother, uncle, brother and myself were staying at home, never walking outdoors.

The next day, a group of Armenians broke into our residence. They searched everything at home, got our money, our golden works and other valuables and left warning us not to lock the door and to file up the white flag. That we did.

Another group of armed Armenians came in the day after making several prompt shots to those indoors i.e. my father Mammadali Meshadi Feyzullah oghlu, my uncle Kerbalai Dadash Baghyr oghlu and my brother Jafar. The former ones were killed on the spot, whereas by brother was wounded and died six days later. Witnessing all this, I sneaked into the next room, blocked the door with flour sacks and stayed there for a keeping track of the developments through the window. In a day's time, the third group of Armenians arrived and grabbed everything that was left by the previous ones. I was very anxious about my mother and grandmother, so I left my shelter.

Then the 4<sup>th</sup> group of Armenians arrived. I started imploring them not to kill me. So they convoyed me to the mosque as a prisoner. I was only set free from there 9 days later, after the Armenians had left our town. I was asking the Armenians why they were killing the Muslims. They said they were avenging for the Turkish Armenians killed by the Turks, so we should be also eradicated.

My mother, Madina Meshadi Baghyr gyzy passed away from the shock ten days after these events, whereas my grandmother got totally blind and deaf. Among the Armenians I spotted armed local residents of Guba too, such as Vartan Avakov, Arutyun son of Baba, barber Jevad, Mirza Aghajanov, Vartan son of Grigory, Yefrem son of Arakel, Babajan and his son. I did not see them killing the Muslims, looting or burning their households, all I saw was them walking about armed.

In our home, all furniture was set afire, however the household did not burn down.

The damage inflicted to me by the Armenians is 200 hundred thousand rubles, 150 thousand out of them in cash (since I am a merchant) golden works and other valuables, and the interiors were worth another 50 thousand. Nothing to add to this.

Records read aloud.

To add to this, the Armenians told me personally that from now on (i.e. during the described events) they were our God.

Read aloud and signed in Arabic characters

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.22-23**

## **File No.51**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Kerbelai Abuzar Mastan oghlu, aged 60, a Guba resident, illiterate.**

This year in spring the talks were spread out in Guba that the Armenians were on their way to the town. I paid little attention to that as reportedly this was a group of 25 Armenians, and they will not hurt anyone. One day, full of a sudden, some 30 Armenians armed with rifles, daggers and revolvers flooded into our courtyard. My neighbor, Abdulla Tulugchu, stepped towards them to ask what they need. They opened fire in response, so he fell down dead.

Myself, my wife Hekuma daughter of Kerbelai Jafar and two daughters, Hekuma, 14, and Busra, 6, were enjoying tea at our home when the Armenians broke in and started volleying fire at us. My daughter Hekuma was killed on the spot, I got an injured left shin, whereas my wife was wounded in her left wrist and Busra in her left shoulder and leg. My wife grabbed and embosomed her. One of the Armenians got a dagger and slashed Busra's face all the way to the throat, so she fell down dead. My wife and myself fainted from the shock, however once my wife recovered she started imploring the Armenians to kill her too, so that she won't see her daughters dead. The Armenians responded that they will not kill her just for one reason, as they wanted her to die thrice a day watching her daughters' dead bodies. They slightly stabbed her neck with a bayonet causing some



insignificant injuries and bashed me up. Then they left stealing nothing from the household.

I heard cries in the house of my neighbor Hajjibala. As it turned out, the Armenians had killed him, his wife and son and set their household afire. Their dead bodies were scorched by the fire, and I saw this myself.

On the third day, a rumor was spread out about the truce. So I headed to the square near the Armenian church. A lot of Muslims gathered there. The Armenian chief, not quite sure about the family name, announced that he was ordered to slaughter all of us, however he did not do that, so I exchange for this he asked us to live peacefully.

Upon my return home, I found several Armenians loading all my personal property on a bullock cart. Whatever was unfit for the loot was destroyed on the spot. I begged them to leave me at least a blanket, however they refused. Among those Armenians I spotted some residents of Guba like Arutyun son of Karapet with his two sons and a nephew.

The total loss inflicted to me by the Armenians is 30 thousand rubles.

Records read out loud to the person questioned.

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.24**

## **File No.52**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

A Guba resident Mammadmusa Mammadali oghlu visited the office of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission in Guba and presented a written statement according to which a Guba resident Aghakhanum Turab gyzy (daughter of Turab), mother of Asaf Vahabov is currently undergoing medical treatment in Baku trying to recover from the wounds inflicted to her by the Armenians in the course of their raid to Guba

Signed by A,Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Note:** Asaf Vahabov's mother Aghakhanum Turab gyzy was wounded in her arms, currently treated in Baku and has not recovered yet.

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.25-26**

## **File No.53**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*  
*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Meshadi Husseyngulu Soultanov, aged 70, a Guba resident, literate.**

When the Armenians assaulted the town of Guba, I fled to the forest and was hiding there for several days unless they left. Upon my returned to the town, I found my household, warehouse and shops with all goods inside in ashes. Besides my home, a number of town's best residences were set afire. I could see dead bodies of men, women, girls and other kids still uncollected. Some of the dead bodies were defaced, with arms and legs cut off and bodies chopped by daggers and pierced by bayonets. I fail to understand the causes of such an atrocious and mass slaughter of the Muslims by the Armenians. I am a total bankrupt now. The damage inflicted to me by the Armenians is equal to a million and a half rubles in current exchange rate. There is nothing I can add to this.

Read aloud and signed by Meshadi Husseyngulu Soultanov

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.27**

## **File No.54**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Meshadi Soultan Asgarov, aged 42, a Guba resident, literate.**

I am a survivor of the events<sup>31</sup> in Baku of March 18 and 19 this year when the Armenians attacked the Muslims and slaughtered them. In late March I returned to the town of Guba. About a month later, the talks were spread of the Armenian advance on Guba. I made little account of that for I did not really believe this may happen. So it was totally unexpected to hear gunfire in the town's outskirts one morning. It turned out that the Armenians really attacked the town. Together with my family, I hastily fled to Nugedi village and then into the forest leaving my household and all personal assets to the mercy of fate. I was so much taken aback that I even forgot to collect money and other valuables from the safe box. Other Guba residents followed us with their wives and children. While in the forest, we had to subsist like beasts, with no home, food or a place to sleep. We suffered from the cold, starvation and other deprivations. We all got sick. Many of us are still affected by the shock, just like my daughter. I got a palpitation, so I still have not recovered from the physical and mental distress. It is hard to describe all the ordeal and moral travail that we, the Guba residents, had suffered. We spent 11 days in the forest and returned only after we got to know that the Armenians had withdrawn from the town.

I found my home totally plundered with doors and windows smashed out, wardrobes cracked, chests broken through and the safe box forced. All our movables were looted, including those from the safe, i.e. 8 thousand rubles cash and valuables with pendent alone worth 18 thousand rubles. A well-to-do man, I am a complete beggar at the moment.

A number of luxury houses in town were set ablaze. The Muslim residents lost their last shirt. The number of those slain was over-

whelming. I did not witness this horror personally but I heard of this from reliable sources. The Armenians were killing everyone they could get hold of, men or women, boys or girls, kids. I heard they raped up to a hundred Muslim girls. Names and surnames of these ill-fated girls are kept in secret by their parents and kin, following our traditions. Some of them got pregnant and passed away, however some of them are still alive. Akhund Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh, now staying in Baku, could provide more information on these victims. As far as I know, rapes occurred at Hajji Muhammadgasym Hajjiagha Rahim oghu's home, where most of the girls were hiding.

I have no explanation to these atrocities towards the Muslims by the Armenians. I heard they were avenging the Muslims for the events in 1905<sup>32</sup>. However not a single Armenian suffered in Guba in 1905. When some thugs were threatening Armenians we stood at their defense, and when for their security they were placed in properly guarded prison premises we were providing them with food. I personally was carrying food for Mirza Amirjanov, the local Armenian merchant. The Guba Armenians returned evil for good. The matter is that long prior to the events described they sold out all their personal and real estate in Guba and left the town. When we asked them the reason of doing this, they said they want to live in Baku. Now we realized the reason of their flight for they knew what their Armenian brethren were planning to do to us and our town. And they never warned us about this. I personally did not witness killer or arsonist Armenians, so I cannot name anyone personally. From my townsfolk I heard that some Armenian residents of Guba were also involved in crimes against the Muslims. These were Grigory's son, a warrant officer, barber Jevad, Arityun, Mirza Amirjanov (people saw him on a covered wagon during these events). No other persons that I heard of.

As a result of my residence's being plundered and all my movables looted by the Armenians I suffered the loss equal to seventy thousand rubles in the old exchange rate. There is nothing I can add to this.

Signed by the witness

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.28-30**

## **File No.55**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Meshadi Husseyngulu Baghirov, aged 44, a Guba resident, literate.**

Rumors were spread in Guba that the Armenians were advancing. In the meantime they said they were not large in number and that our Muslims will encircle and capture them all. No one in town thought of resisting the Armenians.

Once in the afternoon when I was at home with my family and my brother, I heard gunfire and cries. It appeared that the Armenians had encircled the town and started bombarding it. Soon they appeared in the streets killing Muslim men, women and children, setting fire on houses and other structures. Several persons came to my household, grabbed five horses, wheat, other movables and forced my family, as many others, to bake bread for their soldiers. Several days after, together with my brother I was convoyed to the mosque where they were already keeping a lot of Muslims. There they posted sentries to control us. We stayed in the mosque unless the Armenians withdrew. I saw lots of dead bodies in the streets, particularly in downtown. The dead bodies had multiple gun-shot and dagger wounds. I can't speak of the torture signs on the dead bodies as I did not look at them too closely.

What I am aware of is the case when the Armenians claimed money from Kerbelai Zeynalabdin, a local carpet dealer, and killed him when he refused saying that he had no money. The Armenians were mainly outsiders, unknown to me, however I spotted some armed Armenians from Guba among them in the streets, such as Arutyun, the butcher's son, armed with a bomb, barber Jevad, Georgy's son, son of Yagub from Khachmaz. Meanwhile I did not see them killing people, looting and plundering households.

Damage the Armenians inflicted to me personally is equal to one hundred and five thousand rubles.

There is nothing I can add to this.

Read aloud and signed in Arabic characters

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.33**

## **File No.56**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Aliabbas Alibeyov, the Head of the Guba Municipality, aged 49.**

In April this year, someone notified me from Khachmaz station about a Bolshevik military unit intending to head towards the town of Guba. As Guba residents, we sent investigator Manuylov<sup>33</sup>, the Jewish representative Nuvah Aghababayev, and Shukur Babayev as following envoys to Khachmaz to find out talk to the goals of the Bolsheviks in Guba. Upon their return, the envoys advised us of the Bolsheviks' intent to subdue Guba and the whole Uyezd and establish their order here. They also advices the envoys to head off to Baku to figure out the issue with the Bolsheviks ring leaders.

The next day, a Bolshevik Georgi (David) Ghelovani arrived in Guba together with Mirjafar Baghirov<sup>34</sup>, a Muslim resident of Guba and a fervent Bolshevik. Ghelovani stated that the reason of his arrival in Guba was to find out whether there was a need for the Soviet rule here. And he found out there was such a need. It should be hereby noted that at that moment, forty Armenians were isolated in Guba's prison. Since we were worried about some violent actions towards them by certain thugs, this was the way we tried to safeguard them. Ghelovani concluded there was no danger for them and set them free. He left for Khachmaz afterwards.

Some 6 days after, he arrived in Guba again with a 170-strong Bolshevik squad armed with machineguns. The squad was manned

by Russians, Jews and Armenians, the latter ones overwhelmingly dominant. The unit was led by an Armenian, lieutenant Aghajanyanz who was also heading the machinegunners. As for Ghelovani, he proclaimed himself the Guba Uyezd Commissar. The residents of Guba complied with them and recognized the Soviet rule.

Soon the Lezghins from adjacent villages came to rescue the town from the Bolsheviks. They opened gunfire to push them out of town. The Bolsheviks returned fire from machineguns. Exchange of fire lasted for three days. The Bolsheviks of Armenian descent were unwilling to give up. As we got to know later, they were expecting reinforcement. 70 civilians were killed in crossfire. The Lezghins lost 200 men. Three days later, another unit of 40 soldiers with cannon arrived from Khachmaz and started bombarding the town. Ultimately on the sixth day the Bolsheviks started retreating. All Russian officials, except for investigators Manuylov and Esmān<sup>35</sup>, all pharmacists and all Armenians left with them.

While retreating, the squad of Aghajanyantz burned down the whole of Bulvarnaya street, murdered 16 persons in Bazarnaya street, 7 persons at Komensantskaya street and 35 more near the prison. One Armenian from the unit threw a burning kerosene-soaked piece of rag at the gate of the Juma Mosque, however the attempted arson was spotted and prevented by a Muslim. While retreating, the squad was returning fire to the Lezghins. The Armenians and Russians evacuated from the town were moving ahead of the unit. The death toll among them included M.Kasparov, an Armenian priest, a Russian priest, pharmacist Golubchin, excise officer Polokhny, doctor Mikhels, forestry officer Abrasimov, and Armenians Alexander Bogdanov and Dukhan Pogosov. Some of the dead bodies were collected by the Bolsheviks whereas others were left unattended. It was never established whether they were killed by the Bolsheviks or Lezghins.

Two weeks after these events we were notified of another Bolshevik detachment arriving from Baku arriving at Nizovaya was on its way to Guba. By late April, the unit reached Khachmaz village. Local residents tried to prevent the unit's further advance. After two days of exchanging fire, the Muslims were no longer capable to withstand the troops that had broken through their way to Guba. The squad manned exclusively with Armenians was headed by a notorious activist of Dashnak party Amazasp with Nikolai as his aide. The unit also

included a guide and a person knowledgeable of the area, an Armenian from Guba Aruyn Ayrapetov nicknamed Deyirmanchi (the Miller).

On May 1 in the morning, the unit entered the town from three sides. The troops numbered no less than 3000 with four cannons and eight machineguns. The manslaughter and plunder commenced. 715 Muslims were slaughtered on the very first day in the downtown, majority of them women and children. Bolshaya Shosseynaya and Bazarnaya streets were totally looted. The squad divided the town into four parts with headquarters in each of them. The first was located near the Leontyev Garden, the second within the fence of the Armenian church, the third uphill near the Muslim cemetery and the fourth, the main one, at the hillside of the Jewish settlement. Armenian atrocities were in full swing: 1012 persons were massacred in the town's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> sections, mainly low-income men and Persian nationals. Neither did pillage ever stop. As an envoy I went to see Amazasp asking permission to bury the dead ones. He refused. However, mounted, he rode around the town with me. Here, in my presence, he addressed the troops to stop murder and pillage. However hardly was this admonishment anyhow candid, so the soldiers had to accept this as contrary. Then he walked to the square near the mosque where he addressed the Muslims in the following manner: *"I am originally from Erzerum. I've been fighting the Turks for a long time. I am the hero of the Armenian nation and the advocate of its interests. I was sent here with this punitive force to avenge for the death of those Armenians who were killed here a couple of weeks ago. Woe to you all when tomorrow I climb this mountain (pointing to the hill with cannons installed) and start bombarding the town that I will level to the ground. Now I'm engaged in a battle with Digah and Alpan villages. Uchgun and Gymyl are the next, and leaving you ablaze I will break my way to Shah-Dagh, and then you will realize what it means to kill Armenians. I am not here to restore any law and order or to establish the Soviet power, but I am here to avenge you for the Armenians murdered."*

Rapes, slaughter and loot lasted 9 days. I applied to Amazasp again to allow burying the dead bodies. I saw Amazasp at the moment when the abovementioned Arutyun Ayrapetov was reporting him. Since I speak Armenian, I understood the report. According to Ayrapetov, about three million rubles in old currency of Czar Nicholas II were collected in town together with gold and golden works



for women worth about 6 million rubles. 200 Muslims were killed to avenge each murdered Armenian and 75 Muslim women and girls were raped for each raped Armenian. All assets stolen from the Armenians were recovered and 90 households set ablaze. Ayrapetov concluded his report saying: *"The mission accomplished. Enough, it's time to go"*. It was exactly the moment when houses were in flame everywhere in town. 16 households and shops were in fire in Bazarnaya street alone. The food depot stored with sugar, tea and drapery worth half a million rubles was set afire in my presence by the said A.Ayrapetov and a crew of 12 artillery gunmen. On the 9<sup>th</sup> day, all assets looted from the Muslims was loaded on carts and driven away from Baghirov's house under Ayrapetov's control.

On the same 9<sup>th</sup> day when I applied to Amazasp again to get permission to bury dead bodies, in front of me he applied to the local Jews saying: *"Woe unto you in an hour from now or at night as the Muslims and Lezghins will attack and massacre you all"*. This caused a panic among the Jewish population, so about 6 thousand left the town with the Armenians.

After the Armenian withdrawal, I started assessing the extent of damage they inflicted to the whole population of the town of Guba. What I figured out was 2 thousand Muslim residents, men, women and children, were murdered, 105 households burned down four million rubles stolen in cash, whereas the value of plundered gold, jewellery and diamonds was worth another 4,5 million rubles, arsons of houses and other structures resulted in the loss equal to 100 million rubles, whereas burglary and theft from warehouses and food depots caused the detriment equal to 27 million rubles.

Some Guba residents of Armenian origin were in Amazasp's unit actively involved in the violent actions described above. These were barber Jevad Arutyunov, the son of fish farmer Avakov (name is not known to me), the nephew of the same Avakov (name unknown), nephews of merchant Mirza Amirjanov, the Amirjanov students (names unknown), Melikov, the tavern (dukhan) owner. Along with the Armenians, some Russians and Jewish squad members were involved in the atrocities mentioned above.

A noteworthy detail is that as of March 1 this year, a number of Armenian residents of Guba started selling out their real and movable estate in Guba and leaving the town. Among those who sold

out the assets and left there were Alexander Melikov, Javad Parsegov, Mirza Parsegov, Magax Pogosov, Arteshes Melikov, Nerses Sarumov and others. When I asked Alexander Melikov the reason of selling the stuff and leaving, he replied: "Something is to happen between you and us, so the Committee calls us back".

After the Armenians withdrew, as an envoy, I met the Bolshevik ringleaders Shaumyan and Japaridze<sup>36</sup> to ascertain whether the Soviets had really sent the punitive squad of Amazasp to Guba and presented them detailed written records of the squad's actions in town. Shaumyan listened with a smile on his face saying that while Muslims and Turks have murdered hundreds of thousands Armenians, Muslims are shedding tears for a couple of their fellows killed by Armenians in Guba. As for Japaridze, he listened carefully saying that the Soviets were not involved in sending the punitive force. He also instructed a Bolshevik Aziz-bey Meshadibeyov<sup>37</sup> to investigate the activities of Amazasp's unit.

As for the witnesses of atrocities committed by Amazasp's forces towards Guba's Muslim population I can name the following ones: Meshadi Hamidulla Aliyev, Meshadi Hajjiagha Kerbelai Ahmad oghlu, Shukur Turab oghlu, Miralakbar Mirsamad oghlu and Meshadi Mullah Yussuf Marsiyekhan.

Records read aloud to and signed by Alibeyiov Aliabbas-bey  
Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.34-39**

## **File No.57**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Meshadi Hajjiagha Kerbalai Ahmad oghlu, aged 35, a Guba resident, literate.**

I only got to know about the Armenians' arrival when they were about one verst away from the town and stopped overnight. In the morning next ay, a large unit launched an attack upon the town

firing from cannons, machineguns and rifles. Many people fled, while those who stayed were trying to find shelter somewhere. Anyone who appeared in the street or inside the courtyards was shot down immediately. The Armenians entered the town and occupied it. This was followed by massacre and plunder. The Armenians were breaking into homes, robbing residents and killing indiscriminately all men, women and children.

They came to my home too, however they failed to find me. The next day arsons started. When it calmed down a bit, I left my shelter and headed towards the square where the head of the squad, Amazasp, was speaking in front of the people. I only got the end of his speech where he said that they are the Bolsheviks and they came to restore the law and order. As this is done, they are leaving now. On the ninth day, the whole unit withdrew. The Armenians left a lot of people killed, stole huge sums of money and personal assets, and left more than a hundred houses in ashes. In Amazasp's squad, I saw one Armenian from Guba, a tall slender old man whose name and family name are unknown to me.

The Armenians looted my shop and stole personal assets worth of 90 thousand rubles from my residence. There is nothing I can add to this.

Read aloud and signed in Arabic characters

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.40**

## **File No.58**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Meshadi Hamdulla Aliyev, aged 40, a Guba resident, literate.**

Soon after the events in Baku in March this year, a Bolshevik

squad arrived at Khachmaz station. We already heard that the squad had already committed considerable violence towards the Muslim population of adjacent villages. Anxious about the squad's possible arrival in Guba and reiteration of the violence, we sent our envoys to Khachmaz, one Russian, one Jewish and one Muslim. The envoys were instructed to negotiate with the Bolsheviks and ask their permission to travel to Baku to get better familiar with the Bolshevik agenda with a view to figuring out its admissibility for us. Upon their return, the envoys notified us that the Bolsheviks had no intent to arrive in Guba and there was no problem to travel to Baku.

Meanwhile, all of a sudden someone Georgi Ghelovani<sup>38</sup> arrived in Guba accompanied by a Bolshevik Mirjafar Baghirov and two Jews. Ghelovani presented us with the demand to comply with the Soviet rule with just two hours for reflection. We asked for a longer period as we needed to discuss the issue with neighboring villages. Ghelovani refused blatantly stating that in case of negative answer he will call the squad from Hachmaz through wireless communication and the whole town will be leveled. We had no other choice than recognizing the Bolshevik power.

Ghelovani left to be back in several days time accompanied by a 200-strong unit. Here they got 200 more Jews joining them. The squad made was known for killing 27 Muslims who reportedly welcomed the Lezghins moving towards the town. This was just a rumor as the Lezghins were not advancing.

The Bolsheviks started establishing their own order when several days after, all of a sudden, the Lezghin residents of adjacent villages approached the town and got engaged in fire exchange with the Bolsheviks trying to pus the out of town. The Bolsheviks were fighting them back for three days. On the third day they got a support from Khachmaz: 40 men armed with cannons and machineguns.

However the Lezghins were pressing hard. That being the case, the Bolsheviks decided to leave the town. They evacuated the Russian officials and all Armenians. Several Russians and Armenians were killed in the exchange of fire. While retreating, the Bolsheviks burned down buildings of the Uyezd Administration, the Municipal Duma, the Magistrate Court. They also tried to arson the local Juma Mosque (Friday Mosque).

About two weeks after their withdrawal, we got to know that

an Armenian squad heading towards our town stopped just 5 miles away. Whoever could flee, did so, however majority of the population stayed. As of May 1, the squad launched the attack bombarding the town from cannons and machineguns. The residents tried to hide away. Anyone showing up outdoors was killed immediately. The Armenians led by Amazasp took over the town Slaughter and plunder began. The Armenians broke into the homes killing men, women and children indiscriminately, stealing money and valuables and appropriating personal assets. The next day arsons were unleashed. Dead bodies were scattered in the streets, households and courtyards. On the fifth day, when the situation calmed down a bit, we, the five envoys approached Amazasp asking to let us bury the dead bodies. Amazasp told us that he was sent here to exterminate us all for the Armenians killed during the retreat of Ghelovani's unit, however he did not do that in hope that we will live in peace and comply with the Armenian rule.

I saw a lot of dead bodies in town, women and children counted for about two thirds out of them. Many women dead bodies had their breasts chopped off. A number of them were defaced by daggers. As a medical assistant, I was helping out an 80-year-long Meshadi Taghy Kerim oghlu. He was wounded in his hand and subsequently died from the injuries. Another person I tried to assist was Jabbar Mammadali oghlu who had eight bullet wounds and ultimately passed away. The same happened to Mirabutalyb who was wounded in his leg and did not survive either.

What I know for sure is that the Armenians staying at the premises of Mukhtar Mammad oghlu raped his two daughters, as well as the wife of Habib s/o Vahab, the wife of his brother Khalil and many others. Exact data on the number of raped girls may be acquired from Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh who was issuing them documents certifying atrocities of the Armenians towards them.

I saw armed Guba Armenians too, such as Arutyun Amirjanov, I don't remember the others by name. Under the threat of the town's complete annihilation Amazasp required us to provide food supply for his troops. We were forced to comply. On the ninth day the Armenians withdrew.

In my case, they had looted the whole storehouse full dry fruits, home effects, such as carpets, linen, clothes. The total damage inflicted

ted to me exceeds 80 thousand rubles. I have nothing to add to this.

Read aloud to and signed by Meshadi Hamdulla Aliyev (in Arabic characters)

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll. 41-43**

## **File No. 59**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Shukur Turab oghlu, aged 70, a Guba resident, literate.**

Arrival of Amazasp's squad in Guba was quite unexpected for us indeed. All of a sudden, one morning gunshots were heard and in a lot of troops flooded into the town. This caused panics. Whoever could flee did so, but most of the residents remained. The town was populated exclusively by Muslims as the Armenians and the Russians left earlier. People tried to lock up inside the houses. This is what I did too. Massacre and plunder were going on in town. I personally did not witness the murders and loot, however what I saw was lots of dead bodies of men, women and children. Some of them were ripped by daggers. On the third day, the Armenians came to my home. Armed with guns and daggers, they pushed me out to the street and conveyed with a group of other Muslims. We were brought to the house of Mullah Hajjibaba where there were a lot of people have already convened.

The chief of Armenians Amazasp with former Armenian resident of Guba named Krikor (Grigory) started questioning the mullah about whereabouts of the Armenian priest. Mullah and all of us replied that he had left the town with the Bolsheviks, however his current whereabouts were unknown to us. Amazasp started threatening the mullah with death when a Georgian walked out of a shop and told the Armenians that the Mullah had saved a number of Armenians. The Armenians pounced upon the Georgian ready to kill him, so he was forced

to run away and hide. Ultimately, they did not kill the Mullah and let him go. The Mullah started imploring Amazasp to order his soldiers to stop the loot and murder. Amazasp said he was not in a position to halt that many people at once, however he felt sorry for us, and he came here to restore the law and order so his demand that we live peacefully and comply with the Armenian power. We were sent back home then.

The Armenians went on slaughtering and looting for 9 days. On the 9<sup>th</sup> day they left leaving a number of the town's households in ashes. Out of the Armenians I am familiar with, I only saw abovementioned Krikor in Amazasp's squad, armed with a rifle and a dagger. Several Armenian houses in our town were also set afire, however majority stayed intact. Everyone says the Armenians burned their homes themselves while leaving with Amazasp's squad. In 1905, not a single Armenian was affected in Guba. The Armenians robbed me to the last shirt, so I only own what is on me now.

I have not witnessed specific cases of rape. None of my close kin or relatives were murdered either. That said, I heard of lots of Muslim girls raped, however no specific names are known to me.

There is nothing I can add to this.

Read aloud to and signed by the witness in Arabic characters

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.45**

## **File No.60**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Miralakbar Mirmammad oghlu, aged 55, a Guba resident, literate.**

In April this year, a squad of troops arrived here in Guba in order to evacuate the remaining Armenians. The squad spent several

days here and left with the Armenians. Subsequently a large unit arrived manned exclusively by the Armenians and led by Amazasp. The unit took the town under control. The Armenians started killing local residents, men, women and children, and got engaged in looting. The case I am aware of is when the Armenians killed Meshadi Heybat Molla Muhammadsalah oghlu, his wife and their under age children, one of them an infant.

They were plundering shops and houses. Several persons appeared at my home too. I offered them tea. They had tea and left. While leaving, they noticed my silver pocket watch and asked me to gift it to them. That's what I did. They also left a number of households ablaze.

Five days later, when the Armenians slightly calmed down, a group of envoys, me among them, went to see Amazasp to ask him to halt the murder and robberies. He appeared in front of a large group of people and stated that he had been sent here to do away with all of us, however he showed mercy, and the slaughter would be suspended, however what happened was inevitable. I am not familiar with anyone in Amazasp's unit, so I can name no one. I only lost my silver watch, and this is what my brother lost too. The Armenians grabbed them. Nothing I can add to this.

Read aloud to and signed by the witness in Arabic characters

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.46**

## **File No.61**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Meshadi Mullah Youssuf, the weeper, aged 60, a Guba resident, literate.**

In April this year, a military unit arrived in Guba, manned by



the Armenians, the Russians and the Jews and led by Ghelovani, a Georgian. The unit enforced its own order and imposed the Bolshevik rule. Several days after, the Lezghins from adjacent villages came into clash with this unit. I sheltered four Armenians and three Russians fearful of the Lezghins at my home. Pressed by the Lezghins, the unit was forced to retreat, however while withdrawing, they were walking door to door collecting all Russians and Armenians to evacuate them. While retreating, the Armenians set fire on several public building returning the fire to Lezghins from cannons and machineguns.

Some ten days or more after the unit had left, we got to know that a numerous military unit of trained and organized troops under Amazasp's command is on its way to our town, staying just 5 versts away. We decided to sent envoys and welcome them with bread and salt. However we changed our mind once we got to know that similar delegations from Davachi Bazar and Gyzyl Burun villages were turned back and all envoys slain by the Armenians. So we employed a wait-and-see attitude.

The next day, large groups of Armenians flooded the town and unleashed violent actions towards all the Muslim population indiscriminately killing anyone they got hold of in the streets, breaking into homes, abusing religious sentiments, robbing money, golden works, jewellery and then slaughtering the whole households, torturing a lot of people, murdering fathers and husbands and raping their wives and daughters. They ordered men to deliver young and pretty girls. This was, by the way, an order given to me too. I refused to perform it, so they started mocking at me and were about to kill me. This horror lasted for three days.

On the forth day, public criers appeared in the streets calling the Muslim men to appear with white bands to bury the dead bodies. Many people responded, however they never got back home as they were shot down by the Armenians. We had to hide again. Dead bodies stayed uncollected unless the Armenians had withdrawn. Majority of those slain were women and children. Many of them were beheaded. I saw a lot of women's dead bodies chopped by daggers. As far as specific cases of violence are concerned, I am aware of the following ones: the whole family of Meshadi Heybat was slaughtered, wife and son of Ali Akhund oghlu were killed and buried at their home. Alipasha Kerbelai Maharram oghlu was ordered by the Armenians to deliver money

and girls. When he refused, his son was stabbed by bayonets to his eyes, face and stomach. The father ended up being just beaten. The whole household of Kerbelai Meshadi Taghy was slaughtered. The only survivor out of the family of 14 was a kid who managed to hide among dead bodies.

On the ninth day we sent our envoys to Amazasp again to complain about his people who kept murders and looting going on. Our group was headed by Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh. Amazasp stretched his hand to greet him whereas the cleric kept his inside his robe saying: *"You are not and authority, you are not Bolsheviks, you are thugs, rapists and robbers. We never resisted you. Why did you kill that many people, and keep killing ever more?"*

Amazasp replied: *"We were ordered to massacre all Muslims from the seashore to Mount Shahdagh, like we did it in Shirvan (Shemakha) and to level your homes to the ground. However I spared you. Sorry, mullah, during the war cases like this are unavoidable."*

The same day the Armenians left the town. It should be also noted that while Amazasp was speaking to us, several Armenians broke into the house of Demirchi Mammadali whose widow and daughter were bemoaning their murdered husband and father, and raped the girl. A screaming cry followed, so the rapists absconded. Amazasp ordered to find them.

I saw some armed Armenians from Guba in Amazasp's squad, such as Arutyun, son of Karomez, with his own son, and the son of Grigory, the one who had sold out his property in Guba several months prior to the events. It was this Grigory who was telling us: *"We sell our houses to you but whom are you going to sell them to?"*

All my personal assets worth of 15 thousand rubles were plundered. There is nothing else I can say.

The only detail to add is that the raped daughter of Demirchi Mammadali passed away.

Read aloud and signed by the witness in Arabic characters

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.47-49**

## File No.62

### Record of Examination

*On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Durna Meshadi Talyb gyzy, aged 30, a Guba resident, illiterate.**

My husband Jafargulu passed away naturally a while ago. The Armenians did not harm me physically or injure me, however they grabbed a lot of stuff from my home and shot to death my mother Salba, my brother Safarali and two neighbors of ours, a father and a son. They said they were killing them because they had killed their Armenian brethren. They grabbed my personal assets and chopped down our orchard, causing the general loss of 6 thousand rubles to my detriment.

There is nothing I can add to this.

Read aloud to and signed by the witness in Arabic characters

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, II.52**

## File No.63

### Record of Examination

*On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Kerbelai Pasha Turab oghlu, aged 45, a Guba resident, illiterate.**

We heard of an Armenian squad heading towards Guba. Like many others around, I paid little attention to that as we had nothing to argue about with the Armenians, and we thought of some 40 per-

sons to arrive. So once, all of a sudden, at 8 o'clock in the morning we heard the gunfire around the town. Soon, a number of armed Armenians entered the town, and with no visible reason and warning, they started murdering Muslim men, women and children, anyone stepping outdoors was killed on the spot. They were bursting into homes, robbing and killing. The next day arsons began. Demirch Meshadi Ali and his wife were killed in front of me. Among my own kin the death toll included me brother-in-law Meshadi Mussa Zeynal oghlu, my cousin Mammadali and his son Jabbar.

I left home on the fourth and fifth days only, when they allowed burying the dead bodies. I saw some 200 dead bodies, no traces of torture. As for the female dead bodies, I could only see them inside the households, not in the streets. According to what the Armenians, their unit numbered about three thousand and was manned by the Armenians only. Some people said there were also Jews among them, both the local ones and outsiders, however I saw none. In fact, none of the Armenians I saw in the squad was familiar to me. People said there were some Guba Armenians among them, like Vartan, son of Grigori, Arutyun. The squad was headed by Amazasp.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> day, Amazasp addressed the Muslims gathering in front of the mosque. He said he had got an order to exterminate all Muslims but he spared them. He claimed he was not responsible for what happened in Guba as he was unable to prevent the Armenians avenging their slain brethren and the Armenian priest. Akhund Mullah Hajjibaba told Amazasp openly that the Armenians were not Bolsheviks but killers and robbers.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> day, the Armenians left Guba. What the Armenians stole from me was 1200 rubles in cash and 1000 rubles worth personal assets. There is nothing I can add to this.

Read aloud to the witness

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.53**

## File No.64

### Record of Examination

*On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Hajji Ahmad Alimurad oghlu, aged 50, a Guba resident, illiterate.**

Someone Ghelovani arrived in Guba with a detachment of troops numbering about 150 men who subdued us to the Bolshevik administration. The situation in town was quiet, no robberies, no murders. Five days later, the Lezghins surrounded the town and got engaged in fire exchange with the unit to force it out of town. Another squad of about 40 soldiers arrived from Khachmaz to support the Bolsheviks. Both units were firing back. Ultimately they decided to leave the town. They gathered all Russians and Armenians remaining in town and left towards Kahchmaz.

Some ten days after this, a much more numerous squad manned exclusively by the Armenians entered the town shooting left and right, killing the townsfolk, robbing and raping them. They were bursting into homes, extorting money and old threatening people by death and grabbed anything valuable they got a hold of.

Together with Mammadali Demirchi, Rza Heybat oghlu, one Persian<sup>39</sup> and a worker Mammadali and their wives, I found refuge at the home of Hasir Hajji Majid oghlu. The next day, four Armenians arrived and started forcing inside. When Nasir let them in, they immediately demanded money. Nasir gave them 150 rubles, I gave 125, whereas Mammadali said he had no money. Immediately, one of the Armenians stabbed him with dagger to the stomach, so he fell down dead. The Persian got his throat cut, Rza Heybat oghlu had his armed chopped off, and worker Mammadali ended up with slashed head. Mammadali and the Persian passed away on the spot, whereas the two other ones died from wounds several days later.

Then the Armenians started extorting gold from me. When I said I had no gold, one of the Armenians raised his hand with dagger against me, however the dagger hit the door, so I rushed to the

women's side. I got my wife's jewellery and handed it to the Armenian. When the Armenians were just about to leave, another group arrived with the same claim, however once they were told that their fellows had already grabbed whatever possible, they all left together.

On the fourth day we all were convoyed to the mosque to meet with their boss, Amazasp, however he did not arrive. Only the next day he visited Akhund Mullah Hajjibaba. They shook hands, although the cleric did it very reluctantly. He started reproaching Amazasp in the mass manslaughter of the Muslims, violence and arson perpetrated by the Armenians. He even called them robbers and killers and stated that they have nothing to do with the Bolsheviks for the Bolsheviks are granting life, whereas they are taking it away. Amazasp tried to acquit himself saying he had been ordered to do away with all residents of Guba and burn the town to ashes, as it was done in Shirvan (Shemakha), however he showed mercy to us and promised to quit manslaughter. However the murders went on. The Armenians were loading all their loot on carts and transporting it somewhere.

Once the Armenians stopped me in the street and tried to rob me. I spotted a local Armenian in the unit, Yagub, and asked him to help. He yelled something to the Armenians, so they stepped back, however, once he went away, they rushed on me again and robbed me.

Nine days later, having slain a hell lot of people and stolen tons of money, valuables, home utensils and other stuff, with lots of houses ablaze, the Armenians finally left the town. In the streets I came across male dead bodies with hands and noses chopped off.

Besides the abovementioned Yagub, I happened to see the following Guba Armenians in Amazasp's squad: Varten, son of Grigory, barber Jevad, Mirza Amirgnov (no guns), Arutyun, Mirzajan's brother-in-law.

Besides the assets mentioned above, the Armenians robbed me of 192 zolotniks (small golden ingots), cash and household stuff estimated at 2000 rubles. Nothing to add to this.

Read aloud to the witness

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.54-55**

**File No.65**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Ismayil Kerbelai Mammadtaghy oghlu, aged 7, a Guba resident, illiterate.**

When the Armenians came into town, all our family hid out in the garden of our grandma Sitara. About 15 Armenians armed with daggers and rifles broke into the place and started shooting, stabbing and slashing us all. They killed my grandma Sitara, my grandpa Hajiagha, my father, my sister under aged Soltannisse, my four-year-old brother Mammadpasha who was an infant, my uncle Heybat and his 5-year-old son Gasym, uncle Alimardan, uncle Aghababa, aunt Jamilya. My mother was wounded in her chest but survived. I was stabbed by dagger to my left shoulder and fell among dead bodies pretending to be dead. There I stayed for five days, however when the bodies started decaying I could no longer be there, so I went to the street and went to Hajji Mammadtaghy, our neighbor. My mother stayed among dead bodies four days. She did not know that I was alive, so she left four days after.

I did not see the Armenians searching the dead bodies, however later on, I saw turned out pockets and unbuttoned shirts. Everything was stolen at our home. My dad was a barber, so we were living on what he earned. Now my mom and I have nothing left, so our only donkey is feeding us. I have nothing else to add..

Read aloud to the witness

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.58-58(rev.)**

**File No.66**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Zahra Youssuf gyzy (daughter of Youssuf), aged 20, a Guba resident, illiterate.**

I am the mother of the boy just questioned by you, Ismayil Kerbelai Mammadthaghy oghlu. Even before Guba's takeover by the Armenians we, the four families moved to my father's orchard where we all were staying with our personal assets. When the Armenians got control over the town, about 15 persons armed with rifles and daggers rushed to the place we stayed and with no reason or warning murdered my father, my husband my two brothers and uncle Heybat. They also stabbed my son Ismayil, so that he fell as a dead one.

Then the Armenians gathered us, the women, and pushed us to the orchard where they started asking us where the Armenian women were hidden. When we said we had no idea, they started screaming obscenities about our faith and murdering us. He used his gun to shoot me. The bullet hit an infant I had on my breast. So I fell down with the dead baby. Then they stabbed me into breast by dagger. They thought I'm dead, so they threw me into a ditch and covered me with brushwood. I only left the place on the fourth day. The death toll included my mother, my aunt, my younger brother Hajjiagha, his son Heybat and 5-year-old Hassanagha. My son Ismayil survived showing up wounded at the neighbor's home on the fifth day.

The overall loss inflicted by the Armenians to me is 5 thousand rubles. I have nothing to add to this.

Read aloud to the witness

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.59-59(reverse)**



**File No.67**

**Records of Medical Examination**

*On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of 1918, in the town of Guba*

*A.Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission at the Government of Azerbaijan, in the presence of Eyyub-bey Khanbudaghov's witnesses, police officer Mammadov Youssuf Hajji Alinaghy oghlu and with the help of Mr.Levi, the Municipal Physician, examined the following victims:*

**Ismayil Kerbelai Mammadtaghy oghlu (under-aged) and Zahra Youssuf gyzy.**

*With a view to determining the nature and degree of the bodily harm inflicted to them.*

*The examination established the following:*

1) Ismayil Kerbelai Mammadtaghy oghlu looks 7-8 years old, moderate subcutaneous fat, normally built and fed, 7 cm. long scar on left shoulder, curved shape, stretching from the lower part of left clavicle all the way to humeral bone. The muscles are not affected to the point obstructing free movement of the left hand. A small scar on the inner side of the left thigh resulting from a surface wound of a pea-size large shape. No other bodily harm. General health status satisfactory.

2) Zahra Youssuf gyzy. The victim looks around 20 years of age, moderate built and fed. Two large scars of almost regular-shaped at the right side of the breast bone, 1,5 cm long, mobile, one of them attached to the subcutis. Another scar of curved rectangular shape at the left side of the breast, mobile 2,5 x 2 cm. in size. One centimeter away from this scar there is a bigger scar of irregular shape, 5 cm. in width and 2,5 cm. in height. No other bodily harm. General health status satisfactory.

3) Kerbelai Abuzar Mastan oghlu, looks around 60 years of age, normally built and fed. A circular pea-sized scar on the front surface side of the left shin. No other bodily harm.

Signed by: Dr. I.Levi, the expert

Youssuf Mammadov, E.Khanbudagov, the witnesses  
A.Novatski, the Commission member

**Conclusion:**

1. Ismayil Kerbelai Mammadtaghy oghly. Injury on the left shoulder was inflicted by a keen cutting tool. As the wound did not affect the muscle tissue motion of the hand is unobstructed and painless. The bodily harm is non-grievous. Another injury is caused by a piercing tool and is non-severe either.

2. Zahra Youssif gyzy. Injuries caused by a piercing tool are non-severe in nature. The third and fourth injuries are caused by a gunshot. The bullet changed the trajectory and penetrated the skin in a bow-shaped manner. The bodily harm is non-grievous.

3. Kerbelai Abuzar Mastan oghlu. Insignificant surface injury resulting from the bullet's gliding along the skin. A non-severe bodily harm.

Signed by Dr.I.Levi

**Note on the reverse side:**

The total remuneration of 20 rubles is hereby requested for the medical examination of the persons named above.

Signed by I.Levi

Receipt

The total of 20 (twenty) rubles received from A.Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission. December 19, 1918.

Signed by I.Levi

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.60-61(reverse)**

**File No.68**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 21<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Prince David Alexandrovich (son of Alexander) Ghelovani, aged 30, temporary Guba resident, permanent address: Baku, office of Najaf Amiraslanov, in front of the Orthodox Cathedral.**

I am a Menshevik social-democrat by beliefs. I was exiled and sentenced to hard labor for my political views. Relieved after the revolt,

continued my studies at the Medical department in Moscow. In early 1918, I traveled to the Caucasus to visit my relatives. When I intended to get back, the railroad communication was interrupted after the events in Gudermes. I ended up in Baku, quite idle. At that moment the city was overtaken by the Bolsheviks. One of their ringleaders, someone Japaridze offered me the position of a militia inspector. I agreed, so I was appointed to this position by the Executive Committee.

After the March events in Baku, I was instructed to restore the railroad communication all the way to Gudermes station. I headed by train with an echelon of troops following me. En route, residents of all Muslim villages were hastily fleeing facing the troop train. I stopped them and persuaded to stay in their places as there was no real danger for them. My troops were manned by Russians and Armenians, the latter ones counting for more than a half. The squad numbered to two thousand.

Once we arrived in Khachmaz station, a couple of unknown Armenians joining our train discovered about 120 dead bodies not far from the station in the forest, closer to old Khachmaz. There were some Russians among the dead bodies, however majority were Armenians. I was on the scene and saw the dead bodies, however I will hardly identify the location now. The troop train was indignant about this and started getting restless. Soldiers wanted to move to Guba and devastate the place as they believed these people were killed by the Shykhlyar beys (landlords). I had hard times keeping the troops under control.

Under the pressure of the commissars and myself, and after the telephone conversation with Guba stating that the town residents are sending their envoys the troops changed their mind to move to Guba and decided to send me as a neutral person to present the local residents with an ultimatum to comply with the Soviet rule within 2 hours and to render support to them.

Then another delegation arrived steadily presenting themselves as the Bolsheviks. I arrived in Guba and offered them to respond within two hours whether they submit to the Soviet rule. I also notified them that I can guarantee nothing should the answer be negative.

The residents of Guba selected several representatives who, being assured by the Sunni and Shiite clergy that the ideas of Bolshe-

vism are not contrary to Sharia<sup>40</sup>, expressed their loyalty to the Soviet power. I presented the basic Bolshevik ideas to the Guba envoys and reported in due course to the commissars at the troop train. Then I stayed in Guba for a while. The local residents asked me to dispatch a military unit to Guba to tackle the people they could not get control of. I don't remember the names and family names of those town residents who asked me to send the troops, the only one I recall was named Kiragyar, no idea of the family name.

I sent a telegram to Baku communicating the request of sending a military unit to Guba to restore the law and order. They responded that the troops had already been dispatched. I went to meet the unit in Khachmaz, and together with the troops I returned to Guba. The unit comprised 187 persons, 12 out of them Armenians, several Jews, and the rest Russians. The unit was equipped with two machineguns operated under command of an Armenian whose name I cannot recall. What I remember is that I had to restrain this commander's provocative actions times and again. Captain Kubitski was in charge for the machinegun team. He is currently serving at the police department in Petrovsk.

Soon, our unit was attacked by the Lezghins and Muslims from adjacent villages. As for the residents of Guba, they did not attack us. We were reinforced with a 150-strong unit from Khachmaz with 2 cannons. That unit was manned by ethnic Armenians only, led by lieutenant Aghajanyantz. The next day, he gathered all the Christian population of Guba, mainly Armenians, to evacuate them from the town. So we started retreating. A was in the units avantgarde. The soldiers were fleeing having left the refugees behind. It should be noted that the refugees were imploring the Armenian soldiers not to shoot the Lezghins. Part of the refugees was evacuated by my unit, whereas another part stayed at the Leontyev Garden to be massacred by the Lezghins.

I was wounded in my hand on the battle's first day. We left for Khachmaz and subsequently headed towards Derbend.

Several days after, the Military Commissar Korganov dispatched a 2 thousand-strong punitive unit under Amazasp's command to Guba. Later on, Japaridze received a telegram signed by Mirjafar Baghirov, a Guba resident and my former aide stating that the town residents were asking me to be back since Amazasp was burning and mas-

sacring to the left and to the right. I agreed, and being vested with broad authorities I got back to Guba. Here I started blaming Amazasp for what he had committed. He and his commissar Veluntz responded that it were the Sunnis<sup>41</sup> and Shiites<sup>42</sup> who burned the town to ashes in a blood feud. I never bought this, so I asked Amazasp to leave Guba with his unit. At first he was hesitant, however he ultimately complied, and in fact, on the ninth day of his stay he left with all his unit. I followed him. It should be noted that in the way back, Amazasp's squad massacred 35 bullock car drivers, I personally saw five dead bodies of theirs.

Read aloud to an signed by the witness

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.62-65(verso)**

## **File No.69**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: David Alexandrovich Ghelovani (additional testimonies).**

In addition to previous testimonies please be informed that I invited the following religious leaders to the meeting (mejlis): Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh and Abdurahman Efendi Imam, the former one representing the Shiite clergy whereas the latter one as a representative of the Sunni clerics. In general terms, I introduced the basic principles of the Bolshevism to both, so the clerical leaders concluded that the Bolshevik doctrine does not contradict the Shariah at all. When one of the meeting participants, Orujev, now the Investigator of Guba, asked: "What if we start expropriating the land from owners of large estates, is that admissible from the standpoint of Shariah?", after a deep thought, Abdurahmad Effendi responded in the following way: "Shariah does not approve violence, however, should this happen peacefully, this will be even desirable for the owners of large land

plots force others to work on their land, and this is a sin. Hajjibaba Akhund shared this view. Both clerics were speaking openly of their mind, with no coercion or duress whatsoever.

In the course of our retreat with Amazasp from Guba, our squad committed no violence. Neither did we kill anyone or set any house afire. There was one burning house somewhere in the lower area but it caught fire from a cannon shell.

For two days I was resisting the Lezghins and tried my very best to avoid surrender two reasons: first it was the officer's code of conduct, and second, I got no offers to surrender, all I got was threats with no guarantees of mercy neither to the unit not to myself, should we give up.

There was not a single Russian in Amazasp's squad, it was manned exclusively by Armenians, members of Dashnaksutyun Party to the last person. Amazasp himself was a fervent Dashnak. I believe the punitive unit was dispatched to Guba following Shaumyan's order, however recruitment of the troops depends on Korganov, the war minister.

Davachi and Alpan villages located several verst away from Guba were set on fire by Amazasp's squad just because they were Muslim populated. No other explanation I can find.

Signed by the witness

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.118-119(verso)**

## **File No.70**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Mullah Shykh Husseyn Akhundzadeh, the parish mullah of the 1<sup>st</sup> mahalle (neighborhood), Guba, aged 72.**

This year in March someone named Ghelovani was enforcing the Soviet rule in the town of Guba. He had a squad of soldiers under

his command. The Lezghin residents of neighboring villages made a revolt and kicked Ghelovani and his squad out of Guba. Several days after, on May 1, a large Armenian unit led by Amazasp arrived in town. They called themselves *Amazasp's punitive unit*. We heard of the unit's approaching the town, so many people fled the town, others had their families evacuated, me among them. However the majority remained confident that these are the government troops not to be involved in violence towards civilians. This was a blunder which many of us paid a serious price for indeed. A lot of men, women and children were slaughtered. Gunfire never ceased in the streets whereby anyone found outdoors was slain.

I stayed at home alone. Shots, cries and whale were heard from everywhere. The Armenians were breaking into houses and massacring the residents. I found refuge at my neighbor's home where many people were already hiding. I am aware of the case when 17 men were found by the Armenians in one households, all of them executed to the last person. Among those victims, there were a father and a son, the later one a one week's newlywed. When the Armenians wanted to kill him, the father offered to be killed instead of his son. The Armenians grabbed the money he offered and then killed the son in front of the father who was the last to be murdered.

In general, atrocities of the Armenians were totally unbridled. Up to 300 men were murdered in that particular neighborhood (mahalle) alone. I was burying a number of victims. A lot of dead bodies were mutilated, chopped by daggers with hands, noses and faced slashed. Meanwhile the Armenians kept looting and plundering. For good four days, the dead bodies remained uncollected in the streets, households and courtyards. Decomposing bodies emitted a dreadful stench.

The forth day seemed to be a bit quieter, so they even started burying dead bodies. It also became known to me that Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh had already got the list of the 78 Muslim girls raped by the Armenians. The parents and close kin are hiding these miserable ones, reluctant to communicate anyone the disgrace that had befallen them. This is our custom, the prevailing rules demand this. Mullah Hajjibaba is in Baku at the moment, his whereabouts there unknown to me.

At Mullah Hajjibaba's home with quite a number of Muslims

gathering together, an Armenian. Amazasp's aide from Constantinople, told us that they spared a lot of Muslims because Mulla Hajjibaba had rescued a number of Armenian women. He even told us that Shaumyan ordered them to exterminate all Muslims mercilessly, and the only reason they did not do that is due to Mullah Hajjibaba. I don't know the name of this Armenian. Near the mosque I also met a Guba-based Armenian Arutyun Mirzajanov who told me that even should the Armenians murdered hundred times more Muslims, they still would fall short of what the Muslims had done to the Armenians. I saw no other Armenians I am familiar with.

My personal assets were not plundered, what was looted though is the property of my daughters.

I have nothing to add to this.

Read aloud to and signed by the witness in Arabic characters

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.115-116(verso)**

## **File No.71**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to Articles 307 and 443 of the Criminal Proceedings Regulations:*

**Witness: Abasbey, Balabey oghlu Hassanbeyov, aged 43, literate, resident of Baku, address of residence: 109, intersection of Chardovaya and Persidskaya Streets.**

On March 23, 1918, after the truce, I fled from Guba to Baku with all my household of 8 persons. We walked out of home at 10 o'clock in the morning. When we were moving down the hill, along the Trans-Caucasian railroad between the city and Balajary, we were attacked by a group of more than 10 Armenian soldiers who stopped us by screaming. Some of us scattered around, so the soldiers opened fire. Since I am a sickly man, I could not escape. My family surrounded



me crying and imploring the soldiers to spare me. I told the soldiers that they can kill me, as I am almost a dead person, still a breadwinner for the family of all the 8 persons they see around. The Armenian soldiers did not murder me but they grabbed my overcoat, hat, suit and boots. They also got my son's jacket and suit. Also they looted the basket full of brocade, silk cloth, gold and jewellery. I will provide the list of valuables robbed with the request to attach it to the files of the case. Cash worth 28 thousand rubles sewn into my wife's arhaluk (outer garment) was misappropriated by the Armenians too.

After being robbed, we headed towards Khyrdalan where people told me to proceed to Sumgayit. I hired a cab for 50 rubles to give us a ride to Sumgayit. In Sumgayit station, I came across my fellow-traveler Karim Turab oghlu who loaned me 50 rubles to pay the cabman. From Sumgayit to Khachmaz we travelled in wagons. This was the next day, March 24, closer to the evening. The way from Khachmaz to Guba was covered by horses. Having placed my family in Guba, I returned to Baku, so the subsequent bloody events there occurred in my absence.

On May 15 this year, in Bolshaya Morskaya Street in Baku a ran into a Guba-based Armenian Artyom Avanesov who told me of his involvement in the punitive squad's raids in Guba where he was tipping off about local residents reportedly hostile towards Armenians. Hidayat Shukur oghlu was one of them. He regretfully admitted that Hidayat was not apprehended, however they got hold of his son, Mussa, who was killed by the Armenians, whereas Hidayat's wife was raped. "I also wanted to burn down the house of your neighbor, Mammadgulu, - Avanesov said, - but this could affect your home, so I abstained from setting it ablaze". After this conversation I rushed to Guba with my Guba-based acquaintances I met at the Bolsheviks' headquarters.

While in Guba, I learned all details of the Muslim's carnage, I attended the cemetery with 300 newly-dug graves. People said some of the graves had 2, whereas some other ones 4-5 persons buried together. An Armenian named Amazasp was in charge of the punitive squad, whereas Artyom Avanesov was managing arsons in town. A lot of people in Guba mentioned his name, like Kerbelai Alihusseyn (can't recall his father's name), relative of Meshedi Nasir Ali oghlu, who told me that he personally paid Artyom Avanesov 600 rubles at the porch of a Guba-based Bolshevik Baghirov's home to spare his household in

Guba's 2<sup>nd</sup> mahalle (neighborhood).

The overall loss I suffered from the pillage perpetrated by the Armenians is 55,945 rubles in old money, or 100,030 rubles in current rate. I do hereby request to attach the list of robbed valuables to the files of the case.

In May, en route from Khachmaz to Guba, I saw lots of dead bodies of the Muslims scattered everywhere in ditches, eaten by jackals and other beasts. Section 3 of Guba was totally ruined.

No additional information available.

Read aloud to and signed by Abasbey Hassanbeyov

Signed by Alexandrovich, Mammadkhan Tekinski<sup>43</sup> and A.Klughe<sup>44</sup>, members of the Commission.

**Reference: APD EOPRA f.277, op.2, d.15, ll.83-84(verso)**

## **File No.72**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 21<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following person as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Witness: Mullah Hajjibaba Akhundzadeh, aged 60, Guba resident temporarily staying at Tazapir Mosque, Baku.**

I am the akhund (Shiite minister) of the town of Guba. In April this year, a Bolshevik unit led by David Ghelovani arrived in Guba. Ghelovani gathered the town representatives. Abdulrahman Efendi Imam and I were also forced to attend the gathering so that together with the others we recognize the Bolshevik power. Under duress, we complied with the Bolsheviks, however neither Abdulrahman Efendi nor myself never stated that the Bolshevik doctrine is not contravening the Shariah.

Ghelovani started enforcing the Bolshevik regulations. Immediately upon his arrival in Guba he set all Armenians free as he believed there was no danger for them. The matter was that after the bloody March events in Baku, the town of Shemakha and Shemakha Uyezd, some dubious characters among the Muslims, eager to abuse

any situation, used these events as an excuse to attack the Armenian residents of Guba and rob them. Smart and prudent Muslims, concerned about the Armenians' lives found no other way of protecting them than isolating them in properly guarded prison premises. The Armenians numbered up to 200, women and children among them. It was this group of Armenians Ghelovani set free as he believed there was no danger from the Muslims.

Several days later, the Lezghins from adjacent villages decided to kick the Bolsheviks out of Guba. They encircled the town and started exchanging fire with the Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks were forced to withdraw. While leaving the town, they evacuated all Christians from the town, the Armenians being the majority among them. Some of these people were killed in an ongoing exchange of fire.

Some ten days after these events, on May 1, 'the punitive squad' manned exclusively by Armenians arrived in town, armed with cannons and machine guns and led by notorious Amazasp. They came to avenge the residents of Guba for the Armenians killed by the Lezghins.

The squad entered the town during the daytime. Immediately upon their arrival the Armenians started mercilessly massacring Muslim men, women and children.

Having slain everyone they got hold of in the streets and squares they started breaking into the houses and massacring the whole families, even infants were not spared. Besides this, the Armenians were robbing the Muslims, taking possession over their gold, jewellery, cash and other valuables. Moreover, they started setting fire on households and shops. Dead bodies were found here and there, decomposing indoors and outdoors. The Armenians were unbridled in their atrocities for several days.

On the fourth day Amazasp addressed the people gathering in the square in front of the mosque. All I recall from his speech is that he avenged the Guba residents for the Armenians killed by the Lezghins. Neither Amazasp, nor his aides said anything about the Muslims they spared in response to a number of Armenian women that I rescued because I rescued no Armenian women. What I know for sure is that the Armenians raped above a hundred Muslim women and girls. Their names are unknown to me as parents and kin hide this following the local custom and prevailing rules.

In Amazasp's squad I came across an Armenian resident of Guba,

butcher Arutyun, no family name available. He was always near Amazasp. I saw many other familiar faces unknown by names.

What I also recall from Amazasp's speech is the following: "I came here to exterminate you all and to level your town to the ground, as it was the case in Shirvan, however I spared you."

Read to the witness and signed in Arabic characters

Translated by E.Khanbudaghov (certified by a signature)

Signed by A.Khasmammadov, the Commission's Chairman

Signed by A.Novatski, the member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.113-114(verso)**

## ***Part II***

### ***Records of Damages Suffered by Residents of the Town of Guba***

**File No.74**

**The List of Damages Suffered by Residents of Section 2, the Town of Guba<sup>45</sup> as a Result of an Attack by the Armenian Ethnic Regiment (names, assets destroyed, value):**

1. Hajji Jafar Mirzoyev: real estate and personal assets, a two-storeyed house with 15 rooms, 6 shops, each of them with its own doorway, household stuff home utensils plundered together with assets of brother Heybat, 80. The total damage amounts to 800.000 rubles.
2. Moussa Alirza Asgar-zadeh (parish mullah of the 2<sup>nd</sup> magal (neighborhood)): the house and furniture set ablaze together with the library (400 volumes). The total damage estimated 15 thousand rubles.
3. Meshadi Abdul Khalyg Kerbelai Hajji Gadir oghlu: the house together with household stuff worth 200.000 rubles. Shop and store looted, the damage estimated at 250,000 rubles.
4. Mirza Assif Alibaba oghlu, his mother Khanum Turab gyzy injured: household stuff, cattle, foodstuffs totaling 10,000 rubles.
5. Mammadrza Mammadov: household stuff, cattle, tailor shop with tools, total 20,000 rubles.
6. Meshadi Abbsgulu Samad oghlu: household burned down together with furniture and grocery-ware, total damage 44,000 rubles.
7. Meshadi Husseyngulu Sultanov: furnished two-storied house, 12 quarters of dried fruit, one large store with 3 doorways and non-residential premises, total damage 1,500,000 rubles.
8. Mammadhusseyn and Aliassif, sons of Hajji Husseyn: 2 two-storied houses with textiles and foodstuffs stored in the warehouse, total damage 100,000 rubles.
9. Meshadi Allahgulu Hassanov: household stuff, tailor's shop with tools, total damage 20,000 rubles.
10. Alihusseyn Malik oghlu: cash and household stuff totaling 30,000 rubles.
11. Hajji Molla Ibrahim Akhund: furniture and foodstuffs, total damage 5,000 rubles.
12. Gulam Mehdigulu oghlu: grocery-ware, household stuff, at

- tire, total damage 80,900 rubles.
13. Kerbelai Mammadtaghy Ismayil oghlu: **killed** by a bayonet, his son murdered through neck break, his wife Fatima murdered, breasts cut off, his daughter Chimnaz slain by bayonet, furniture looted, total damage 15,000 rubles.
  14. Abdul Majid Jafargulu oghlu: household utensils, foodstuffs, cash, tools, total damage 22,000 rubles.
  15. Meshadi Asgar and Husseyngulu Aliyevs: household utensils and foodstuffs, total damage 30,000 rubles.
  16. Meshadi Abdul Khalyq Kerbelai Suleyman oghlu: household stuff, cattle, grocery goods, cash, total damage 45,000 rubles.
  17. Hamid Kerbelai Majid oghlu and brothers: household stuff, cash, various stuff, total damage 14,000 rubles.
  18. Ahmad Meshadi Mammad oghlu: grocery-ware, total damage 33,000 rubles.
  19. Alibala Shukurpasha oghlu: household stuff, total damage 20,000 rubles.
  20. Hamdulla-bey Hajji Javad-bey oghlu: household stuff, total damage 20,000 rubles.
  21. Abbas Hajji Mukhtar oghlu, his brother Ali Hajji Mukhtar oghlu **killed**: household stuff and grocery-ware, total damage 12,000 rubles.
  22. Meshadi Husseyn Edil oghlu: household stuff, total damage 12,000 rubles.
  23. Kerbelai Zeynalabdin Hajji Mammadmuhammad oghlu: store burned down, household stuff plundered, cash stolen, total damage 15,000 rubles.
  24. Meshadi Mammadali Hajji Husseyn oghlu **killed**: 2 houses burned down, household stuff and furniture destroyed, total damage 12,000,000 rubles.
  25. Abdulkhalyg and his brothers, sons of Meshadi Majid: household stuff, cattle, grocery-ware, total damage 75,000 rubles.
  26. Meshadi Hamidulla Gadir oghlu: furniture, total damage 10,000 rubles.
  27. Hajji Mirkyazym Mirhusseyn oghlu: household stuff, total damage 1,000,000 rubles.
  28. Hajji Mirkyazym Mirhusseyn oghlu: furniture and other damages totaling 27,000 rubles.

29. Hajji Ibrahim Alakbar oghlu: household stuff, total damage 30,000 rubles.
30. Mammadtaghy and his brothers, sons of Hajji Mohsun, furniture, total damage 40,000 rubles.
31. Meshadi Heybat Mirzoyev: **killed**.
32. Heydar Mirzoyev: household stuff, total damage 5,000 rubles.
33. Meshadi Hajjiagha Hassanov: cash, total damage 5,000 rubles.
34. Kerbelai Mussa Mirza Said oghlu: grocery-ware, total damage 15,000 rubles.
35. Hajji Hajjiali and sons: household stuff (together with brothers), total damage 60,300 rubles.
36. Sueymanbey Ahmadbey oghlu: household stuff and other belongings, total damage 109,900 rubles.
37. Mullah Aliheydar Salim oghlu, household stuff, total damage 7,800 rubles.
38. Kerbelai Hamza Hajji Baghyr oghlu, household stuff, a hundred head of cattle, grocery-ware, total damage 90,300 rubles.
39. Hajji Abbasgulu Isa oghlu: **killed**.
40. Meshadi Mammadhusseyn Abbasgulu ghl: a house, mirror, household stuff, grocery-ware, total damage 45,000 rubles.
41. Gasym Meshadi Aghabala oghlu: household plundered, total damage 15,000 rubles.
42. Alipasha Ismayil oghlu: rugs stolen, total damage 200 rubles.
43. Rahim Husseyn oghlu: cattle, total damage 2000 rubles.
44. Meshadi Abdulgasym Kerbelai Alakbar oghlu: household and store plundered, total damage 10,300 rubles.
45. Children of Hajji Alimammad Hajji Abdulkerim oghlu: household stuff and grocery-ware, total damage: 400,050 rubles.
46. Hajji Asgar Hajji Talyb oghlu: household utensils, total damage 90,000 rubles.
47. Kerbelai Husseyn Hajji Zeynal oghlu: grocery-ware, total damage 2000 rubles.
48. Meshadi Husseyngulu Mullah Mahmud oghlu: residence burned down, store and tailor shop plundered, total damage 15,000.
49. Hajji Seyyid Husseynagha Agha Miraliasgar oghlu: residence



- burned, household stuff plundered, total damage 7,000 rubles.
50. Khanpasha Meshadi Ali oghlu: household looted, store burned down, total damage 25,000 rubles.
  51. Samad Meshadi Gasym oghlu: household looted, store burned down, total damage 25,000 rubles.
  52. Abdul Hajji Meshadi Mammad oghlu: grocery-ware, 5,000 rubles.
  53. Hajji Dovlat Ilyas oghlu: household and store looted, total damage 50,000 rubles.
  54. Mammadyoussif Hajji Najaf oghlu: household and store plundered, total damage 10,000 rubles.
  55. Hamdullah Kerbalai Roustampasha oghlu: household looted, total damage 20,000 rubles.
  56. Ahamd Kerbalai Shamil oghlu: household looted and burned, total damage 12,000 rubles.
  57. Mammadali Hajji Shirin oghlu: household looted and burned, total damage 80,000 rubles.
  58. Kerbalai Habib Meshadi Gafar oghlu: household looted, total damage 10,000 rubles.
  59. Meshadi Zeynalabdul Alakbar oghlu, **killed**, household looted, total damage 15,000 rubles.
  60. Rzagulu Meshadi Jafar oghlu: robbed, total damage 100,000 rubles.
  61. Kerbalai Nemat Mammadrza oghlu, his brother Meshadi Hassan **killed**: 2 households looted, total damage 12,000 rubles.
  62. Hajji Mammadgasym Pirali oghlu: household looted, total damage 30,000 rubles.
  63. Meshadi Gasym-bey Moustafa-bey oghlu, household looted, total damage 30,000 rubles.
  64. Kerbelai Aliassad Meshadi Ahmad oghlu, store looted, total damage 500 rubles.
  65. Mammad Abdulhusseyyn Maharramov: 2 households looted, total damage 30,000 rubles.
  66. Nemat Balabey oghlu, household looted, total damage 30,000 rubles.
  67. Hajji Husseyngulu Hajji Hajjibala oghlu: household burned, total damage 1,000,000 rubles.
  68. Hajji Aliusyat Kerbelai Mustafa oghlu: household looted and

- burned, total damage 300,000 rubles.
69. Kerbelai Agha Kerbelai Assad Mehdigulu oghlu: store and household looted and burned down, total damage 500,000 rubles.
70. Mehrali Meshadi Abdulhamid oghlu: **killed**.
71. Youssif Alakbar oghlu: store and household looted and burned down, total damage 150,000 rubles.
72. Aghabala, **killed**, his sons Hassandadash, Alibala, Abdulhusseyin, Aghabala: households plundered, total damage 150,000 rubles.
73. Zeynalabdin Meshadi Baghir oghlu, robbed, total damage 14,000 rubles.
74. Abdulsattar Alasgar oghlu: store and household looted and burned down, total damage 75,000.
75. Abbasjafar Meshadi Mammad oghlu, robbed and **murdered**.
76. Gasymgulu Kazym oghlu: store plundered, total damage 50,500 rubles
77. Meshadi Abdulgasyim Kerbelai Suleyman oghlu: household stuff plundered and looted, grocery-ware (sugar, tea, etc.) and other personal assets stolen, total damage 12,500 rubles.

***In Section 2 of Guba the overall number of Guba town residents murdered by firearms or daggers is 250, the dead bodies remained in the streets uncollected for 5 more days. The residents were collecting them with just one bullock cart and burying sometimes up to 5 dead bodies in one grave. 300 more persons passed away from shock in this section of the town only.***

***All together, the death toll is 550 persons.***

Parish mullah of Magal (neighborhood) No.2, Guba  
Mussarza Asgarzadeh (signed in Arabic charters)  
December 23, 1918

***Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll. 79-85, 147-148***

## **File No.77**

### **The List of Victims Murdered by the Armenians and the Bolsheviks**

1. Mammad Rahimov
2. Meshadi Mirzaali Hajjirahimov
3. Issa Husseynguluzadeh
4. Aghali Shahbaz Mehralizadeh
5. Amin Moustafazadeh
6. Mammadrasul Mahmudzadeh
7. Son of the person named above
8. Mullah Gafur Meshadi Efendizadeh
9. Mussa Hufet oghlu
10. Abdul Ahad Abulgasym oghlu
11. Almas Baba oghlu
12. Mullah Safeldin Mullah Ismayil oghlu
13. Suleyman Ahmadzadeh
14. Hafiz Danelzadeh
15. Mammadrasul Bayram oghlu

***The number of Guba town residents passing away from the shock and fear caused by the advancing Armenian and Bolshevik squads. Besides these, 300 unidentified outsiders were murdered by the Armenians and the Bolsheviks, their dead bodies buried in the town of Guba, fifty in one grave.***

***Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, ll.120, 140***

## **File No.82**

### **Notice of Claim**

December 23, 1918

(File compiled in Azerbaijani using Arabic characters)

***Translation:*** Hajji Abdulhalyq Hajji Mammad oghlu suffered the following loss:

- cash: 6,000 rubles
- household stuff: 12,000 rubles
- golden works: 60,000 rubles
- cash and commodities from the store: 40,000 rubles
- a 60 head of cattle: 120,000 rubles
- 100 beehives: 12,000 rubles
- 40 poods of wheat (1 pood = 16,8 kg): 5,000 rubles
- 2 boxes of tea: 10,000 rubles
- 20 poods of sugar: 12,000 rubles

Total: 390,000 rubles

One gardener and one laborer **killed**

Signed by Hajji Abdulkhalyg (Arabic characters)

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.69**

#### **File No.84**

##### **Roster**

(File compiled in Azerbaijani using Arabic characters)

**Translated version:** Looted assets of Hajji Aliusseyn

Hajji Aghagasym oghlu,

The victim murdered

1. Cash: 7,000 rubles
2. Women's attire: 10,000 rubles
3. A 25 head of cattle
4. Household stuff
5. Wheat and rice: 5,000 rubles
6. Utensils: 1,000 rubles
7. A 20 head of sheep

Total: 80,000 rubles

Signed by Mullah Hajji Rahim Ahmad oghlu

Hajji Abdulhalyq Hajji Mammad oghlu suffered the following damage in town and orchards:

1. A 25 head of livestock
2. Golden works: 12,000 rubles
3. Cash: 50,000 rubles
4. Household stuff

Total: 155,000 rubles

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.117-117 (verso)**

**File No.85**

**To: the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission, Guba  
From: Majid Gasumov, the Head of Detection Division of  
the Town of Guba and the Uyezd**

**Statement**

I am honored to hereby advise the Commission that the punitive squad led by Amazasp burned to the ground my uncle's household located in the orchard where all my family and myself were sheltered and where my whole assets and valuables were stored. I saved nothing of this property. Everything was destroyed, so my family and myself are totally devastated now. The evidence may be presented at your earliest convenience.

December 24, 1918

Signed by the chief of detection police

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.120-120 (verso)**

**File No.86**

**To: the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission, Guba  
From: Mussa Kyazymov, Assistant Police Superintendent,  
the town of Guba**

**Statement**

I am honored to hereby advise the Commission that the punitive squad led by Amazasp burned to the ground my household and killed my uncle Gasum Kyazymov. As soon as I sent my family to Rustov village, the Armenians encircled the town and started bombarding it, killing and robbing the residents. Together with my brother-in-law, I found refuge at Akhund Mullah Hajjibba's home where a lot of people were sheltered. I left tons of household stuff, men's and women's clothing, gold and silverware and even infant clothes at home, let alone the whole storehouse full of dried fruit, nuts, lavash and various utensils. The damage I suffered is about 200 thousand rubles.

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.96, l.121-121 (verso)**

## **SECTION 3**

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### **Records on Devastation of Villages of Guba Uyezd**

#### ***PART I***

#### ***Witness Testimonies of Residents of Guba Uyezd***

**File No.96**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the person named below as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Shaban Sarkar oghlu, aged 40, elder of Davachi village, Guba Uyezd, illiterate.**

I am the elder at Davachi village, Guba Uyezd. The railroad bed runs across our village. Before the devastation, the village numbered up to 200 households with more than a thousand residents, both men and women. In late April this year, when the punitive squad was moving from Baku to Guba, it used to plunder and loot all villages and residential areas adjacent to the railroad. Our village was not an exception either. Some people fled well in advance, however many others could not. Those found in the village were murdered, with the overall death toll reaching about 40 persons. There were no women among the victims. The white flag was ignored, and those raising it slain. We could only get back to the village about a month and a half later to find it totally looted and burned to the ground. About 50 village houses were set ablaze, together with two mosques, the Bazar and another mosque located amidst the market. Personal assets of the residents were plundered. A number of constructions within the households were set on fire. The same happened to the public office at the Bazar. We did not come across the Bolsheviks personally. However those who did, recall that they were exclusively of Armenian origin. There was a handful of Russians among them but the Russians were not involved neither in arsons, nor in the massacre. On the contrary, they were reportedly trying to hold back the Armenians from committing violence towards the Muslims. There is nothing I can add to this.

Read out loud to the witness

Translated by A. Khanbudaghov

Signed by A. Novatski

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.3-3(verso)**

## **File No.97**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the person named below as a witness, pursuant to the Criminal Court Regulations:*

**Shamsaddin Efendiyev, police superintendent, Davachi Precinct, Guba Uyezd, aged 30.**

I am the police superintendent at Davachi Precinct, Guba Uyezd. I was appointed to this position after Divichi's devastation by the Armenians. From what I know, in late spring this year, a punitive unit manned exclusively by Armenians and led by Amazasp, another ethnic Armenian, was moving from Baku to Guba. Along the line of its march, the squad was looting and plundering all the residential areas adjacent to the railroad. Up to ten villages were subject to pogrom in the Precinct of Davachi only, with a large number of local Muslim residents massacred. I can name no one else, except for Amazasp, the squad leader. The Armenian village of Kelva is also located at my Precinct. Neither before, nor after these events have this village ever been attacked by the Muslims. Not a single villager of Kelva was affected, and not a penny stolen from the Armenians by the Muslims. There is nothing I can add to this.

Testimonies read out loud.

Signed by A. Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.4-4(verso)**

## **File No.98**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*



**Dadash Mussa oghlu, aged 38, elder of Saadan Community, Davachi Precinct, Guba Uyezd, literate.**

I am the elder of Saadan Community that embraces four villages, i.e.: Saadan, Charkhaneh, Darazarat and Saghlyjan. All together the community includes 400 households located 4 versts away from the railroad bed. When Amazasp's unit placed in 9 echelons (railcars) and manned exclusively by Armenians was moving towards Guba, they attacked us and devastated all our villages, except for Saghlyjan. The latter one was looted but not burned. As for the three other villages, they were both looted and burned, so a lot of households were set afire. The mosque was burned down in Saadan village, as it was also the case in the village of Charkhaneh. Five persons were murdered, one woman among them, Shahnaz Ibrahimkhalil gyzy. Being sick, she was stabbed to death by a bayonet. Another person stabbed to death by bayonet was a sickly old man Garib Malik oghlu. The pogrom-makers were Armenians only, none of them familiar to me. The verdict on damages was already submitted by me. I have nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud and signed (in Arabic characters)

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.17-17(verso)**

**File No.99**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Najmaddin Ismayil oghlu, aged 39, elder of Alikhany Community, Davachi Precinct, Guba Uyezd, illiterate.**

I am the elder of Alykhanly Community embracing the following four villages: Alikhanly, Eyni-Bulagh, Kui-Bulagh and Gara, located 12 versts away from the railroad bed. The community comprises 240 households. After the Easter<sup>46</sup>, a punitive squad manned exclusively by Armenians, led by Amazasp and heading to Guba (the town

they set ablaze later), attacked our community. Three villages were looted and burned down completely. Only the village of Gara was spared. As far as Alikhanly, Eyni-Bulagh and Kui-Bulagh villages are concerned, even mosques were set on fire there, with Holy Qur'ans torn apart and burned. A piece of one of the Qur'ans desecrated remained and was presented by the community as an evidence. None of the Armenians is known to me. Only 2 persons were murdered, i.e. elder Mirza Mammad Dostali oghlu and his fellow-villager Gul-husseyh Maharram oghlu. They were sent as envoys to the Armenians with the request to spare the villages, however the Armenians killed them both. The reason that there were no casualties was because we all fled the villages in advance. The verdict on damages is hereby enclosed. I have nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud to the victim

Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.25-25(verso)**

## **File No.101**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Balaami Zulfugar oghlu, aged 46, elder of Siyazan Community, Davachi Precinct, Guba Uyezd, illiterate.**

I am the elder of Siyazan Community that includes three villages: Nardaran, Gara-Siyazan and Ag-Siyazan. The community comprised 250 households adjacent to the railroad. It was approximately mid-April this year, when armed Armenians arriving from Baku attacked our community and plundered it setting fire at a number of households, plundering personal assets of the villagers and murdering 17 residents. 10 more residents were killed in the exchange of fire, as we tried to resist, whereas another group of 10 was slain at the fields. The verdict on damages is attached. Nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud and signed  
Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov  
Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission  
**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.47-47(verso)**

## **File No.104**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba  
Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission  
established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following  
aggrieved person:*

**Mullah Seyfaddin Hidayat oghlu, aged 50, parish mullah of  
Gybla-Kreyz village, Mushkurd Precinct, Guba Uyezd.**

I am a parish mullah at Gybla-Kreyz Community, Mushkur Precinct, Guba Uyezd. Our community comprises 11 tiny villages totaling 200 households. The villages are located 5 versts away from the railroad. When the Armenian punitive unit led by Amazasp was moving from Baku to Guba, a part of this unit manned exclusively by Armenians under command of someone Nicolay, an Armenian, a lower station officer, attacked our community and devastated it completely. About 5 villages were burned, whereas others looted and personal assets plundered. Three mosques and two schools were burned to ashes. One of the mosques was located in the same building with the school. Together they cost 10 thousand rubles. About 10 persons were murdered by the Armenians. Verdicts on households looted and damages suffered were already submitted by us. I have nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud to and signed by the victim  
Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov  
Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission  
**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.77-77(verso)**

**File No.105**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Sheyda Shykhali oghlu, aged 45, elder of Garagurdlu Community, Mushkurk Precinct, Guba Uyezd, illiterate.**

I am the elder of Garagurdly Community comprising seven villages that before the devastation included 128 households with an overall population up to one thousand residents, men and women. The villages are located on both sides of the railroad. In late spring, this year, while the punitive squad manned only by Armenians was moving from Baku to Guba, it made assaults at the Muslim villages resulting in devastation, arson, plunder and murder of residents. It was this squad that attacked our community too. All our villages were burned almost to ashes, with only 5-6 houses surviving the pogrom. Even the mosque was set on fire and partially burned, whereas all personal assets were plundered completely. 7 remaining villagers unable to escape were killed to the very last person, some of them in the village, the others on the road. I already submitted information regarding the households burned, the scope of damage and the number of deaths. I have nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud to the victim

Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.88-88(verso)**

**File No.106**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following*

*aggrieved person:*

**Hajji Syiid Abdulkhalil Hajji Seyyidali oghlu, aged 70, resident of Seyyidler village, Mushkur Precinct, Guba Uyezd.**

The Guba Uyezd chief Alibey warned the residents of Muslim villages adjacent to the railroad about Armenian attacks and pogroms, so we succeeded in sheltering women and children beforehand and decided to meet the Armenians requesting them to spare our villages. However, once we got to know that the Armenians accept no envoys and a number of villages and Khudat station were left in ruins, we changed our mind. In Khudat station only, the Armenians burned down my 23 shops and a caravanserai. The total damage I suffered is no less than 100 thousand rubles. Seyyidler village managed to avoid the devastation. I have nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud to and signed by the victim (in Arabic characters)

Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.101-101(verso)**

## **File No.108**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Mammad Rasul Hammad oghlu, aged 43, resident of Shollar village, Mushkur Precinct, Guba Uyezd, illiterate.**

I am an honorable resident of Shollar village of Guba Uyezd. Our village is placed on the railroad bed, one verst away from Shollar Station. All together, the village includes 16 households with barns and storage facilities. While the Bolsheviks were attacking the villages adjacent to the railroad, we fled our residences leaving everything to the mercy of fate. Upon our return several days later we found our village totally devastated: houses, barns and several other villages were burned down, and personal assets plundered. We did not see the Bol-

sheviks, however those who happened to come across them say they were all Armenians, Jews, some Russians, but it were only Armenians who were setting the villages afire. In our village, the mosque was burned down too. No casualties though. The verdict on damages was already presented. I have nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud to the victim

Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.110-110(verso)**

## **File No.109**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Mastan Nasir oghlu, aged 41, elder of Lower Budug village, Mushkur Precinct, Guba Uyezd, illiterate.**

I am the elder of Lower Budug village. Our village is located 4 versts away from the railroad. The village has 120 households. While the Armenians were looting the town of Guba, part of their squad attacked our village. The Armenians killed three fellow-villagers of ours, plundered all personal assets and set several houses afire. No women or children were killed because we managed to evacuate them beforehand. Out of the Armenian attackers I can name no one personally, all I know is that they were from Amazasp's squad. The verdict on damages is pending.

Testimonies read out loud to the victim

Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.113-113(verso)**

**File No.110**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Hassan-bey Shykhlyarski, aged 40, resident of Shykhlyar village, Mushkur Precinct, Guba District, literate.**

In late April this year, a squad of Armenian troops led by Amazasp attacked our village on the way to Guba. Our village of Shykhlyar was razed to the ground. All households and constructions set ablaze and all personal assets plundered. Then the same unit leveled the residential area with a Bazar at Khachmaz Station. Here we had about a hundred constructions of various type, such as residential premises, shops, storehouses, barns, etc., all of them reduced to ashes. Besides our constructions, households and facilities of other people were also burned down. I cannot name any of the pogrom-makers, as these were the people from Amazasp's squad. By devastating Shykhlyar estate and Khachmaz railway station the Armenians inflicted me the detriment exceeding 2 million rubles in the exchange rate of the day. My Shykhlyar estate is a part of Krakli Community, whereas Shollar train station is incorporated into Garagurltly Community. Nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud to the victim (in Arabic characters)

Signed by: A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.118-118(verso)**

**File No.111**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Ulubey Kheyirbey oghlu, aged 50, honorary resident of Susay Village, Mushkur Precinct, Guba Uyezd, illiterate.**

I am advocating the interests of Susay residents. Our village is just half a verst away from the railroad bed. The village comprises 50 households. When the Armenians were on their way back to Baku after Guba's devastation, we fled our village. The village was then overtaken by the Armenians, and they stayed there unless the railroad was fixed. While in the village, they completely looted it, plundering all personal assets of the villagers and ultimately setting it on fire when they were leaving. 30 houses and the mosque were burned down. None of the residents was killed. Data on households burned and property stolen were already submitted by us. I have nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud to the victim

Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.130-130(verso)**

**File No.112**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Ibrahim Zahidov, aged 50, resident of Tarjal village Tarjal Community, District 6 Mirab Samborjagha, Gusar Precinct, literate.**

Our village is located high in the mountains, however many of us stay in the lowland both winter and summer, like 5 divisions in Mushkur Precinct and 3 divisions in Gusar Precinct. Due to the imminent danger from the Armenians in April this year, we evacuated our families and personal assets to the highland village of Tarjal leaving the guards in the main village for defense. The Armenians made several attempts to take over the village, however we opened fire at them. As a result, our community was never subject to devastation, neither was



it affected at all. Only one resident of ours was killed, and not even in the village but in the town of Guba. I have nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud and signed by I.Zahidov

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, l.16-16 (verso)**

## **File No.114**

### **Record of Examination**

*On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Riza Safarali oghlu, aged 45, elder of Mohuj Community, Mohuj village, Fethibey Precinct No.5, illiterate.**

I am an elder of Mohuj village, Fethibey Precinct No.5. Our community comprising 3 villages with the total of 170 households is 12 versts away from the town of Guba. This spring, the Armenians attempted to attack our village twice, both before the devastation of Guba and immediately afterwards, however we stood at our own defense and never let them in. All they managed to do is to steal the livestock and bullock carts located outside the village. Several persons were killed in the exchange of fire. Our village was saved, neither was it burned nor looted. I can name no one from the Armenian attackers as none of them was known to me personally. I have nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud to the victim

Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, l.96-96 (verso)**

**File No.120**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Omar Shykhkerim oghlu, aged 60, resident of Digah village, Alpan community, Fethibey Precinct No.5, Guba Uyezd, illiterate.**

Our village of Digah is located 5 versts away from Guba. When the Armenians devastated Guba for the second time, a large unit arrived at our village manned mainly by Armenians and some Jews. The residents fled the village, except for three old men and two old women who were killed. The Armenians and Jews set all houses in the village afire, only 2 or 3 were spared out of 84 households. The mosque and Qur'an were burned down too, personal assets plundered or made unusable. The Armenians devastated our village twice: first on their way to Gusar, whereas the second time on their way back. I came across some Jews from Guba in the unit, such as Danila son of Joav and others, whereas the Armenians were totally unknown to me. I have nothing to add to this.

Testimonies read out loud to the victim

Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, l.102-102 (verso)**

**File No.121**

**Record of Examination**

*On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1918, in Guba*

*Novatski, the member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission established by the Government of Azerbaijan, examined the following aggrieved person:*

**Beybala-bey Gayibov, aged 47, landlord of Alpan village, Alpan Community, Fethibey Precinct No.5, literate.**

I am the landlord of Alpan Community comprising 2 villages, i.e. Alpan and Digah, both 8 versts away from Guba. The total number of households in the Community is around 300. On May 1 this year, a punitive squad manned exclusively by Armenians and led by someone Amazasp arrived at the town of Guba. The next day, a part of this squad numbering about 500 attacked the village of Digah, got the cannons and machine guns gained by local residents from the Bolsheviks as trophy, plundered the livestock and other personal assets, set the village on fire and left. On the third day, they encircled the village of Alpan from three sides. The residents had fled beforehand. I also evacuated my family and stayed together with two servants (nukers). Faced with the Armenian attack, we still managed to break through and galloped away. In the course of chase the Armenians opened fire. The horse of one of my nukers was injured in the neck. An old man and woman incapable of fleeing with others left the village of Alpan to follow me, however both were slain by the Armenians. Besides these two, they killed four more persons in various places, plundered lots of livestock, personal assets, and setting fire at several households and the local mosque, the latter one nonetheless survived.

In our village, the Armenians trampled down one girl, Pusta Mammadbey gyzy, so she was unable to walk due to smashed legs. Her mother Imame who decided to stay with her was murdered. As Ghelovani, the former Commissar of Guba Uyezd, told me, the Armenians devastated the village of Digah because of an Armenian girl who had fallen in love with one Digah resident and escaped with him. As far as Alpan village is concerned, it was plundered with a view to neutralizing the place and preventing any possible support to the Muslims of Guba should they ever make a revolt. I personally met and talked to the injured girl Pusta who died 12 days after being wounded. As she recalled while alive, one Armenian told her that the reason of their atrocious treatment of the Muslims is because the Muslims do the same to them. I never happened to watch the squad from a close distance, so I had no chance to identify anyone personally. Neither can I say anything about the Russians or the Jews as part of the personnel. The damage inflicted to me by the Armenians includes personal assets, golden works and wheat that they burned. The total detriment is estimated at 150 thousand rubles in old exchange rate.

There is nothing I can add to this.

Testimonies read out loud to and signed by the victim

Translated and signed by E.Khanbudagov

Signed by A.Novatski, a member of the Commission

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, l.104-104(verso)**

### **File No.123**

**To: The Ad Hoc Investigation Commission**

**From: Hajjibaba Amiraslanov,  
Second Lieutenant of Russian Army**

### **Statement**

It is my honor to hereby advise the Commission that upon arriving at Khudat station, the Armenian punitive squad led by Amazasp burned to ashes the real estate owned by me and located at the station named above, i.e. the granary built of mud brick and covered by metal roof, with twenty-five train cars of wheat, agricultural tools and textiles inside. Besides this, my house of 4 rooms built of mud brick and roofed with metal was set ablaze with all household stuff and valuable carpets. My meat storage facility loaded with consignment was destroyed and the guard<sup>47</sup> Niftaly Gashum oghlu, a Persian national, killed.

The overall damage I suffered as a result of these actions is estimated at 200,000.00 (two hundred thousand) rubles. The evidence may be presented upon request.

Signed by Second Lieutenant Amiraslanov

December 24, 1918, Guba

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.111-111 (verso)**

**File No.125**

**To: The Ad Hoc Investigation Commission**

**From: Alibala Orujali oghlu,  
resident of Amsar village**

**Statement**

(compiled in the Azerbaijani language using Arabic characters)

The damage inflicted to me by the Armenians is estimated at 210,000.00 rubles.

The property destroyed includes a house with annexes (17 rooms in the upper floor, 5 shops in the lower floor, a bathhouse with 24 cabins, and the household stuff).

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.128**

**File No.132**

**To: The Ad Hoc Investigation Commission**

**From: Mirhamdullah Seyyidzakiyev, resident of  
Siyazan village, Davachi Precinct, Guba Uyezd,  
Baku Province**

**Petition**

It is my honor to advise the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission that the following personal assets of mine were plundered in the course of the March events at Kyzyl-Burun Station, Vladikavkaz Railroad: 100 sacks of flour, six horses, one three horses carriage, one covered wagon, 67 sacks of barley, one big samovar with a set of accessories, four carpets, three bed linen sets and all lumber stored at the station.

Signed by H.Zakiyev  
February 19, 1919, Baku

**Note:**

According to the examination records, estimated value of the property is 71,100.00 rubles.

Signed by A.Hajji-Irzayev<sup>48</sup>, the Commission member

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.181**

## ***Part II***

### ***Community Verdicts of Guba Uyezd Concerning the Damage Suffered***

## **Davachi Precinct**

**File No.135**

### **VERDICT**

December 5, 1918

**Davachi village**, Davachi Community, Davachi Precinct  
(the file compiled in the Azerbaijani language using the Arabic characters)

#### **Translation:**

We, the residents of Davachi village (Community and Precinct of the same name), Guba Uyezd, convened at the village gathering to discuss the issue of personal damages inflicted to each and every of us, and the houses and constructions set afire as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack on our village.

**Note:** assets burnt down or plundered (with estimated value):

1. Hajji Amrah Heybar oghlu: 2 houses with household stuff – 10,000 rubles
2. Aghagul Gyrykhar oghlu: a house with household stuff – 1,000 rubles
3. Kasym Allahverdi oghlu: a house with household stuff – 500 rubles
4. Youssir Pirmurad oghlu: a house with household stuff – 500 rubles
5. Khanbutay Alihusseyn oghlu: a house with household stuff – 1,000 rubles
6. Aghasabit Zal oghlu: a house with household stuff – 1,000 rubles
7. Mammadkarim Nadir oghlu: a house with household stuff – 1,000 rubles
8. Aghababa Allahyar oghlu: house, stable and household stuff – 4,000 rubles
9. Khudabar Mullah Baba oghlu: 3 houses, 3 stores with all assets inside – 20, 000 rubles
10. Malikhassan Malikhassan oghlu: house and household stuff – 5,000 rubles
11. Aliheydar Abdul oghlu: a house with household stuff – 3,000 rubles
12. Beydullah Azim oghlu: a house with household stuff – 3,000 rubles



13. Mammadali Saidali oghlu: 2 houses, 2 rick-yards (threshing barns) and household stuff – 15,000 rubles
14. Maharram Malik Mirza oghlu: household stuff – 3,000 rubles
15. Alimardan Samad oghlu: household robbed, personal assets stolen – 1,000 rubles
16. Hazratgulu Alimuhammad oghlu: household robbed, personal assets stolen – 3,000 rubles
17. Neymatullah Ahmad oghlu: 3 houses, 1 mill, barn, 3 lambs, household stuff – 15,000 rubles
18. Sheykh Mullah Said oghlu: a house with stone annex and household stuff – 7,000 rubles
19. Agha Firidun Mastan oghlu: 20 quarts of wheat stolen – 10,000 rubles
20. Pirgulu Hassan oghlu: a house with household stuff – 3,000 rubles
21. Salman Farman oghlu: 2 quarts of wheat with household stuff – 5,000 rubles
22. Malik Gurban oghlu: a house with household stuff – 3,000 rubles
23. Bayram Gulmammad oghlu: 2 houses with stone annexes and household stuff – 20,000 rubles
24. Hidayat Abbasgulu oghlu: 2 houses with stone annexes and household stuff – 10,000 rubles
25. Hajji Verdi Hajji Kazym oghlu: 3 houses, 2 barns, mills and household stuff – 50,000 rubles
26. Hajji Murad Shahverdi oghlu: 2 houses with stone annex and household stuff – 2,000 rubles
27. Eyvaz Shukur oghlu: 2 houses with stone annex and household stuff – 4,000 rubles
28. Shahbala Sarhar oghlu: 3 houses with stone annex and household stuff – 50,000 rubles
29. Nasraddin Najmaddin oghlu: 3 houses, a barn, a mill and household stuff burnt down, 2 buffaloes stolen – 30,000 rubles
30. Hajji Bahram Hajji Manaf oghlu: a mill burnt down, household stuff stolen: 5,000 rubles
31. Abubakr Nasraddin oghlu: a house, a barn and household stuff – 5,000 rubles
32. Maharram Muhammad oghlu: 2 houses with annexes and

- household stuff – 15,000 rubles
33. Mammadali nasraddin oghlu: a house with household stuff – 3,000 rubles
  34. Allahgulu Hajjibala oghlu: a house with household stuff burnt down, a cow stolen – 3,000 rubles
  35. Mehrali Sheyda oghlu: 2 houses with stone annexes and household stuff – 4,000 rubles
  36. Aliakbar Mirzamammad oghlu: a house, a stable and household stuff – 5,000 rubles
  37. Mammadkishi Kerim oghlu: a house, a rick-yard and household stuff – 3,000 rubles
  38. Balamirza Jabrayil oghlu: a house with an annex and household stuff – 15,000 rubles
  39. Ismayil Aghamirza oghlu: a house with an annex, a cab and household stuff – 10,000 rubles
  40. Muhammad Seyyidzal oghlu: a house with an annex and household stuff – 7,000 rubles
  41. Osman Baba oghlu: a house with an annex and household stuff – 6,000 rubles
  42. Gasym Mirali oghlu: household stuff and 2 quarts of wheat stolen – 3,000 rubles
  43. Hajji Husseyn Hajji Dilbar oghlu: a house, a mill, a stable and household stuff – 12,000 rubles
  44. Aliakbar Husseyngulu oghlu: household stuff stolen – 2,000 rubles
  45. Allahgulu Mammadtaghy oghlu: a house with stone annex, a rick-yard, personal assets plundered – 10,000 rubles
  46. Hajji Muhammad Pirgulu oghlu: a house a stable and household stuff – 4,000 rubles
  47. Khydyr Balabey oghlu: a house, a barn and household stuff – 5,000 rubles
  48. Alihedar Sardar oghlu: 2 houses with stone annexes and household stuff – 4,000 rubles
  49. Abdulrahim Mammad oghlu: basement burnt down, household stuff plundered – 3,000 rubles
  50. Heydar Husseyn oghlu: basement and rick-yard burnt down, household stuff stolen – 3,000 rubles
  51. Aghayar Salim oghlu: rick-yard burnt down, a cow stolen –

- 2,000 rubles
52. Amirahmad Genish oghlu: a house, a rick-yard and household stuff – 2,000 rubles
  53. Amiraslan Mammadali oghlu: a house, a rick-yard and household stuff – 3,000 rubles
  54. Yadigar Agharza oghlu: a house and household stuff – 2,000 rubles
  55. Khanbaba Sardar oghlu: basement and stable burnt down, household stuff stolen – 3,000 rubles
  56. Bayram Ismayil oghlu: a house burnt down, 2 buffaloes and household stuff stolen – 10,000 rubles
  57. Hamza Nabir oghlu: a house burnt down, household stuff stolen – 3,000 rubles
  58. Allahverdi Nurmammad oghlu: 2 houses, a rick-yard and household stuff – 6,000 rubles
  59. Sultan Sadykh oghlu: 2 houses with stone annex and household stuff – 8,000 rubles
  60. Dolat Balabey oghlu: 2 houses, a rick-yard and household stuff burnt down, 4 quarts of wheat stolen – 10,000 rubles
  61. Turab Iskandar oghlu: 2 houses and a rick-yard burnt down, household stuff stolen – 7,000 rubles
  62. Ibrahim Khaliq oghlu: 3 houses and a rick-yard – 5,000 rubles
  63. Aghakerim Nasrullah oghlu: a house, a stable and household stuff – 5,000 rubles
  64. Mikayil Adil oghlu: 2 houses, a rick-yard and household stuff – 7,000 rubles
  65. Abas Nazar oghlu: a cow and household stuff stolen – 1,000 rubles
  66. Roustam Alimammad oghlu: household stuff stolen – 1,100 rubles
  67. Mammadali Kamil oghlu: household stuff – 1,000 rubles
  68. Aghabala Shakir oghlu: a 4-room house with stone annex and household stuff – 2,000 rubles
  69. Aghababa Mir-Muhammad oghlu: household stuff – 1,100 rubles
  70. Aghali Mehrali oghlu: household stuff – 1,000 rubles
  71. Mirzamammad Abbasgulu oghlu: a house with household stuff – 3,000 rubles

72. Nadir Velimammad oghlu: a basement and a rick-yard – 1,000 rubles
  73. Alimammad Yahya oghlu: a house with annex and household stuff – 3,000 rubles
  74. Gurban Aziz oghlu: household stuff stolen – 1,000 rubles
  75. Aghababa Rahim oghlu: household stuff stolen – 1,000 rubles
  76. Ali Alibey oghlu: household stuff stolen – 1,000 rubles
  77. Zeynal Heybat oghlu: household stuff and 20 quarts of wheat stolen – 10,000 rubles
  78. Suleyman Muhammad oghlu: household stuff and 20 quarts of wheat stolen – 20,000 rubles
  79. Nuraddin Ali oghlu: household stuff stolen – 2,000 rubles
  80. Soltan Amiraslan oghlu: household stuff stolen – 2,000 rubles
  81. Yeldar Muhammad oghlu – household stuff stolen – 1,000 rubles
  82. Agharahim Rustam oghlu: household stuff stolen – 1,000 rubles
  83. Dusti Mirzali oghlu: a house with stone annex robbed – 2,000 rubles
  84. Sardar Samad oghlu – 5 quarts of wheat stolen – 4,000 rubles
  85. Hassan Talyb oghlu – a horse and household stuff stolen – 3,000 rubles
  86. Islam Islam oghlu – a house with stone annex and rick-yard burnt down – 5,000 rubles
  87. Mursal Musa oghlu – 3 houses with annexes burnt down – 5,000 rubles
- 2 mosques set ablaze with all assessories inside** – 300,000 rubles

Signed and sealed by the village elder

**Note: Davachi village:**

Number of households: 200

Number of residents: 1080

Total damage: 649,000 rubles

Constructions burned: 88 houses, 55 constructions, 2 mosques

Assets plundered: 68 quarts of wheat, 2 horses, 4 buffaloes, 2 cows and all household stuff

Death toll: 16 men

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, ll.5-8**

## **File No.137**

### **Death Toll of Davachi Village**

The following persons were murdered by the Armenians in Davachi village:

1. Alibala Farzali oghlu, aged 30
2. Ali Gambar oghlu, aged 80
3. Mammad Shykhpolad oghlu, aged 40
4. Hamza Galib oghlu, aged 25
5. Hojja Hojja oghlu, aged 20
6. Amirgulu Meshadi Khanbat oghlu, aged 20
7. Bayali Khydyr oghlu, aged 40
8. Meshadi Hanifa Aghayar oghlu, aged 18
9. Meshadi Mukhtar Bayram oghlu, aged 50
10. Meshadi Assadullah Aghakishi oghlu, aged 40
11. Kerbalai Riza Taghy oghlu, aged 30
12. Gulamhusseyn Taghy oghlu, aged 35
13. Javad Bayram oghlu, aged 50
14. Zulfugar Zulfugar oghlu, aged 40
15. Mullah Aziz Mullah Mustafa oghlu
16. Dedemustafa Gulahmad oghlu

Signed and sealed by the village elder

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, ll.15-16**

## **File No.138**

### **Summary of the damages inflicted, Davachi village, Guba Uyezd**

1. 200 households and above 1000 residents prior to the devastation
2. Residential premises and constructions burnt down:  
644, 4 mosques, the magistrate, the prison
3. Death toll: 40 men
4. 697 poods of wheat stolen
5. Total damage: 7,779,320.00 rubles

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.17**

## **Mushkur Precinct**

**File No.174**

### **VERDICT**

December 15, 1918

Shikhlyar village, Kragly Community, Mushkur Precinct, Guba Uyezd (the file compiled in the Azerbaijani language using the Arabic characters)

#### **Translation:**

We, the residents of Shikhlyar village, Kragly Community, Mushkur Precinct, Guba Uyezd, convened at the village gathering to discuss the issue of personal damages inflicted to each and every of us, and the houses and constructions set afire as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack on our village.

**Note:** assets burnt down or plundered (with estimated value):

1. Ibrahimkhalil Mammad oghlu: a house, household stuff, 11 horses – 150,000 rubles
2. Youssif Seyyidomar oghlu: 2 houses with annexes, 9 quarts of grain, 1 saddled horse, 10 sazhen of firewood (1 sazhen = 2,34 meters), 15 beehives – 213,500 rubles
3. Sadar Muzaffar oghlu: a house with annexes, household stuff, a saddled horse, 10 sazhen of firewood, 17 quarts of grain (wheat) – 95,000 rubles
4. Adygezal Osman oghlu: a rick-yard, a stable and household stuff – 55,000 rubles
5. Jabbar Muhammad oghlu: a house with annexes and household stuff – 70,000 rubles
6. Moustafa Mullah Mammad oghlu: a house and household stuff – 10,000 rubles
7. Youssif Nasrullah oghlu: a house – 2,000 rubles
8. Mullah Nuraddin Mullah Hajji Murad oghlu: a house with annexes, household stuff and a rick-yard – 12,000 rubles
9. Moustafabey Aghabey oghlu: a house with annexes, household stuff, 6 horses, 3 heads of cattle, 30 beehives, 8 quarts of wheat – 200,000 rubles
10. Harunbey Zalbey oghlu: a house with annexes and household stuff – 50,000 rubles

11. Moussabey Seyyidrzabey oghlu: a house with annexes and household stuff – 100,000 rubles
  12. Mammadkhanbey Seyyidrzabey oghlu: 2 houses with annexes, household stuff and 37 quarts of wheat – 150,000 rubles
  13. Husseynbey Seyyidrzabey oghlu: a house with annexes and household stuff – 50,000 rubles
  14. Rasulbey Seyyidrzabey oghlu: a house with annexes and household stuff – 50,000 rubles
  15. Hassanbey Ahmadkhanbey oghlu: 6 houses with annexes, household stuff, a mill, 27 stores, a caravanserai and 1 train car of wheat – 1,500,000 rubles
- Signed and sealed by the village elder

### **Summary of Damage**

Shykhlyar village, Kragly Communtiy, Mushkur Precinct, Guba Uyezd

1. Burnt down: 58 houses and other constructions.
2. Stolen: 1935 poods of wheat, 20 sazhen of firewood, 45 beehives, 21 heads of cattle

Total damage: 2,638,500 rubles

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, ll.119-119 (verso), 121-121 (verso)**

### **File No.175**

### **The List**

**of residents of Kragly village, Kragly Community, Mushkur Precinct, murdered by the Armenians or passing away from diseases in refuge**

December 14, 1918, Kragly village

1. Balaknum Novruz gyzy, aged 70 (passed away from disease)
2. Muhammad Rasulbey oghlu, aged 2 (disease)
3. Dursun Osman gyzy, aged 25 (disease)
4. Sheykh Balasheykh oghlu, aged 20 (disease)
5. Mumina Jafarbey gyzy, aged 24 (disease)

6. Melek Musabay gyzy, aged 2 (disease)
7. Musluma Ismayil gyzy, aged 40 (disease)
8. Jabbar Mammad oghlu, aged 35, and his 4 children (killed by the Armenians)
9. Baba Kerim oghlu, aged 35 (killed by the Armenians)
10. Badal Dadash oghlu, aged 35 (killed by the Armenians)
11. Narkhanum Ahmad gyzy, aged 25 (killed by the Armenians)
12. Gyzkhanum Osman gyzy, aged 30 (killed by the Armenians)
13. Novruz Mammadali oghlu, aged 30 (disease)
14. Nubar Rahim gyzy, aged 20 (disease)
15. Piroghlan Assad oghlu, aged 30 (disease)
16. Shamil Baba oghlu, aged 25 (disease)
17. Pirnaz Abdulla gyzy, aged 15 (disease)
18. Khanym Bakhysh gyzy, aged 30 (disease)
19. Badir Muradfazil gyzy, aged 35 (disease)
20. Sarnaz Khanamir gyzy, aged 34 (disease)
21. Asila Turab gyzy, aged 25 (disease)
22. Muhammad Majid oghlu, aged 18 (disease)
23. Husniya Novruz gyzy, aged 40 (disease)
24. Ahmad Pahlavan oghlu, aged 9 (disease)
25. Muhammad Majid oghlu, aged 8 (disease)

### **Summary for Kragly village, Kragly Community, Mushkur Precinct**

1. Persons passing away from diseases: 20 (8 men and 12 women)
  2. Persons killed by the Armenians: 9 (3 men, 2 women and 4 children)
- Signed and sealed by the village elder

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, l.120**

### **File No.176**

#### **Summary of Damages Khachmaz Community, Guba Uyezd**

1. Number of murdered persons: 222
2. Number of persons passing away from diseases: 24
3. Constructions burned down: 1 mosque and 270 residential premises and other structures



4. Assets stolen 351 poods of grain (wheat, barley, rice), household stuff, 6 sazhen of hay, 11 beehives, 10,006 rubles in cash, 1 agricultural tool, 5 wagons, 300 planks, 82 sazhen of firewood.
  5. Livestock stolen: 193 heads of cattle and 366 heads of sheep
- TOTAL DAMAGE: 3,363,200 rubles

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.97, ll.122-126 (verso)**

## ***Gusar Precinct***

**File No.208**

### **VERDICT**

December 13, 1918

**Khural** village, Avaran Community, Gusar Precinct, Guba Uyezd (the file compiled in the Azerbaijani language using the Arabic characters)

#### **Translation:**

We, the residents of Khural village, Avaran Community, Gusar Precinct, Guba Uyezd, convened at the village gathering to discuss the issue of personal damages inflicted to each and every of us, and the houses and constructions set afire as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack on our village.

**Note:** The Death Toll of Khural Village, Avaran Community, Gusar Precinct:

The number of persons murdered:10

1. Malik Badal oghlu
2. Sarkar Mehdi oghlu
3. Kamil Hajji Amirbey oghlu
4. Hashim Beshavet oghlu
5. Nuraddin Eyvaz oghlu
6. Nurali GAflan oghlu
7. Abdurahman Shanali oghlu
8. Gubad Alim oghlu
9. Alikhan Jalal oghlu
10. Eyyub Badal oghlu

Signed and sealed by the elder of Avaran Community

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, l.7**

**File No.229**

**VERDICT**

December 13, 1918

**Ashaghy Legher (Lower Legher)** village, Ashaghy Leger Community, Gusar Precinct, Guba Uyezd

(the file compiled in the Azerbaijani language using the Arabic characters)

**Translation:**

We, the residents of Ashaghy Legher village, Ashaghy Legher Community, Gusar Precinct, Guba Uyezd, convened at the village gathering to discuss the issue of personal damages inflicted to each and every of us, and the houses and constructions set afire as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack on our village.

**Note:** people killed, assets plundered and burned down by the Armenians

1. Muslum Mirzabey oghlu: 296 poods of grain (wheat), 1 cow and household stuff – 11,875 rubles
2. Iskandar Dondarov: 100 heads of sheep, 140 poods of grain and 3 heads of cattle – 16,050 rubles
3. Talib Tavuz oghlu: 351 poods of grain – 12,616 rubles
4. Hajji Zaki Mirzabey oghlu: 30 poods of grain, 1 cow and household stuff – 2,050 rubles
5. Safar Sunar oghlu: 20 heads of sheep – 2,000 rubles
6. Choban Sheyda oghlu **wounded and robbed:** 15 heads of sheep, 1 cow and household stuff – 8,950 rubles
7. Shahnamaz Gazy oghlu: 250 poods of grain and 1 buffalo – 27,000 rubles
8. Gazy Kheirbey oghlu: 25 poods of grain and 1 buffalo – 4,250 rubles
9. Tahmaz Selim oghlu: 38 poods of wheat and 2 cows – 8,700 rubles
10. Muradkhan Ahmadkhan oghlu **wounded and robbed:** 2 horses, 1 wagon, 25 poods of wheat, 2 cows and household stuff – 39,700 rubles
11. Gulmammad Zeynal oghlu **murdered and robbed:** 1 horse, 650 rubles cash and 280 poods of grain – 16,150 rubles

12. Hajji Murad Sheydabey oghlu **murdered and robbed**: 1 cow, 10 poods of barley, 1 rifle and 200 rubles cash – 1,950 rubles
13. Aghabala Bagish oghlu **robbed, his 2 daughters died in refuge**: 30 heads of sheep, 2 buffaloes – 12,500 rubles
14. Hajjibala Bakhish oghlu **robbed**: 2,900 rubles
15. Rasul Seyyid oghlu **robbed**: 6,900 rubles
16. Novruzbey Seyyid oghlu **robbed**: 1,600 rubles
17. Ziyad Hajji Butay oghlu **wounded and robbed**: 14,550 rubles
18. Baghyr Gahraman oghlu, aged 20 **murdered and robbed**: 10,450 rubles
19. Shirin Bekir oghlu **murdered and robbed**: 9,800 rubles
20. Allahyar Sheykh Habib oghlu, aged 60 **murdered and robbed**: 12,800 rubles
21. Mullah Shahpalang Davud oghlu **murdered and robbed**: 12,800 rubles  
Signed and sealed by Hajji Alibaba Efendi oghlu, the elder of Asahghy Legher Community  
**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, ll.65-66**

### ***Fethibey Precinct No.5***

**File No.239**

#### **VERDICT**

December 14, 1918

(the file compiled in the Azerbaijani language using the Arabic characters)

#### ***Translation:***

We, the residents of Amsar village, Fethibey Precinct No.5, Guba Uyezd, convened at the village gathering to discuss the issue of personal damages inflicted to each and every of us, and the houses and constructions set afire as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack on our village.

#### ***Death toll: 6 persons, 1 wounded***

1. Gurbanali Gurban: a two-floor house – 24,000 rubles
2. Hajji Agbala – killed
3. Mahammadali Bekdemir – killed

4. Jevanshir Eyyub – killed
  5. Jamal Dashdemir – killed
  6. Orujali Hajji Yahya – wounded
  7. Ramazan Eyyub – killed and robbed: 2 buffaloes and personal assets – 6,000 rubles
  8. Maharram Agbala – killed and robbed: 2 buffaloes and personal assets – 6,000 rubles
  9. Sultanmajid Muhammad – robbed: household stuff, 10 poods of sugar, 30 pounds of tea and cash – 30,000 rubles
- Total damage: 66,000 rubles  
Certified and sealed by Aghabala, the Amsar village elder  
Distance from the town of Guba; 4,5 versts  
**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, l.110**

### **File No.249**

#### **VERDICT**

December 15, 1918, Digah village, Alpan Community

We, the residents of **Digah** village, Fethibey Precinct No.5t, Guba Uyezd, convened at the village gathering to discuss the issue of personal damages inflicted to each and every of us, and the houses and constructions set afire and persons affected as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack on our village.

The Mosque was attacked, **16 men and 3 women slaughtered**

Persons affected with assets burned down or plundered:

1. Ibrahimkhalil Aghasi oghlu: a house with annexes and household stuff, 70 poods of wheat and barley – 300,000 rubles
2. Mullah Aziz Assad oghlu: a house with annexes and household stuff – 15,000 rubles

The list continued

The **public mosque**, a 3-storeyed construction with iron roof and valuable assets inside, including Holy Qur'ans in golden binding, was devastated. The damage estimated at 500,000 rubles.

#### **Death Toll:**

- Nezar Bedal oghlu (committed suicide)
- Ziyad Omidkhan oghlu (suicide)

- Muhammadali Amirahmad oghlu
  - Jabar Gurban oghlu
  - Muhammad Amirkhan oghlu
  - Idris Kabash oghlu
  - Mirzabey Jafar oghlu
  - Velibey Kazym oghlu
  - Chelebi Gubad oghlu
  - Shamsaddin Najmaddin oghlu
  - Khanbaba Gurban oghlu
  - Aliusman Abduljamil oghlu
  - Mirza Aghakishi oghlu
  - Aziz Aghakishi oghlu
  - Amirahmad Mingal oghlu
  - Habil Gani oghlu
  - Hazri Kabir gyzy
  - Gulhanum Gurban gyzy
  - Aghakhanum Nurmuhammad gyzy
- Total damage inflicted to Alpan: 2,213,055 rubles  
Certified by the Alpan village elder  
Distance from the town of Guba: 7 versts
- Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, ll.122-125(verso)**

### ***Rustov Precinct***

**File No.258**

#### **VERDICT**

December 14, 1918

**Rustov** village, Rustov Precinct, Guba Uyezd  
(the file compiled in the Azerbaijani language using the Arabic characters)

#### **Translation:**

We, the residents of Rustov village, Rustov Precinct, Guba Uyezd, convened at the village gathering to compile the list of local residents murdered as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack on our village.

**Note:** 5 men and 1 woman were killed by the Armenians:

1. Moustafa Hajji Issa oghlu, aged 40

2. Mehdi Muslum oghlu, aged 25
3. Kamaladdin Turab oghlu, aged 25
4. Jamal Dashdamir oghlu, aged 25
5. Sheykhmurad Hajji oghlu, aged 17
6. Bulbul Muhammad gyzy, aged 50

Signed by 100 village residents

Signed and sealed by the elder of Rustov Community,  
Guba Uyezd

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, ll.149-149(verso)**

### **File No.263**

#### **VERDICT**

December 14, 1918

**Nudin (Novdun)** village, Rustov Precinct, Guba Uyezd  
(the file compiled in the Azerbaijani language using the Arabic characters)

#### **Translation:**

We, the residents of Novdun village, Rustov Precinct, Guba Uyezd, convened at the village gathering to compile the list of local residents murdered as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack on our village.

**Note:** 7 men were killed by the Armenians:

1. Almas Hajjibaba oghlu, aged 40
2. Aslan Gurban oghlu, aged 30
3. Islam Youssif oghlu, aged 35
4. Murad Hajji Javad oghlu, aged 24
5. Kerem Kafiya oghlu, aged 50
6. Ramazan Najaf oghlu, aged 30
7. Hajji Seyfaddin Molla Shahabeddin oghlu, aged 40

Signed by 60 village residents

Signed and sealed by Issaazim Hajji oghlu, the elder of  
Novdin Community.

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, ll.154-154(verso)**

**File No.264**

**VERDICT**

December 14, 1918

**Zargova** village, Rustov Precinct, Guba Uyezd

(the file compiled in the Azerbaijani language using the Arabic characters)

**Translation:**

We, the residents of Zargova village, Rustov Precinct, Guba Uyezd, convened at the village gathering to compile the list of local residents murdered as a result of the Armenian gangs' attack on our village.

**Note: 10 men were killed** and **1 wounded** by the Armenians:

1. Hajji Pirverdi Sheikhverdi oghlu, aged 70
2. Talyb Hajji Pirverdi oghlu, aged 18
3. Novruzali Veli oghlu, aged 50
4. Nasir Novruzali oghlu, aged 17
5. Asgarali Orujali oghlu, aged 25
6. Mehrali Mursal oghlu, aged 36
7. Aliakbar Zarbali oghlu, aged 20
8. Shaban Mursali oghlu, aged 30
9. Alipasha Maharram oghlu, aged 40
10. Sardar Shamil oghlu, aged 32
11. Balaali Agharahim oghlu, aged 24 – wounded and recovered

Signed by 40 village residents

Signed and sealed by the elder of Zargova Community,  
Guba Uyezd

**Reference: SARA, f.1061, op.1, d.98, ll.155-155(verso)**

## Comments

<sup>1</sup>**Ad Hoc Investigation Commission (AHIC)** was established following the Decree by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan on July 15, 1918 with a view to investigating the facts of violence towards the Muslim population and its assets all over Transcaucasia as of the beginning of WW1. Initially subordinate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it was then operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Justice. The AHIC was chaired by Alakbar-bey Khasmammadov. Initially manned by 7 employees, the Commission enjoyed the support of prosecution and judiciary officers of Baku, and Ganja. The Commission comprised officers of varying ethnic origin, such as Poles, Russians, Germans, a Lithuanian Tatar, as well as trained Azerbaijani lawyers, graduates of various Russian universities.

During the period of its existence since July 15, 1918 to November 1, 1918, the AHIC succeeded in collecting 36 volumes or 3500 pages of files. 6 volumes out of them dealt with violent acts towards the Muslim population in the city of Baku and its surroundings. Other volumes of the investigation testify of the atrocious crimes committed by the Armenian militants in Shemakha, Guba, Geokchay, Nukha and Jevat Uyezds, as well in Ganja, Garabagh, Zangazur and elsewhere in Azerbaijan. Pursuant to the Decree by the Government of Azerbaijan issued on March 1919, the AHIC was vested with greater authorities to include judicial and investigation powers.

Activities of the AHIC resulted in 128 reports and draft resolutions on criminal proceedings against 194 persons charged with various criminal offences. With reduction of the scope of AHIC's activities, certain Commission members were dispensed from their duties within the Commission and resumed their usual jobs. The AHIC was officially dissolved on November 1, 1919 upon completion of the mission it was entrusted with by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, A.Khasmammadov and C.V.Klossovski continued their efforts within the AHIC till late January 1920 passing over the files of investigation to the national public prosecution and judicial agencies. Based on these files, criminal cases were instituted against 24 persons with the identity confirmed by the Commission, charged with the involvement in the Baku events of 1918, and about 100 persons linked to the events in Shemakha the same year. Some of the persons accused were detained whereas the others declared wanted.

Following the adoption of the Pardon Law by the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan on February 9, 1920 with Azerbaijan's de-facto recognition by the Supreme Council of Allied States, all criminal offences instituted due to ethnic hostilities, as well as those "emerging in the course of proceedings held by the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission" were cancelled. Some of the cases instituted by the AHIC were cancelled by the judicial authorities of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan pursuant to the same Pardon Law of February 9, 1920.

<sup>2</sup>**Hajjinski Mammadhassan Jafargulu oghlu** (1875-1913), a renowned political figure and active participant of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, graduate of non-classical secondary school in Baku and the Petersburg Institute of Technology, an engineer at Shamsi Asadullayev's oil refinery in Moscow. In 1908,



M.Hajjinski headed the Construction Division at the Baku Town Council. One of the organizers of *Hummet*, the Muslim social-democratic organization in 1904, and *Neshr Maarif* educational association in 1906, a member of Nijat Muslim educational society and the Central Committee of the *Muslim Charitable Association*. As a member of *Mussavat* Party, M.Hajjinski joined the Baku Voluntary Associations' Council established on March 5, 1917 and was then elected the Chairman to the Provisional Committee at the *Baku Muslim Voluntary Associations Council*. Hajjinski was actively involved in the Congress of the Caucasus Muslims (April 1917, Baku) and the Congress of Russia's Muslims (May 1917, Moscow). He was elected a member of *Mussavat* Party's Central Committee at the Party's first congress in October 1917. Deputy Commissar of Commerce and Industry at the Transcaucasia Commissariat established on November 15, 1917, Hajjinski was elected to the Russian Constituent Assembly. As a member of *the Trans-Caucasian Seim* from *Mussavat* Party, Hajjinski was holding the post of the Minister of Trade and Industry in the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Transcaucasia. Meanwhile, he was a member of the Azerbaijani National Council that adopted the Act on Azerbaijan's Independence on May 27, 1918. The Minister of Foreign Affairs in the First and Second Cabinets of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, he was in the meantime heading the Ministry of Control until October 6, 1918, and the Ministry of Finance after October 6. As a member of Parliament of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, Hajjinski was with the *Mussavat* group. He was included in the Azerbaijani delegation to the Paris Peace Conference. The Minister of Internal Affairs as of December 24, 1919, and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Food since February 20, 1920, Hajjinski was commissioned by the Parliament to form a new Cabinet of Ministers on March 30, 1920. On April 22, 1920, however, he reported the legislature of the impossibility to form a new Cabinet and of his resignation from *Mussavat* Party and accession to the *Bolshevik* Party. Upon collapse of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan and establishment of the Soviet regime, Hajjinski held a number of high-ranking positions at the Council of National Economy (*Sovnatkhoz*) of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan and the Trans-Caucasian State Planning Committee (*Gosplan*). Subject to political repression as of the 1930's, M.Hajjinski was arrested in Tbilisi on December 3, 1930 and charged with the involvement in the activities of the so-called Azerbaijani National Center. Failing to withstand torture and illtreatment, Hajjinski committed a suicide on February 9, 1931.

<sup>3</sup>**Khasmammadov Alakbar-bey Hajjibaba oghlu** (1870-1925), a recognized state and public figure of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan (1918-1920), a graduate of Moscow University, lawyer and legal expert by training and attorney at law by occupation, he was the elder brother of another renowned public figure of the First Republic, Khalil-bey Khasmammadov. A member of the Ganja Muslim Charitable Association and the Central Committee of *Difai* Party, A.Khasmammadov was chairing the *Ad Hoc Investigation Committee* at the Government of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan as of July 15, 1918. Since February 24, 1918 he was also the Chairman of the Azerbaijani Judicial Chamber. In May 1920, A.Khasmammadov was employed by the judicial authorities of the People's Commissariat of Justice, the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan. On June 7, 1920, he was appointed the District People's Judge in charge for grave crimes. In 1925, A.Khasmammadov was executed by the Soviet authorities.

<sup>4</sup>**Shahmaliyev Ismayil-bey Nasrulla-bey oghlu** (1883-?), a lawyer, a Titular Councilor and a graduate of classical school in Tiflis (Tbilisi, class 1908) and the Law School at Novorossiysk University. The career started on February 10, 1909 as a junior nominee to judicial positions at the 1<sup>st</sup> Criminal Division, the Tiflis Judicial Chamber. On February 1, 1910, I.Shahmaliyev was transferred to Yelisavethpol where during 1910-1911 he served as provincial secretary and senior nominee to judicial positions at the District Court of Yelisavethpol, chief of the 4<sup>th</sup> Investigation Precinct and the Lyaki Investigation Precinct of Yelisavethpol Uyezd. In September 1911, I.Shahmaliyev resigned to resume the public service in June 1913 when he was appointed a special missions officer at the Public Chamber in Erivan. As of February 16, 1914, he became the assistant tax assessor at Nakhchivan Section, Erivan Province. Since April 16, 1914 to 1915, he served an assistant book-keeper, chief of the Purchase Division, Secretary and the special mission officer at the Chamber. Since 1916, I.Shahmaliyev was appointed to the position of the senior assistant to of tax assessor at Nakhchivan Section, and tax assessor of Zagatala District in January 1917. On August 26, 1918, I.Shahmaliyev became the member of Ganja District Court. Earlier on, in July that year, he was introduced to the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission to operate in the investigation groups examining cases of devastation of Shemakha and Geychay Uyezds of Baku Province, and uyezds of Yelisavethpol Province. On May 1, 1919, I.Shahmaliyev was dismissed from responsibilities of the AHIC member due to decrease of the workload. On March 19, 1919, he was assigned the Military Investigator of the Azerbaijani Tribunal. During the Soviet period, I.Shahmaliyev was dealing with legal practice in Ganja and then Baku, enjoying the membership in the Legal Activists Bar at the People's Commissariat of Justice. In 1938, I.Shahmaliyev became the victim of Stalin repressions. Charged with anti-Soviet activities, he got 10 years of imprisonment and never returned from the penitentiary.

<sup>5</sup>**Novatski Adrey-Climenty Fomich** (1866-?), a lawyer and a Court Counselor of Polish descent, a graduate of Warsaw University. In 1903-1903 Assistant Peace Judge, Shemakha Division, Baku District Court, also heading Maraza and Basqal Investigation Precincts. Since February 1907 until January 1908, A.Novatski was the chief of the 1<sup>st</sup> Baku Municipal Investigation Precinct, whereas in 1908-1918 he was holding the post of Assistant Justice of the Peace at the 4<sup>th</sup> Peace Division, the Magistrate of Tiflis. In February 1918, following a new assignment, A.Novatski became the member of the Baku District Court. In July 1918, he was introduced to the Ad hoc Investigation Commission to become one of the most active AHIC participants by heading the investigation teams examining cases bound with the devastation of Shemakha and Guba Uyezds and partaking in other AHIC investigation teams. Novatski was drafting majority of the AHIC resolutions summarizing outcomes of investigative activities conducted in various regions of Azerbaijan plundered by the Armenian ultranationalists. On April 1, 1919, A.Novatski was included in the panel of the District Court of Baku. As of May 1920, he was employed by the judicial authorities within the People's Commissariat of Justice in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan. The assignments included the position of Secretary of the People's Justice Alakbar-bey Khasmammadov. Further destiny unknown.

**6Safikurdski Nasraddin-bey Aghalar-bey oghlu** (1884-?), a lawyer, a Collegiate Secretary, a graduate of the Law School at Petrograd University, started career on February 6, 1912 as a junior nominee to judicial positions at the District Court of Yelisavethpol. Further appointments included criminal and civil departments, the Provincial Secretary as of March 18, 1913, and the senior nominee for judicial positions at the District Court of Yelisavethpol as of October 17, 1913. Since November 1918, N.Safikurdski was appointed the Assistant Investigator of the town of Yelisavethpol (Ganja). In various periods, N.Safikurdski was heading the 1<sup>st</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 5th Municipal Investigation Precincts, as well as the Magistrate Court Precinct in Dzegam, Yelisavethpol Uyezd. He was also the Acting Deputy Justice of the Peace at the Municipal Department, Yelisavethpol. On December 11, 1917, Safikurdski was appointed the Deputy Public Prosecutor at the District Court of Yelisavethpol. In June 1918 he was introduced to the first group of experts at the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission (AHIC) to be discharged in September that year following his own motion and due to family circumstances. As of January 18, 1919, Safikurdski was holding position of the Deputy Military Public Prosecutor at the Azerbaijani Tribunal, whereas as of February 26 that year the Public Prosecutor at the District Court of Ganja. Further destiny unknown.

**7Mikhaylov Nicolay Mikhaylovich** (1867-1920), a lawyer, a Councilor of State of Russian descent, a graduate of the School of Law at Kharkov University. Career started in 1892-1893 at the Criminal Division of the District Court of Erivan. Subsequent positions included Assistant Secretary and the Secretary in various district courts, the Justice of the Peace, the investigator, the head of *zemstvo* (elective district council) and a member of the provincial offices for settlement issues at the judicial bodies of Tbilisi District (1893-1894) Shemakha Division and Baku District (1894-1896), Yekaterinodar District (1896-1898), Kutaisi District (1898-1899), Novouzski Uyezd (1899-1900) and the town of Gori (1900-1902). On June 12, 1902, he was appointed the officer for special missions at the Department of Agriculture and Public Property in Yelizavetpol Province. Subsequent positions included a member of the Yelizavetpol Provincial Office for Settlement Issues as of December 5, 1903, and the Honorary Justice for the Peace at Yelizavetpol District Court since February 21, 1908. In February 1913, following a new assignment, Novatski became a member of the Kutaisi Provincial Office for Peasant Issues. On October 14, 1916, he was appointed the Deputy Chief of Kara-Kilis District at the Office of Governor General for the provinces of Turkey annexed pursuant to the law of war. The Deputy Chief of Appi District as of March 22, 1917, Mikhaylov was assigned a member of the Yelizavetpol Provincial Office for Settlement Issues on December 30, 1917. Following his next assignment on February 17, 1919, he became a member of the Baku District Court to be then transferred to the District Court of Ganja on June 10, 1919. In July 1918, N.M.Mikhaylov was included in the Ad Hoc Investigation Committee. As one of AHIC's most active and energetic members, he was supervising investigation teams examining cases bound with massacres in Shemakha and Goychay Uyezds of Baku Province, as well as the uyezds of Yelizavetpol Province. Upon dissolution of the AHIC in November 1919, N.M.Mikhaylov was particularly commended by the Commission's Chairman "for selfless and fruitful input in the Commission's efforts".

On November 25, 1919, N.M.Mikhaylov was resumed his direct duties in the District Court of Ganja. His untimely death from a stray bullet at home during the Ganja Revolt in late May 1920 was tragic indeed.

<sup>8</sup>**W.W.Goodwill**, the Chairman of Magistrates' Council, a Full (Real) Councilor of the State, a member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission during September 1 to October 27, 1918, discharged from the AHIC due to being appointed the legal adviser at the Ministry of Finance. During the first years of the Soviet rule W.W.Goodwill was employed by the judicial authorities of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan. Further destiny unknown.

<sup>9</sup>**Khoyski Fatali-khan Iskandar-khan oghlu** (1875-1920), an outstanding statesman and public figure. His father, General-Lieutenant Iskandar-khan Khoyski, originally from the town of Khoy in South Azerbaijan, was one of descendants of Jafargulu-khan, the Khan (Duke) of Sheki. Graduate of classical school in Ganja (Yelizavetpol) and the School of Law at Moscow University with the first degree diploma (class of 1897), F.Khoyski was serving in District Courts of Ganja and Kutaisi. As assistant Chairman of the Magistrate's Court in Zugdidi, he got the rank of Titular Councilor. The Head of Municipal Precinct No.3 (1903) and Deputy Public Prosecutor at the District Court of Yekaterinodar, he got the rank of Collegiate Assessor in 1904. On February 20, 1907, Khoyski was elected to the 2<sup>nd</sup> State Duma (Russia's Legislation) from Yelizavetpol Province. Upon dissolution of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duma, he returned to Ganja and was admitted to the Jury of the Yelizavetpol Court, the Supreme Judicial Court of Tiflis. In 1913, F.Khoyski moved to Baku to continue his career as a juriman at the District Court of Baku. After the February Revolution in 1917, he was elected the Chairman of the Baku City Council (Duma). In February 1918, he was elected to the Trans-Caucasian Seim to hold the position of the Minister of Public Education of the Federal Republic of Transcaucasia as of April 22, 1918. He was a member of the Azerbaijani National Council that passed the Act on Independence of Azerbaijan on May 27, 1918, so F.Khoyski was elected the head of the first government of Azerbaijan to hold the posts of the Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs in the first Cabinet of Ministers, and the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice in the second Cabinet. Following decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan established on December 7, 1918, Khoyski formed the third government whereby he was holding two positions, i.e. the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Upon the Government's resignation on February 25, 1919, he continued performing his duties until the forth government chaired by N.Youssifbeyli was formed on April 14, 1919. In the new Government, F.Khoyski was involved in addressing various political, economic and financial issues and was actively involved in preparation and holding the Caucasian Conference on the settlement of border disputes among the region's states. Since December 22, 1919 to April 28, 1920, F.Khoyski was the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the fifth Cabinet of Ministers led by N.Youssifbeyli. Upon the downfall of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, F.Khoyski secretly left for Tiflis (Tbilisi) where on June 19, 1920, he was assassinated by an Armenian terrorist killer.

<sup>10</sup>**Alibeyov Aliabbas-bey Hajji Niftaly oghlu** (1870-1937), a recognized figure in Guba in the 1910-1930's, born to a noble family, graduate of the 2-year municipal school in Guba, a low-ranking judiciary officer in Guba during the Czar

administration and the Assistant Secretary at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Peace Court Precinct in Baku. Upon his return to Guba in early 1918, A.Alibeyov was elected the head of local municipal administration, a position he held until Azerbaijan's takeover by the Soviet troops in 1920. During the events of April-May 1918 in Guba, A.Alibeyov remained in town entering into negotiations with Amazasp, the leader of the Armenian armed units, and trying to support his fellow townsfolk wherever he could. Meanwhile, Alibeyov was actively involved in putting up military resistance to the Armenian squads as well. He was also very cooperative with the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission dealing with the events of 1918 in Guba. Arrested almost immediately upon the Soviet takeover, A.Alibeyov became subject to complete expropriation, however he was released soon. In 1929, as a "former kulak" (a well-to-do peasant), he was disfranchised; however he succeeded in gaining rehabilitation a month and a half later. Consequently, A.Alibeyov was a practicing lawyer and a member of the Advocates' Bar in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan. He had undergone all clearances at the local People's Commissariat for Justice. Nonetheless, on August 6, 1937, Alibeyov was arrested by the Guba District Department of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) and charged with anti-Soviet propaganda. While in custody, Alibeyov never pled guilty. On August 26, 1937, he was found guilty by the Special Three Judges Panel (Troyka) of the Azerbaijani NKVD and sentenced to death. Acquitted posthumously.

<sup>11</sup>**Khanbudagov Eyyub-bey Shirin-bey oghlu** (1893-1937), born in Ganja where he got his initial education. As a graduate of the maritime school in Baku he was serving in a passenger vessel. During the period of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, E.Khanbudagov was employed by the Ministry of Justice, hence he was providing interpretation services to the AHIC in the course of investigation of the devastation of the town of Guba and villages of Guba Uyezd. During the Soviet period, E.Khanbudagov succeeded in making a meteoric career indeed. Since October 19, 1920 until February 19, 1921, he was holding the position of the Chairman of the Azerbaijani Extraordinary Commission (Cheka). In 1921, following Nariman Narimanov's recommendation, he was elected the chairman of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party. Upon the graduation from the Moscow Academy, he was seconded to the Soviet Federal Socialist Republic of Transcaucasia where until 1936, he was holding the position of Deputy People's Commissar for Light Industry and Deputy People's Commissar for Domestic Trade. Upon the dissolution of the SFSRT in 1936, Khanbudagov was holding the post of the Deputy Chairman of *Azerittifaq* (Customer Cooperation Union). On December 19, 1936, he was arrested by the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs and charged with nationalism. On July 23, 1937, following the resolution of the extraordinary meeting at the NKVD of the USSR, Khanbudagov was sentenced first to 5 years of imprisonment and then to capital punishment pursuant to the resolution of the Military Board at the USSR Supreme Court passed by an assize on October 12, 1937. On December 26, 1957, E.Khanbudagov was acquitted following the Resolution by the USSR Supreme Court.

<sup>12</sup>**Zizikski Ali-bey Harun-bey oghlu** (1876-1929), one of the activists of the national liberation movement during the period of the Democratic Republic

of Azerbaijan, a member of the Azerbaijani Parliament, a former military officer of the Czarist Army, owner of vast landed estates, a representative of the Guba nobility and a recognized public figure in Guba appointed the Guba Uyezd Commissar after the February Revolution of 1917. During this period, A.Zizikski was supportive to Mirjafar Baghirov nominating him to the position of the commissar of Guba's Section 2 and then his personal aide. Actively involved in the Uyezd's public and political life, A.Zizikski was one of the founders of *Ittihad* Party's outlet in Guba. After the March events of 1918 in Baku and Shemakha Uyezd, A.Zizikski's units together with squads of Najmuddin Gotsinski from Daghestan advanced to Baku and got engaged in battles with the Bolshevik and Dashnak troops in Baku's outskirts of Khyrdalan. However, faced with largely outnumbering Red Army forces Zizikski and Gotsinski were forced to retreat. The same units of A.Zizikski were involved in Guba's initial liberation from the Bolshevik and Dashnak squads led by D.Ghelovani in mid-April 1918. During the repeated assault on Guba by Amazasp's troops, Zizikski's units were engaged in warfare at Guba environs trying to prevent the Armenian forces to the Uyezd's other large settlements. A.Zizikski was never questioned by the AHIC investigation teams. During the period of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, Colonel Zizikski was appointed the Deputy Capital City Governor. Majority of his units were incorporated into the newly-established National Army. A.Zizikski was also elected to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan from Guba Uyezd where he represented the faction of *Ittihad* Party. He was elected into the Central Committee of *Ittihad* during the Party's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Congresses in April 1919 and January 1920 respectively. Upon the Soviet takeover of Azerbaijan in April 1920, A.Zizikski was actively involved in military resistance to the new regime. Suppression of the resistance forced him to hide in Ardabil (Iran) for a while. He could only repatriate in 1923 with the support of M.Baghirov, the then Chairman of the Extraordinary Commission (Cheka). Granted legalization, A.Zizikski resided in Baku. In December 1926, however, he was arrested, charged with anti-Soviet activities and executed by the Soviet authorities in September 1929.

<sup>13</sup>**Khoyski Amiraslan Jahanghir-khan oghlu** (1888-1954), an active participant of the national liberation movement in Azerbaijan, the elder brother of Prime Minister Fatali-Khan Khoyski. During the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan (May 1918 to April 1920), A.Khoyski performed the duties of the First Deputy Governor of Baku, the Governor of Ganja Uyezd, the Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge for Gazakh Uyezd, and the Governor of Guba Uyezd. One of the masterminds of the anti-Soviet Ganja revolt in May 1920, A.Khoyski emigrated to Turkey with the revolt's suppression.

<sup>14</sup>**Ghelovani David Alexandrovich** (1888-1919), one of the key figures in the Guba events of 1918, a Georgian Prince by birth, and a Social Democrat by political views. Arrested for his political activities, Ghelovani was exiled to Siberia by the Czarist authorities. Released after the February Revolution, he traveled to the Caucasus in early 1918 and ended up in Baku to be employed as a militiaman by Japaridze. In mid-April 1918 with a 200-strong squad, Ghelovani arrived in Guba where he launched an ultimatum to the local population regarding their compliance with the Soviet power. Once the ultimatum was accepted, Ghelovani proclaimed himself the

Uyezd Commissar. ( days later, Ghelovani's squad was forced to retreat from Guba attacked by the Lezghin units. In the course of retreat, majority of Guba's Christian population was forcedly evacuated from the town, some of those evacuated were killed in the exchange of fire. In response to that, a 2000-strong squad led by Amazasp attacked Guba committing pogroms of the local Muslim population both in town and in 167 villages of Guba Uyezd. Ghelovani was examined twice by the Ad Hoc Investigation Committee, however he was not found guilty. Upon demise of the Soviet regime, he stayed in Baku employed by the Inspectorate of Labor at the Government of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan. In 1919 he was assassinated by an ethnic Armenian, Sarkis Teruntz.

<sup>15</sup>**Srvantsyan Amazasp** (1873-1921), a former Russian Army officer, a member of *Dashnaktsutyun* Party and a zealous ultranationalist. Born in Van, Ottoman Empire, he got involved in the nationalist and terrorist movement since the very early age. Fearful of the crackdown by the Turkish authorities, he fled to Erivan and then Shusha making himself known for massacring Turkish and Azerbaijani civilians in 1905-1907. Arrested together with a group of Dashnaktsutyun activists, he was sentenced to 15 years of exile in Siberia by the Czarist authorities in 1908. In 1913, he succeeded in escaping the prison and moving first to Europe and then to Istanbul in 1914. During WW1, Amazasp was heading the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armenian Voluntary Brigade. In 1915, during the battles in Van, Bitlis and Khizan, Amazasp's troops were actively involved in mass extermination of the local Turkish and Azerbaijani population. In 1917 he was appointed the commander of police units in Alashkert District, Russia. In early 1918, Amazasp arrived in Baku to take command of the Armenian military units. A member of the Armenian National Council and the commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Red Army Brigade, A.Srvantsyan was masterminding attacks by the Armenian armed units on civilian Muslim population in Baku and Azerbaijani countryside areas. In late April – May 1918, he was behind the carnage of the Muslim population in Guba. While Amazasp presented himself as 'a hero of the Armenian nation and advocate of its interests', the punitive squad he led was particularly notorious for its atrocities. Meanwhile, in the face of advancing troops of the Caucasus Islamic Army that set Baku free on September 15, 1918, Amazasp defected and fled to Persia leaving his troops in the field. Once WW1 was over, he returned to Armenia and was appointed the Army commander in Nor Bayazet. Upon Armenia's takeover by the Soviet troops, he was arrested and slain by the Armenian communists in prison.

<sup>16</sup>**The number of villages affected** in Guba Uyezd was not precise as shown in the document. According to the AHIC files, at least 167 villages were affected in the area the course of events of April-May 1918.

<sup>17</sup>**Typos were found in the names of villages of Guba Uyezd**

<sup>18</sup>**The number of people injured and killed** in the course of the events in Guba Uyezd was not precise in the document. According to the rosters presented by village elders, 580 persons were killed and 55 persons injured as a result of pogroms of the Muslim population in April-May 1918. 781 more residents passed away from shock, starvation and diseases while hiding in forests and mountains.

<sup>19</sup>**This figure**, as it was mentioned in Novatski's report, implies the total damage inflicted by the Armenian militants to the villages of Guba Uyezd only. The document

makes no provisions on the total loss of the town of Guba equal to 63,703,760.00 rubles.

<sup>20</sup>**Shaumyan Stepan Georgiyevich** (1878-1918), a notorious Bolshevik activist, a member of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party (RSDWP) as of 1900, elected the Chairman of the Baku Soviet of Workers Deputies in March 1917 in absentia, editor-in-chief of the Bolshevik newspapers like *Bakinski Rabochy* and *Social Democrat*. In early October 1917, Shaumyan headed the First Congress of the Trans-Caucasian Bolshevik Organizations during which the tactics of local Bolsheviks in their fight for power. In December 1917, following the resolution passed by the Soviet of People's Commissars of the Soviet Socialist Federal Republic of Russia, Shaumyan was appointed the Commissar Extraordinary of Transcaucasia to be promoted to the position of the Chairman of the Baku Soviet of People's Commissars. During the March events in Baku, 1918, Shaumyan was personally guiding the Bolshevik and Armenian armed forces engaged in mass extermination of the Azerbaijani population in Baku and its environs, as well as urban and rural areas far beyond. It was Shaumyan who initiated the mission by Amazasp's units in Guba Uyezd in late April, 1918. The units were engaged in massacres and atrocities towards the Muslim population. Upon collapse of the Soviet regime in Baku in July 1918, S.Shaumyan was arrested by the Central Caspian Dictatorship government to be then executed among the 26 Baku Commissars in Trans-Caspian desert by the Social Revolutionary (*Eser*) government of the Trans-Caspian area and the British Military on September 20, 1918.

<sup>21</sup>**Korganov (Korganyan) Grigory Nikonovich** (1886-1918), an influential figure among the Bolsheviks actively involved in the formation of revolutionary armed squads in the Caucasus in the aftermath of the February Revolution of 1917. During the events of March 1918, Korganov was in charge of the Bolshevik and Dashnaksutyun dominated Red Army brigades' military raids in Baku's Muslim neighborhoods. The raids resulted in atrocious carnage of the Azerbaijani civilians. The People's Commissar for military and naval affairs at the Baku Soviet of People's Commissars as of April 1918, Korganov together with Shaumyan was the one who passed decision to dispatch Amazasp's units to Guba. The punitive raid resulted in massacre of the local Muslim population. One of the driving forces in resisting the Turkish and Azerbaijani troops advancing towards Baku, Korganov was among the 26 Baku Commissars executed in September 1918.

<sup>22</sup>**Dashnaksutyun (the Union)**, the Armenian bourgeois nationalist party incorporated in Tiflis (Tbilisi) in 1890 with various groups of the Armenian bourgeoisie as power base and S.Zavaryan, S.Zoryan (Rostom), Mikaelyan and others acting as founders. The party's major objective, as stated in the constituent documents was based of the idea of liberation of the Turkish Armenians and the foundation of an Armenian state in the territory of Turkey. To accomplish this goal, all forms of struggle were considered admissible including violence and terrorism. During World War 1, the party was supportive of the militaristic policy pursued by the Czarist administration through forming voluntary armed units to act under command of Russian Caucasian Front. In 1914-1918, activists of *Dashnaksutyun* were operating as Russia's agents of influence in Ottoman Turkey. Advocating the idea of liberation of the Turkish Armenians and formation of 'a common single homeland' for the Rus-



sian and Turkish Armenians, the party leaders, through armed revolts and terrorist attacks were planning to create to establish an autonomous state of the Greater Armenia stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to the Caspian Sea and embracing territories of neighboring states like Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. After the October Revolution of 1917, *Dashnaktsutyun* activists were involved in the foundation of the Trans-Caucasian Commissariat and the Trans-Caucasian Seim. The party's Baku outlet had its own Central Committee and *Vpered* newspaper published in Russian. Out of 50 members of the Armenian National Council founded in Baku in March 1917, 17 were representing *Dashnaktsutyun* Party. While the Baku Commune's power was established, *Dashnaktsutyun* activists entered made an alliance with the Baku Soviet led by S.Shaumyan to be jointly involved in the massacre of the civilian Muslim population in Baku, Shemakha and other places in Azerbaijan during the events of March 1918. With demise of the Transcucasian state in May 1918, the party activists formed and headed the Government of Armenia. In the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, *Dashnaktsutyun* had a fraction in the Azerbaijani Parliament, although the party's overall influence was significantly weakened. In Armenia, *Dashnaktsutyun* was the party in power since May 1918 to November 1920. Upon the Soviet takeover of Armenia, the party went underground, with major activists emigrating.

<sup>23</sup>**The Shemakha events** broke out almost at the same time with the events in Baku on March 30(12), 1918 when the pogroms occurred all over Shamakha Uyezd. The whole Muslim part of Shemakha was scorched out by Select squads led by Stepan Lalayev, Tatevos Amirov and others scorched out the whole Muslim section of Shemakha together with all Azerbaijani households in the Armenian neighborhood, all mosques with people sheltered there and all commercial and civil outlets owned by the Azerbaijanis. The pogroms also spread on the villages of Shemakha Uyezd where 72 Azerbaijani settlements were plundered and devastated and the number of death toll reached 7 thousand persons, including 1653 women and 965 children. Surviving Azerbaijani residents were forced to flee.

<sup>24</sup>**Alexandrovich (Litovski) Aley Adamovich** (1882-?), a lawyer, a Lithuanian Tatar by ethnic origin, admitted to the bar of the Judicial Court in Vilno on December 21, 1913. As of September 1919, an attorney at law in District Court Chamber of Azerbaijan. Following recommendation by Mammad-Khan Tekinski, A.Alexandrovich was included into the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission to serve in the AHIC Baku team as the officer in charge for the Commission's correspondence. With no official employment by public services he served at the AHIC until the dissolution of the Commission in November 1919. In early Soviet years, Alexandrovich was a member of the Investigation Commission at the Supreme Tribunal. No further information available.

<sup>25</sup>**The comment made in the Soviet period**

<sup>26</sup>**Jafarov Mammadyoussif Hajjibala oghlu** (1885-1938), a recognized public figure and statesman of his time, one of the founding fathers of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, Deputy Chairman of the Azerbaijani Parliament, graduate of the high school in Baku and the School of Law at the University of Moscow, member of the 4<sup>th</sup> State Duma (the Russian legislature), the Special Trans-Caucasian Commit-

tee (OZAKOM) established by the Provisional Government in the aftermath of the February Revolution in Russia, active participant of the Congress of the Caucasus Muslims (April 15-20, 1917, Baku), the Commissar for Trade at the Trans-Caucasian Commissariat, member of the Muslim fraction in the Trans-Caucasian Seim, introduced to the Executive Committee at the Provisional National Council chaired by M.Rasulzadeh, one of the members of the Azerbaijani National Council adopting the Act on Independence of Azerbaijan on May 27, 1918, Azerbaijan's diplomatic envoy to Georgia (June 1918 to March 1919), the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the 4<sup>th</sup> Cabinet of the Azerbaijani Government. In February-April 1920, the First Deputy Chairman of the Azerbaijani Parliament. Upon the Soviet takeover, M.Jafarov was employed as a legal adviser at various public offices. Passed away in Baku in 1938.

<sup>27</sup>**Vekilov Mammadagha Moustafaagha oghlu** (1862-1941), a recognized public figure and educator, born in Salakhly village, Gazakh Uyezd, graduate of the Gori Seminary (class 1883), a rural teacher in Kutaisi Uyezd, and then a faculty member at his alma mater, the Gori Seminary. The following employments included interpreter in the rank of the Councilor of the State at the Military Governorship of Kutaisi, and in the rank of civil collegiate assessor at the Office of the Caucasian Vice-Roy, at the Special Division of the Department of National and Military Affairs. M.Vekilov was a member of the delegation of the Turko-Muslim peoples of the Caucasus at the Armenian-Muslim negotiations initiated by the Caucasian Vice-Roy Vorontsov on February 20, 1906. Since 1912, he was Board Manager of the Muslim Charitable Association of the Caucasus, also involved in teaching at various training institutions throughout the whole period of WW1. In 1918-1920, M.Vekilov served as the Chief of the Office of the Azerbaijani Parliament. In the early years of the Soviet period M.Vekilov was the professor at a girls' seminary. M.Vekilov passed away in Baku in 1941.

<sup>28</sup>**Error in year.** Correct date 1921

<sup>29</sup>**The Shollar Water Supply System**, constructed following incentive and with partial financial support of Hajji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev, a highly recognized Azerbaijani oil magnate and philanthropist. In 1899, Taghiyev invited a William Lindley, a renowned engineer from Frankfurt on the Main, with extensive experience of similar projects in Europe. After substantial survey, Lindley succeeded in discovering numerous and abundant artesian wells in the village of Shollar, in the vicinity of Guba. The reservoir discovered was sufficient for supplying Baku with potable water. In 1904, the resolution on the construction of the water supply system was passed with both the provincial authorities and the City Council involved, however it was not after late 1909 when the Council of Ministers of Russian Empire issued bonds with 5 per cent of interest for the total sum of 27 million rubles to fund the construction of Baku's water supply system. Upon the project's approval, the first stage of construction was launched. Significant contributions to the project were provided by local oil tycoons following H.Z.Taghiyev's incentive. Construction of the 175-kilometer-long Shollar waterline buried in the ground and built of clay pipes was completed in late 1916. The commissioning ceremony took place in January 1917.

<sup>30</sup>**Novruz Bayram**, the Spring Holiday, also known as the new year in a number of Eurasian countries, celebrated on the day of vernal equinox (March 21) and enjoying the status of national holiday in Albania, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, India, Iran, Macedonia, Turkey and Uzbekistan, as well as in Kazakhstan (March 21-23), Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. As a local festivity *Novriz* is celebrated in Tatarstan, Bashkortostan and some other autonomies of Russian Federation.

<sup>31</sup>**The Baku Events**, i.e. events of March 1918 in Baku and its environs where by 12 thousand civilians (Azerbaijanis in their overwhelming majority) were massacred within 3 days (March 30 to April 2) in the course of pogroms perpetrated by the Bolshevik and Armenian units partially supported by the local Armenian population. Dozens of thousands households in the Muslim neighborhoods, Azerbaijani owned industrial, social and commercial facilities, as well as a number of cultural and spiritual shrines were set ablaze. The damage inflicted to the city's Muslim population was estimated at several hundreds millions rubles.

<sup>32</sup>**1905** implies the armed conflict that broke out as of February that year in Baku between the city's Armenian and Muslim (i.e. Azerbaijani) communities and gradually evolved into an Armenian-Muslim confrontation and massacre all over the Transcaucasia. The clash resulted in the devastation of 158 Azerbaijani and 128 Armenian residential areas in Baku, Tiflis, Erivan, Shusha, Zangazur, Nakhchivan, Ordubad, Echmiadzin, Javanshir, Gazakh and other locations.

<sup>33</sup>**Manuylov Matvey Alexandrovich**, Assistant Justice of the Peace, Head of the Investigation Precinct of Guba Uyezd, one of the officials who stayed in Guba during the retreat of Ghelovani's units, diskissed on July 1, 1918 pursuant to the resolution of the Government of Azerbaijan passed on June 24, 1918. No further information available.

<sup>34</sup>**Baghirov (i.e. Baghirov Mirjafar Abbas oghlu)** (1895-1956), a well-known Azerbaijani statesman, the head of special services and the government of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan, the First Secretary of the Azerbaijani Communist Party in 1933-1953, the Candidate to the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Born to a peasant family in Guba, Baghirov was a teacher at a rural school. His life records of 1917-1918 are quire contradictive. According to Baghirov's claims, he joined the Bolshevik (Communist) Party in 1917 to become the deputy chairman of the Guba Revolutionary Committee. However, it is generally known that at that particular time he was heading militia in the Second (Jewish) Section of the town of Guba, and then the assistant of the Uyezd Commissar subordinate to the Transcaucasian Seim. Meanwhile, back in March 1918, he was referred to as a Bolshevik cooperating with Ghelovani and Amazasp in a number of the AHIC files related to the Guba events which, as Baghirov confessed, he got involved in beyond his will. It may be assumed that the telegram regarding Amazasp's atrocities he sent to Japaridze, played a certain role in ending pogroms of the Muslim population of Guba Uyezd. Upon his departure from Guba in 1918, Baghirov joined the Bolshvik party and in 1919, under S.M.Kirov's guidance, he took part in the suppression of the uprising in Astrakhan. He only got back to Azerbaijan after the Soviet regime was established there. In 1920, the positions he held varied from the Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of Garabagh region to the Mili-

tary Commissar of the Azerbaijani infantry division and the Chairman of Military Tribunal of the 11<sup>th</sup> Red Army. In 1921-1930, Baghirov was heading the Azerbaijani Extraordinary Commission (Cheka), the Main Political Division (GPU), the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs. He was also holding position of Deputy Chairman of Council of People's Commissars (the Soviet name for the Cabinet of Ministers) of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan (except for the period of 1927-1929 when he was involved in purely economic activities) to be promoted to the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars in 1932. On December 15, 1933 M.Baghirov was elected the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan and the Baku Municipal Committee of the Communist Party. By 1940, dozens of thousands Azerbaijanis were executed in the course of the Stalin purges conducted by M.Baghirov in Azerbaijan. A member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in 1937-1953 (nominated in 1934), probationary member of the Presidium of the Central Committee (the top Communist Party elite) as since March 6 to July 7, 1953, Baghirov was also holding the post of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan in April-August 1953. Upon Beria's arrest at the Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in July 1953, despite the long-time friendship, Baghirov cracked down on Beria. Nonetheless, on March 13, 1954, following the resolution of the Committee of the Party Control at the Central Committee of the CPSU he was read out of the Party and eased out of the membership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. Arrest followed immediately. On April 26, 1956, M.Baghirov was sentenced to death found guilty in 'the violation of socialist legality' and complicity with Beria. The Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee upheld this verdict on May 7, 1956. The appeal for pardon was dismissed by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on May 12, 1956. The sentence was executed on May 26, 1956.

<sup>35</sup>**Estman Eduard Lyudvigovich**, Assistant Justice of the Peace, Head of the Investigation Precinct of Guba Uyezd, one of the officials who stayed in Guba during the retreat of Ghelovani's units, dismissed on July 1, 1918 pursuant to the resolution of the Government of Azerbaijan passed on June 24, 1918. No further information available.

<sup>36</sup>**Japaridze Prokopy (Alesha) Apraxionovich** (1880-1918), a recognized Bolshevik activist, a member of the Baku Committee of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party and the Baku Soviet of Workers and Soldiers Deputies. In July 1917, Japaridze was delegated to the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of RSRWP from the Baku Bolshevik outlet. In September 1917, he was managing the general strike of Baku's oil industry workers. Since December 1917, Japaridze became the Deputy Chairman of the Baku Soviet's Executive Committee, promoted to the position of the Chairman as of January 1918. In March 1918, Japaridze was introduced to the the Committee of Revolutionary Defense, the supreme military and political body of the Bolshevik Party. While supporting the fight of the Bolshevik and Dashnaksutyun alliance against the Azerbaijani national forces, Japaridze nonetheless took certain steps to prevent the bloodshed and massacre of the civilian Muslim population. Upon demise of the Soviet regime in Baku in July 1918 he was arrested by the government

of Central Caspian Dictatorship and was one of the 26 Baku Commissars by the Socialist Revolutionary (*Esser*) Trans-Caspian Government on September 20, 1918.

<sup>37</sup>**Azizbeyov Meshadi Azim-bey oghlu** (1876-1918), a renowned revolutionary and Bolshevik, one of the Baku Commissars born to a family of a stone mason. A member of the Russian Social-Democratic Working Party as of 1898 and a graduate of the Petersburg Institute of Technology (class 1908), Azizbeyov was actively involved in the Revolution of 1905-1907. One of the leaders of *Hummet* social-democratic group, he was elected a member of the Baku Soviet in 1917 and then the Chairman of the Bureau of the Baku Muslim Socialist Parties on April 5, 1917. On April 15-20 that year, he took part in the 1<sup>st</sup> Muslim Congress of the Caucasus. A member of the Bureau of Propagandists and Agitators at the Baku Committee of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party of Bolsheviks as of April 23, he was holding the position of the Provincial Commissar and Deputy People's Commissar for Internal Affairs at the Baku Council of People's Commissars. Arrested after the downfall of the Soviet regime, M.Azizbeyov was executed in the group of the 26 Baku Commissars.

<sup>38</sup>**I.e. David Ghelovani**

<sup>39</sup>**The term applies to the Iranian nationals** of Azerbaijani descent migrating en masse to the Caucasus from the Azerbaijani-populated regions of Iran in search for work.

<sup>40</sup>**Shariah**, a code of legal, moral, ethical and religious regulations in Islam effecting a significant part in the lives of practicing Muslims and postulated as 'eternal and unchangeable' divine adjudgement, one of confessional forms of religious law. Shariah emerged at the Caliphate back in the 7-12<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D. Based on the provisions of Qur'an, Sunna and Fikh, it also encompasses elements of the constitutional, civil and criminal, administrative, family and procedural law, as well as ethical and behavioral codes of conduct with no significant subdivision. At the moment, the Maliki, the Khanbali, the Khanafi and the Shafii constitute the four major Sunni schools of Shariah. In previous periods, the Zahiri was another prevalent school.

<sup>41</sup>**Sunni**, the largest denomination in Islam, its adherents supporting the divine origin of the Holy Qur'an and the messianic mission of Muhammad the Prophet, however, unlike the Shiites, believing that the supreme power in the Caliphate shall be vested with the Caliphs elected by the whole community. Serious discrepancies in-between the two leading schools also exist in legal approaches to certain issues, nature of fests, attitude towards adherents of different faiths, praying rituals, etc.

<sup>42</sup>**Shi'a**, the second largest denomination in Islam, its adherents also supporting the divine origin of the Holy Qur'an and the messianic mission of Muhammad the Prophet, however, contrary to the Sunni they believe that the supreme power in the Caliphate shall be vested not with elected Caliphs but the Imams, the chosen descendants of the Prophet, i.e. Ali ibn Abu Talib and his posterity from Fatima, the daughter of Muhammad the Prophet.

<sup>43</sup>**Tekinski Mammadkhan** (1880-1938), a public figure of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, lawyer by training, attorney at law by occupation, ethnic Turkman rescued and adopted by Colonel of Russian Army Ehsan-khan Nakhchivanski in 1881 during the Russian-Turkman clashes in Geytepe following the storm of Ahal-

Tekin Fortress. Graduate of the First Boys' Classical School in Tiflis (class of 1901). Off-on studies continued in 1901-1908 at the Physics & Mathematics School and the School of Law, Novorossiysk University. Career started with the employment in judiciary bodies at various places all over the South Caucasus, Baku included. Tekinski was well received in the Azerbaijani elite. In September 1918, while holding the position of an attorney at law, he was introduced to the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission. As an AHIC member, he was operating in the team investigating the events of March 1918 in Baku and its environs, as well as in Shemakha. In the absence of A.Khasmammadov, Tekinski was performing the duties of the Chairman of AHIC. Since January 29 until October 10, 1919 he served as the diplomatic representative of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan in Armenia, whereas since October 11, 1919 until April 28, 1920 he was holding the post of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. Upon Azerbaijan's takeover by the Soviets, Tekinski was employed by the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan. As of 1922, he joined the Board of Advocates at the People's Commissariat of Justice. Dismissed from the Board in January 1926, he used to work as a lawyer in various Soviet public offices. On November 18, 1937, M.Tekinski was arrested by the state security agencies at the Azerbaijani NKVD charged with membership in a counter-revolutionary nationalist insurgent terrorist organization. He pleaded not guilty. Nonetheless, on March 15, 1938, Tekinski was sentenced to capital punishment by *Special Troyka* (a panel of three prosecutors). The sentence was enforced during the night on March 21-22, 1938. Exoneration granted in 1955.

<sup>44</sup>**Klugge Alexander Yevgenyevich** (1879-1919), a lawyer, a Collegiate Assessor of German origin, graduate of the School of Law at Novorossiysk University. In 1903-1906 Klugge was holding various positions at the Judicial Court in Tiflis (Tbilisi), since June 2, 1906 to 1907, Assistant Justice for the Peace at the Alexandropol Division, the District Court of Erivan, In January-November 1908, the head of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Investigation Precinct, Bambak Investigation & Peace Precinct, Alexandropol Uyezd. Following the new assignment on November 17, 1908, Klugge became an acting inquisitor at the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct, the District Court of Vitebsk, Poletsk Uyezd. On December 8, 1908 A.Klugge was appointed the Deputy Public Prosecutor at the District Court of Baku, a position he retained up until his death. In June 1918 he became a member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission to partake in an investigation team examining the events of March 1918 in Baku and its environs, as well as in Shemakha. During A.Khasmammadov's absence, Klugge assumed the duties of the AHIC Chairman. Released from his obligations at the AHIC on May 8, 1919 due to decreasing scope of work, A.Klugge resumed his direct duties of the Deputy Public Prosecutor at the District Court of Baku. Here he passed away from typhoid fever on October 29, 1919.

<sup>45</sup>**Lists of Damages** inflicted to local residents were presented to the AHIC by representatives of all four precincts of the town.

<sup>46</sup>**Easter**, one of the oldest Christian and Jewish religious feasts and the major event of the ecclesiastical calendar. Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on this day, however due to the specificities of the solunar calendar, the exact date of Easter is shifting every year. In the Jewish tradition, Passover is the central

festivity commemorating the Exodus from Egypt. It starts on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the spring month of Nissan and is celebrated for 7 subsequent days within Israel and 8 days outside Israel.

<sup>47</sup>**This implies** the ethnic Azeri Turks, originating from Iran and migrating en masse from the Azerbaijani-populated areas of Iran to the Caucasus looking for jobs.

<sup>48</sup>**Hajji-Irzayev Abbasali-bey**, a lawyer by training, never employed in public service, a member of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission at the Government of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan as of January 27, 1919, downsized due to the Commission's decreasing workload on May 1, 1919. No further information available.

## **INDEX**

### **of Administrative Units and Place Names**

- Adjiakhur** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the Community under the same name, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit in Gusar District.
- Afruja** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Rustov, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gilyazy rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Agharahim Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Djek Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gamylyshlaq rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Aghasibeyli** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Tagay Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; no village under this name exists at the moment.
- Agh-Yazy (Aghyazy Buduq)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Buduq Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Hajjialibey rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Alibey Qyshlaq** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Nizhi Khuch Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Vladimirovka rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Alibey Qyshlaq (also known as Hajji Alibey Qyshlaq, Hajjialibey)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Hajji Gayyib Qyshlaq Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Hajjialibey rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.



- Alik (Nizhni Alik)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Nizhni Alik Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the same name rural administrative unit of Guba District.
- Alikhanly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; no village under this name exists at the moment.
- Alpan** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit of Guba District.
- Amirkhanly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Andrey-Abad** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Aygulu Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; no village under this name exists at the moment.
- Anykh (Anyq)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into same name Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Arab  
(Arab Keymuraz)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Charkhy Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Kalagan rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Arab  
(also known as Arab Hajji Arab Babashly)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Jagatay Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at the moment.

- Arab al-Mammad** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Tagay Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at the moment.
- Arab Khamye (Khamie)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Tagay Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Khamiyys rural administrative unit, District.
- Avadjuq** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Old Khudat Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Old Khudat rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Avaran** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the Community with the same name within the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit of Gusar District.
- Aygunlu** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gandob rural administrative unit, Shabran (former Davachi) District.
- Azizli** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khachmaz Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Mushkur rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Babaly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khachmaz Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Mushkur rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Babashlu** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khachmaz Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists today.

- Baku** - A provincial city in Transcaucasia, and the center of eponymous Uyezd and Province. In 1723, after a lengthy siege Baku was overtaken by the naval forces under General Matyushkin's command and thus annexed to Russia. The town was returned to Persia in 1735 to be run by local Khans (Dukes). On October 3, 1806, Baku was repeatedly conquered by the Russian troops to become first an Uyezd center and the center of the same name Province as of 1859. In March 1918, the city became subject to pogroms. The capital city of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan in 1918-1920, Baku retained the status of a capital during the period of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan (1920-1991). Nowadays it is the capital city of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- Balajary** - a village in Baku Uyezd, incorporated into the same name rural community, the 6<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Baku Municipality; nowadays a part of eponymous administrative unit of Baku city.
- Bey Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Hajji Gayyib Qyshlaq Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Hajji-Alibey rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Bey Qyshlaq** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Alik Community, the Police Precinct of Nizhny Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gulevli rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Boyat** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at the moment.

**Buduq**

- a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur (some sections within Rustov Precinct), subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Guba District.

**Baku Province**

- An administrative unit within the Russian Empire in 1859-1920 sharing borders with the Region of Dagestan in the north, Yelizavetpol Province in the West and Persia in the south. The Province encompassed former Khanates (Duchies) of Baku, Shemakha, Guba and Lankaran annexed to Russia pursuant to the Treaty of Gulistan (1813) and then transformed into provincial units and districts (uyezds) under the same name. Following the Law on Administrative Reforms in Transcaucasia (April 10, 1840), Baku, Derbend, Guba, Lenkoran, Nukha, Shemakha and Sheki Uyezds were incorporated into the newlyformed Caspian Region. Pursuant to the new administrative subdivision of 1846 introducing provinces (Guberniyas) in Transcaucasia, the Uyezds named above, except Guba, were incorporated into Shemakha Province. As far as Guba Uyezd is concerned, it was a part of Derbend Province. After a devastating earthquake of May 30, 1859 leaving Shemakha in ruins, the center of province moved to Baku, hence the whole area was renamed into Baku Province. In May 1860, the Uyezd of Guba was included into Baku Province, whereas Nukha and Shusha Uyezds were encompassed by Yelizavetpol Province established in 1867. By 1918, Baku Province comprised 6 Uyezds, i.e. Baku, Geokchay, Jevad, Guba, Lankaran and Shemakha. As an administrative unit, Baku Province ceased to exist in 1920.

- Bur-Bur (Bor-Bor)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Aygunlu Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Rahimli rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Bur-Qala (Bedir-Qala)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Hassan-Qala Community, the Police Precinct of Qusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Bala-Qusar rural administrative unit, Qusar District.
- Caucasus** - the region between Europe and Asia washed by the Black and Azov Seas in the west and the Caspian Sea in the east, comprises the Caucasus Mountain Range (the Greater Caucasus), the adjacent areas of the North Caucasus (Ciscaucasia) and the South Caucasus (Transcaucasia). The North Caucasus is almost completely a part of Russian Federation, except for some gorges belonging to Georgia. The South Caucasus includes Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia (with Abkhazia and South Ossetia as its integral parts).
- Chakhchakhly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khudat Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Susaygyshlagh rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Chakhmakhly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Jagatay Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Garachy rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Chanakhyr** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Gulevli Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gulevli rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.

- Charkhana** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Saadan Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Saadan rural administrative unit, Siyazan District.
- Charkhy (Charkhikend)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Chek (Djek, the Upper)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Hajji Gayyib Gyshlagh Community, the Police Precinct of Fethibey 5, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Alik rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Chetkun (Chutkun)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Kuzun Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Zindanmurug rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Chichi (the Lower)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Chichi Community, the Police Precinct of Rustov, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Chichi rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Chichi (the Upper)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Chichi Community, the Police Precinct of Rustov, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Chichi rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Chilaghir** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Narajan Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Narajan rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Chilakir-Gyshlagh (Chilaghir)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Avaran Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Urva rural administrative unit, Gusar District.

- Chinar-Tala** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Gusarchay Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Chuhur-Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Djek Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Ghymylgyshlagh rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Constantinople** - the original name of Istanbul, initially the capital city of the Roman Empire in 330-395 A.D., then the Byzantine Empire (East Roman Empire) in 395-1204, the Latin Empire in 1204-1261, and the Ottoman Empire in 1453-1922. The city was also known as Byzantium, New Rome (the name included in the Patriarch's official title) and Tsargrad (The King City) in the South Slavic languages. Name Constantinople is used in Greek to this very day. The city was officially renamed into Istanbul in 1930 in the course of reforms launched by M.K.Ataturk, Turkey's first President.
- Dadaly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Dandalik** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Lower Alik Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; no village under this name exists at the moment.
- Darezarat (Darazarat)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Saadan Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Beshdamkend rural administrative unit, Siyazan District.

- Dashty Yataq (Dashly Yataq)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Is-nov Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fet-hibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Aghalyq rural administrative unit, Shabran Dis-trict (former Davachi).
- Davachi (Divichi)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom. In later period a town and the administrative center of the same name District formed as a result of subdivision of Guba Uyezd into new administrative units (districts) as of 1930. On April 14, 2010 both the town and the district renamed into Shabran.
- Davachi Bazar** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Davachi Community, the same name Police Pre-cinct, subject to pogrom. In later period, merged with the town of Davachi (nowadays Shabran).
- Digah** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Al-pan Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fet-hibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Amsar rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Derbend** - a town in Dagestan located in a narrow gorge between the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus foothills, one of the earliest urban settlements in the world initially mentioned as "The Caspian Gate", the earliest place name dates back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Nowadays the southernmost town in Russian Federation.
- Djek** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Alik rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Dustayir (Duztayir)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Gusar District.



- Erzurum** - a town in the north-east of Turkey, the administrative center of the same name region. During WW1, since March 1916 until summer 1917, occupied by the Russian troops of the Caucasian Army, dominantly manned by ethnic Armenian units. The latter ones played the key role in the massacre of the Turkish and Azerbaijani population of the town and the whole region.
- Eynibulagh** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Alikhanly Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Siyazan District.
- Ganjaly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khachmaz Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Mushkur rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Gelenkhur (Upper)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khazry Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, not affected by pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Gobu Qyraghy (Guby Qyraghy)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Lower Alik Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gulevly rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Guba** - a town founded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, in 1735-1810 capital of the eponymous Khanate (Duchy). Upon the annexation of Guba Duchy by the Russian Empire pursuant to the Turkmanchay Treaty (1828), the administrative center of Guba Province and then the eponymous Uyezd. In April-May 1918 subject to pogrom. In 1930 Guba was granted the status of an administrative center of the same name district within

- the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan. Nowadays the center of the eponymous administrative district of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- Guba Uyezd** - an administrative unit within the Russian Empire formed in the area of Guba Duchy overtaken by Russia in 1806 and transformed into the Province of Guba. Formed in 1840, the Uyezd of Guba was first included into Derbend Province and then into Baku Province as of 1860. In 1929, Guba Uyezd was abrogated by the Soviet administration in 1929 and transformed into the Area (okrug) of the same name comprising four districts, i.e. Guba District with Guba as the administrative center, Gusar District (centered around Khil, renamed into Gusar in 1934), Davachi, and Khachmaz Districts with centers in eponymous towns.
- Gudermes** - a station on the Vladikavkaz Railroad named after the village nearby; nowadays a town in the Republic of Chechnya, Russian Federation.
- Gulalan** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Qaraqurtlu Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Qarachy rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Gulemli (Gulimler-Gulamlar)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; no village under this name exists at the moment.
- Gulevli** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Jagatay Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the same name rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Gusar Hole (Gusar)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom. Since 1934, Gusar

- became the administrative center of the District of the same name, formed in 1930. Nowadays the town of Gusar is the administrative center of the eponymous district of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- Gusar (Gusarchy)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Hassan-Kale Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; in later period merged with the town of Gusar.
- Hajji Issa Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Djek Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Qymylqyshlaq rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Hajji Malik Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Djek Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; no village under this name exists at the moment.
- Hassan Qala** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Balagusar rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Hajji Qayib Qushlaq (Hjji Qayib)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Hajji Husseyinli rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Hassan Efendi (Ilykhchy Hassan Efendi)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Jagatay Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of rural Niyazoba administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Hyjan** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Dustayir Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Dustayir rural administrative unit, Gusar District.

- Igrikh** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Alexeyevka rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Igrikh Old (Eski Igrikh)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Am-sar Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Guba municipality, Guba District.
- Ilkhychy (State-owned)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Jagatay Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Niyazoba rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Imamgulu** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Ispat Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khudat Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at the moment.
- Ispik** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Muguch Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Jagatay** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Qarachy rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Janakhyr (Janafir Gyshlagh)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Lower Alik Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part

- of Gulevli rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Jewish Settlement (Red Settlement)** - the area the Mountain (Highland) Jews' compact residence in Guba.
- Jibir** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khazry Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, not affected by the pogrom, however several residents killed in Guba; nowadays a part of Piral rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Jimi** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Rustov, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gonagkend rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Kelva-Kilvar** - an Armenian populated village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, not affected by pogroms; nowadays a part of rural Pirebedil administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Khalillar (Khalilli)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Gushchu Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Cholgushchu rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Khanlug-Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Charkhy Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Charkhy rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Khasbulat (Khaspolad)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khachmaz Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Zagrava rural administrative unit, Guba District.

- Khachmaz (New Khachmaz)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khachmaz Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a town and the administrative center of the eponymous District established in 1930, after Guba Uyezd was split into districts.
- Khachmaz (Old Khachmaz)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Mushkur rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Khachmaz railway station** - a station at the Vladikavkaz Railroad with adjacent village of the same name within Guba Uyezd, subject to pogrom. Nowadays merged with the town of Khachmaz.
- Khazry (Khazra)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Khil (Ghil)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Khuch-Bala** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Fethibey 5, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Khuch (the Lower)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Fethibey 5, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Khuch-Bala rural administrative unit, Guba District.

- Khudat** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Khudat municipality, Khachmaz District.
- Khudat (Old Khudat)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Khudat (the station)** - a railway station at the Vladikavkaz Railroad together with the adjacent village of the same name in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khachmaz Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays merged with the eponymous town.
- Khural** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Avaran Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Avaran rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Khyrdalan** - a village in Baku Uyezd, incorporated into the same name rural community, the 6<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, the Municipality (Borough) of Baku. Nowadays a town, a part of the eponymous Municipality, Absheron District, Republic of Azerbaijan.
- Khyrda-Oymaq** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Charkhy Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Aghalyq rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Kolany** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Taqay Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Yenikend rural administrative unit, Siyazan District.
- Kragly (Ghyragly)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Chinartaly rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.

- Kui-Bulag (Guyu Bulag)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Alikhanly Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at the moment.
- Kumen-Kishlak** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Lower Alik Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at the moment.
- Kupchal** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Uchgun Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Kushchi the Lower (Kohne Kushchi)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Kushchi Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Arzikush rural administrative unit, Siyazan District.
- Kuzun (Guzun)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Zindanmurug rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Kyzyl Burun** - a railway station, Vadikavkaz Railroad, as well as the village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom, later merged with the town of Siyazan.
- Laman** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Karakurtlu Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Garachy rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Legher (the Lower)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Gusar District.



- Ledjet-Oba (Ladjet)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Lefjet (Lazhet)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khazry Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, not affected by the pogroms, however some village residents were killed in Guba; nowadays a part of Khazry rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Mahmud-Gyshlaq** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Lower Alik Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Zagrava rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Mashi-Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Djek Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of GYMylqyshlaq rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Meytaply** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Boyat Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Rahimli rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Mehraly-Qyshlaq** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Lower Alik Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gulevly rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Mirza Mammad-kend** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Zizik Community, the Police Precinct of Fethibey 5, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Vladimirovka rural administrative unit, Guba District.

- Mullah Bay (Babay) Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Djek Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at this moment.
- Mullah Burgan (Mullah Burhanly)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Djek Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Qymylqyshlaq rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Mullah Kamally** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Boyat Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Tazakend rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Moguch (Mukuch-Mukhuch)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Fethibey 5, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Ashaghy Tulekeran rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Moscow** - a megacity in Russia, a historic center of a duchy, then the capital of the unified Russian State, then a large city within the Russian Empire, the capital of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic as of 1918, and the USSR since 1922. Nowadays the capital of Russian Federation.
- Muzaffar-Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Djek Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Mushkur rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Mursali Qyshlaq** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Nizhni Alik Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gulevli rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.

- Murug (Greater Murug)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Dusstayir Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Adjahur rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Murshid-oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khachmaz Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Narajan rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Nabur (Naburlu)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khachmaz Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at the moment.
- Najafkend** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khazry Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar; not affected by pogroms, however some residents were killed in Guba; nowadays a part of Ghilakh rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Narajan** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of rural the eponymous administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Nardaran** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Siyazan Community, the Police Precinct of DAvachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Beshdam rural administrative unit, Siyazan District.
- Nudin (Novdun)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Shudug rural administrative unit, Guba District.

- Nughedi** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into same name Community, the Police Precinct of Fethibey 5, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Okur (Ukur)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Ukur Community, the Police Precinct of Rustov; subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of rural Muchug administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Padar** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Gagargurdlu Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur; subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Rahimli rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Palchuglu-Oba (Palcygoba)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Gusarchay Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Chinartala rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Petrovsk (Port-Petrovsk)** - an old name of Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan. Established in 1844 as a Russian fort of Petrovsk, also known as Anji-Kala (the Dirt Built Fort) among the highlanders. In 1857, the settlement got the status of a municipality and a port under the name of Petrovsk.  
The capital of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Dagestan throughout the USSR period, Makhachkala today is the capital city of the Republic of Dagestan, Russian Federation.
- Qara (Qarah)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Alikhanly Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Mashrif rural administrative unit, Siyazan District.

- Qarabaghy (Qarabaghly)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Jaqatay Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Niyazoba rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Qarachaky-Qarajaly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khachmaz Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Ahamdoba rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Qarachy (Qarachi)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Qaraqurtlu Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Qarachay** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Qayyib Qyshlaq Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Nughedy 1 rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Qarachayly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Charkhy Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Aghalyq rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Qaraqashly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Qushchu Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Qarachy rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Qaraqurtlu** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Qarachy rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.

- Qasym Gyshlaghy** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Zaraqava rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Qymyl-Qyshlaq (Gymyl Gyshlaq)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Uchgun Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Qybla-Kryz** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at the moment.
- Rahimli** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Boyat Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the same name rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Rustov** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the same name rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Saadan** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Siyazan District.
- Saghlyjan (Sagholjan)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Saadan Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Saadan rural administrative unit, Siyazan District.
- Sakhub (Sughib, Sugub)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Sugib Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Ruck rural administrative unit, Guba District.

- Sarvan** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Gushchu Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Cholgushchu rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).
- Sayad** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Kalaghan rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Seyyidler** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khudat Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Old Khudat rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Shemakha** - a town and an administrative center of the same name District. The old names of the town include Sharvan, Ashmah, Shirvan, Shah-Mah, etc. In the 8-16<sup>th</sup> centuries Shemakha enjoyed the status of capital of the Shirvanshah State, whereas in the 18-19<sup>th</sup> centuries it was the capital of Shirvan (Shemakha) Khanate. In 1840-1846, Shemakha was the administrative center of the Caspian Region, and then the Province of the same name until 1959. Nowadays Shemakha is the center of the eponymous administrative district within the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- Shikhlyar** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Kragly Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Ghy-mylygyshlag rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Shirvan** - The name of a historic area and the state in the South Caucasus, on the western shore of the Caspian Sea, stretching from Derbend in the north all the way down to the Kura River's delta in the south. At the moment an integral part of Azerbaijan's territory.

In 799-1538, several dynasties of Shirvanshahs (kings of Shirvan) were ruling the area. Shemakha was the capital of the state. In 1748, the Khanate (Duchy) of Shirvan (Shemakha) emerged in the territory of Shirvan to be then overtaken by Russia in 1813 pursuant to the Gulistan Treaty thus becoming a province within the Russian Empire.

Renamed into the Province of Shemakha by 1840, it was incorporated into the newly-created Caspian Region as an Uyezd (District). In 1846, it was transformed into the province (Guberniya) under the same name with the town of Shemakha as the center. After a devastating earthquake in May 1959, the center of Province moved to Baku, so the province was renamed into Baku Province. Meanwhile Shemakha Uyezd remained a part of the newly-formed Baku Province up until its dissolution in 1920. In August 1930, the Uyezd of Shemakha was renamed into Shemakha District. Nowadays this is an administrative district within the Republic of Azerbaijan. In 2009, the town of Alibayramly laid out in 1954 in the historic area of Shirvan (former village of Arabshahverdili and then Zubrovka) was renamed into Shirvan. In August 1930, Shemakha Uyezd was renamed into Shemakha District.

**Shollar**

- a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Khudat Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Susaygyshlagh rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.

**Sinjanboyat**

- a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Boyat Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Tazakend rural administrative unit, Shabran



- Siyazan  
(Gara Siyazan  
and Agh Siyazan)** District (former Davachi).  
- villages in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Siyazan Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom. In later period, both villages merged to form a center of the same name District established in 1940. In 1959, the District of Siyazan was incorporated into Davachi District to be re-instituted as a separate administrative unit in 1992. Nowadays Siyazan is the administrative center of the same name District, Republic of Azerbaijan.
- Sumgayit** - a village in Baku Uyezd, incorporated into Pirakushkul Community, the Police Precinct of Saray. Municipality status granted in 1949. Nowadays a town within the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- Surra** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Amirkhanly Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Shabran (former Davachi) municipality.
- Susay** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Fethibey 5, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Suvazly** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Boyat Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at this moment.
- Tagay (Tugay)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Yenikend rural administrative unit, Siyazan District.
- Talabi** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Rustov, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Talabi-Gyshlag rural administrative unit, Guba District.

- Tarjal (Yeni Tarjal)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community of Gusar Precinct; not affected by pogroms as the villagers succeeded in putting up an armed resistance. Meanwhile some village residents were killed in the course of violent events in the town of Guba. Nowadays a part of Samur rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Teke (Teke-Shykhy)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Muguch Community, the Police Precinct of Fethibey 5, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at the moment.
- Turkey** - a country located in South-East Asia and South Europe. Official name: The Republic of Turkey. In its present-day shape the country was formed in the early 1920's as a result of collapse of the Ottoman Empire, demise of monarchy and gradual transformation of the areas dominated by ethnic Turks into the nation-state of Turkey. The bulk of the country's territory embraces Asia Minor. (the Peninsula of Anatolia) washed by the Black and Mediterranean Seas. Turkey shares the border with Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iran in the east, Iraq and Syria in the south, Greece and Bulgaria in the west
- Uchgun (Uchgun Gyshlaghy)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Fethibey 5, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Kupchal rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Ukur-Oba** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Uchgun Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Yalama rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Urva** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Avran Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar,

**Ustarjal  
(Ustajally-  
Ustarjalili)**

subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the same name rural administrative unit, Gusar District.

- a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Garagurtlu Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gulevli rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.

**Uzun Gyshlag  
Boyat  
(Uzunboyad)**

- a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Boyat Community, the Police Precinct of Davachi, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Rahimli rural administrative unit, Shabran District (former Davachi).

**Yalama**

- a railway station, Vladikavkaz Railroad, and adjacent village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.

**Yasab**

- a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.

**Yengikend  
(Yenikend)**

- a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Rystov; subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Tulakaran rural administrative unit, Guba District.

**Yerkuch**

- a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.

**Youssuf-  
Gyshlagh**

- a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Lower Alik Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur, subject to pogrom. No village under this name exists at the moment.

- Zargova (Zargava)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Rustov, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, District.
- Zeykhur (Gede Zeykhur)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Old Khudat Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Gede Zeykhur rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Zeykhur the Lower (Orta Oba)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into same name Community, the Police Precinct of Mushkur; subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Yalama rural administrative unit, Khachmaz District.
- Zeykhur (the Upper)** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into Zeykhur Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of the eponymous rural administrative unit, Gusar District.
- Zizik** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct of Fethibey, subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Alexeyevka rural administrative unit, Guba District.
- Zukhul** - a village in Guba Uyezd, incorporated into the same name Community, the Police Precinct of Gusar; subject to pogrom; nowadays a part of Upper Galankhur rural administrative unit, Gusar District.

**References:**

1. The State Archives , the Republic of Azerbaijan, stack (fond) 1061, dossier (opis) 1, file (delo) 96,97,98
2. Data Collection on Baku Province, Issue 1, Tiflis, 1911
3. The Caucasus Calendar of 1916, Tiflis, 1917
4. Classification of the Administrative Subdivision. The State Statistics Committee, Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, 2007.

## Annex No.1

### Ethnic & Religious Structure of the Town the Uyezd of Guba as of 1916.

Names of the town and the Uyezd	Russians				Armenians		Caucasian Highlanders	
	orthodox		sektants		qreqorians		muslims	
	man	woman	man	woman	man	woman	man	woman
<b>Quba city</b>	82	95	-	-	278	301	192	225
<i>Including</i>								
<b>Permanent residents</b>	52	60	-	-	254	272	120	145
<b>Temporary residents</b>	30	35	-	-	24	29	72	80
<b>Quba Uyezd</b>	2524	2455	155	142	512	421	26286	22402
<i>Including</i>								
<b>Permanent residents</b>	2082	2120	140	130	483	401	26258	22398
<b>Temporary residents</b>	372	335	15	12	29	20	28	4

*Ethnic & Religious Structure of the Town the Uyezd of Guba as of 1916*

Various Asian people						Jews		Result:		
Various asians		Muslims		Muslims						
Christians		Siites		Sunnis						
man	woman	man	woman	man	woman	man	woman	man	woman	
8	14	3360	3470	2008	2210	7757	6956	13685	13271	26 956
8	14	3300	3100	2000	2200	7752	6952	13186	12743	25929
-	-	360	370	8	10	5	4	499	528	1027
-	-	7411	6216	54845	47627	208	114	91871	79377	171248
-	-	7394	6207	54820	47609	50	56	91227	78921	170148
-	-	17	9	25	18	158	58	644	456	1100

**Total: 198204**

**Reference:** The Caucasus Calendar, 1917,  
Tiflis (Tbilisi), 1916, pp. 180-181

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>198204</b>
<b>1. Muslims (Shiites and Sunnis)*</b>	<b>127147 persons</b>
out of them: Guba town residents Guba	– 11048
Uyezd villagers	– 116099
<b>2. Russians</b>	<b>5383</b>
out of them: Guba town residents Guba	– 177
Uyezd villagers	– 5206
<b>3. Armenians</b>	<b>1512</b>
out of them: Guba town residents Guba	– 579
Uyezd villagers	– 933
<b>4. Caucasian Highlanders**</b>	<b>49105</b>
(Muslims) out of them: Guba town residents Guba	– 417
Uyezd villagers	– 48688
<b>5. Jews</b>	<b>– 15035</b>
out of them: Guba town residents Guba	– 14713
Uyezd villagers	– 322
<b>6. Asians (Christians)</b>	<b>– 22</b>
out of them: Guba town residents Guba	– 22
Uyezd villagers	– 0

\* *I.e. the Azerbaijanis and the Tats*

\*\* *I.e. the Lezghins and other highland peoples*

## **Annex No.2**

### **The List of Villages of Guba Uyezd Subject to Pogroms in April-May 1918**

<b>№</b>	<b>Place name</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Police Precinct</b>	<b>Ethnicity*</b>
1	Adjiakhur	Adjiakhur	Gusar	Lezghins
2	Afurja (Akhurja)	Afurja	Rustov	Tats
3	Agharahim Oba	Djek	Mushkur	Lezghins
4	Aghasibeyli	Tagay	Davachi	Azerbaijanis**
5	Aghyazy	Budugh	Mushkur	Lezghins
6	Ali-Bey (Hajji Ali Bey Gyshlaghy)	Hajji Gayyib Gyshlagh	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
7	Alibey Gyshlag	Lower Khuch	Gusar	Azerbaijanis
8	Alik the Lower (Lower Alik)	Alik the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
9	Alikhanly	Alikhanly	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
10	Alpan	Alpan	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
11	Amirkhanly	Amirkhanly	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
12	Amsar	Amsar	The 5 <sup>th</sup> Fethibey (Precinct)	Azerbaijanis
13	Andreyabad	Aygunlu	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
14	Anykh	Anykh	Fethibay 5	Lezghins
15	Arab (Arab Hajji)	Jagatay	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
16	Arab (Arab Keymuraz)	Charkhy	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
17	Arab-al-Mammad	Tagay	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
18	Arab-Khamiye	Tagay	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
19	Avadjug	Old Khudat	Gusar	Lezghins
20	Avaran	Avaran	Gusar	Lezghins
21	Ay-Gun (Aygunlu)	Aygunlu	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
22	Azizli	Khachmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
23	Babaly (Bebeli-Bibili)	Khachmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
24	Babshlu (Bebeshli)	Khachmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis



*Guba, April-May 1918. Documented Pogroms of the Muslims*

25	Bay-Oba (New Bay-Oba)	Hajji Gayyib Gyshlag(Djek)	Fethibey 5	Lezghins
26	Bey-Gyshlag (Bey-Oba)	Alik the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
27	Boyat	Boyat	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
28	Budugh	Budugh	Rustov, Mushkur	Budughs ***
29	Budugh, the Lower	Budugh	Rustov	Budighs
30	Bur-Bur (Bor-Bor)	Aygunlu	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
31	Bur-Gala (Bedir-Gala)	Hassan-Gala	Gusar	Azerbaijanis
32	Chahmakly	Jagatay	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
33	Chakhchakhly	Khudat	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
34	Charkhane	Saadan	Davachi	Tats
35	Charkhy- Charkhykend	Charkhy	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
36	Chek (Djek, the Upper)	Hajji-Gayyib Gyshlagh	Fethibey 5	Djeks
37	Chetkun-Chutkun	Guzun	Gusar	Lezghins
38	Chichi, the Lower	Chichi	Rustov	Tats
39	Chichi, the Upper	Chichi	Rustov	Tats
40	Chilaghyr	Narajan	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
41	Chilaghyr- Gyshlagh	Avaran	Gusar	Lezghins
42	Chinar-Tala	Gusar-Chay	Mushkur	Lezghins
43	Chukhur-Oba	Djek	Mushkur	Lezghins
44	Dadaly	Dadaly	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
45	Dandalik	Alik, the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
46	Darezarat (Darazarat)	Saadan	Davachi	Tats
47	Dashty Yataq (Dashly Yatag)	Isnov	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
48	Davachi	Davachi	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
49	Davachi-Bazar	Davachi	Davachi	Azerbaijanis

*The List of Villages of Guba Uyezd Subject to Pogroms in April-May 1918*

50	Digah	Alpan	Fethibey 5	Lezghins
51	Djek	Dlek	Mushkur	Lezghins, Djeks***
52	Djim-Djimi	Djim	Rustov	Lezghins, Djimis***
53	Dustayir	Dustayir	Gusar	Lezghins
54	Eynibulagh	Alikhanly	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
55	Ganjali	Khachmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
56	Garabaghy (Garabaghly)	Jagatay	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
57	Gara-Chay	Hajji Gayyib Gyshlagh	Fethuibey 5	Azerbaijanis
58	Garachayly	Charkhi	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
59	Garachi	Garagurdlu	Mushkur	Tats
60	Garagashly	Gushchu	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
61	Garagurdlu	Garagurdlu	Mushkur	Tats
62	Garajali-Karajaly	Khachmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
63	Gasym Gyshlaghy	Gasym Gyshlaghy	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
64	Ghijan (Gidisan)	Dustayir	Gusar	Lezghins
65	Ghybla-Kryz	Ghybla-Kryz	Mushkur	Kryzes
66	Ghyzyl Burun	Ghyzyl-Burun	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
67	Goby Ghyraghy (Kuby-Kraghy)	Alik, the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
68	Gulalan	Garagurdlu	Mushkur	Tats
69	Gulevli	Jagatay	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
70	Gulimlyar (Gulamli)	Gulimlyar	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
71	Gusar (Gusarky)	Hassan-Gala	Gusar	Tats
72	Gusar, the Hole	Gusar	Gusar	Azerbaijanis, Lezghins, Russians
73	Gushchu, the Lower (Ashaghy Guschu)	Gushchu	Davachi	Azerbaijanis

*Guba, April-May 1918. Documented Pogroms of the Muslims*

74	Guzun (Kyuzun-Kuzun)	Guzun	Gusar	Lezghins
75	Gymyl Gushlagh	Uchgun	Fethibey 5	Lezghins
76	Hajji Gayyib Gyshlag	Hajji Gayyib- Gyshlag	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
77	Hajji Issa Oba	Djek	Mushkur	Lezghins
78	Hajji Melik Oba	Djek	Mushkur	Lezghins
79	Hassan-Efendi	Jagatay	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
80	Hassan-Gala	Hassan-Gala	Gusar	Azerbaijanis
81	Igrikh	Igrikh	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
82	Igrikh, the Old (Eski Igrikh)	Amsar	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
83	Ilkhychy, State-owned	Jagatay	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
84	Imamgulu	Imamgulu	Gusar	Lezghins
85	Ispa-Oba	Khudat	Mushkur	Lezghins
86	Ispik	Muguch	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
87	Jagatay	Jagatay	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
88	Janafur-Gyshlagh	Alik, the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
89	Janakhyr	Gulevli	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
90	Khachmaz Station	Khachmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis, Armenians, etc.
91	Khachmaz, the New	Khachmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis, Armenians
92	Khachmaz, the Old	Khachmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
93	Khalillar	Gushchu	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
94	Khanlug-Oba	Charkhy	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
95	Khasbulat	Khachmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
96	Khazri	Khazri	Gusar	Lezghins
97	Khazri 2	Khazri	Gusar	Lezghins
98	Khil-Ghil	Ghil	Gusar	Lezghins
99	Khuch, the Lower	Lower Khuch	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis

*The List of Villages of Guba Uyezd Subject to Pogroms in April-May 1918*

100	Khuch-Bala	Khuch-Bala	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
101	Khudat	Khudat	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
102	Khudat Station	Khudat	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
103	Khudat, the Old (Kohne Khudat)	Khudat, the Old	Gusar	Lezghins
104	Khural	Avaran	Gusar	Lezghins
105	Khyrda-Oymaq	Charkhy	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
106	Kolany	Tagay	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
107	Kragly	Kragly	Mushkur	Tats
108	Kui Bulagh (Guyu Bulagh)	Alikhanly	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
109	Kumen Gyshlagh	Alik, the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
110	Kupchal	Uchgun	Fethibey 5	Lezhins
111	Laman	Garagurtlu	Mushkur	Tats
112	Ledjet-Oba	Ledjet-Oba	Mushkur	Lezghins
113	Legher, the Lower (Ashaghy Legher)	Legher, the Lower	Gusar	Lezghins
114	Mahmud Gyshlagh (Mullah Mahmud-Oba)	Alik, the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
115	Mashi-Oba	Djek	Mushkur	Lezghins
116	Mehrali Gyshlagh	Alik, the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
117	Meytaply	Boyat	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
118	Mirza Mammad- kend	Zizik	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
119	Mullah Burgan (Mullah Burhanly)	Hajji Gayyib Gyshlagh	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
120	Mullah Kamally	Boyat	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
121	Mullah-Bey (Babay) Oba	Djek	Mushkur	Lezghins
122	Mursaly Gyshlagh	Alik, the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
123	Murshid-Oba	Khachmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis

*Guba, April-May 1918. Documented Pogroms of the Muslims*

124	Murug, the Greater	Dustayir	Gusar	Lezghins
125	Muzaffar-Oba	Djek	Mushkur	Lezghins
126	Nabur (Naburlu)	Khahmaz	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
127	Narajan	Narajan	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
128	Nardaran	Siyazan	Davachi	Tats
129	Nudin (Novdun)	Novdun	Rustov	Tats
130	Nughedi	Nughedi	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
131	Okur (Ukur)	Ukur	Rustov	Lezghins
132	Padar	Garagurty	Mushkur	Tats
133	Palchygly-Oba	Gusar-chay	Mushkur	Lezghins
134	Rahimli-Raghimli	Boyat	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
135	Rustov	Rustov	Rustov	Tats
136	Saadan	Saadan	Davachi	Tats
137	Saghlyjan	Saadan	Davachi	Tats
138	Sakhub (Sughib)	Sughib	Ryustov	Tats
139	Sarvan	Gushchu	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
140	Sayad	Sayad	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
141	Shikhlyar	Krakli	Mushkur	Tats
142	Shollar	Khudat	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
143	Sinjan-Boyat	Boyat	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
144	Siyaan (Agh Siyazan)	Siyazan	Davachi	Tats
145	Siyazan (Gara Siyazan)	Siyazan	Davachi	Tats
146	Surra	Amirkhanly	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
147	Susay	Susay	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
148	Suvazly	Boyat	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
149	Tagay	Tagay	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
150	Talabi	Talabi	Rustov	Tats
151	Teke (Teke-Shykhy)	Muguch	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
152	Uchgun (Gyshlaghy)	Uchgun	Fethibey 5	Lezghins

*The List of Villages of Guba Uyezd Subject to Pogroms in April-May 1918*

153	Ukur-Oba (Ukur-Gyshlagh)	Uchgun	Mushkur	Lezghins
154	Urva	Avaran	Gusar	Lezghins
155	Ustarjal (Ustajally)	Garagurty	Mushkur	Tats
156	Uzun-Gyshlagh- Boyat	Boyat	Davachi	Azerbaijanis
157	Yalama Station	Yalama	Mushkur	Azerbaijanis
158	Yassab(Yessab)	Yassab	Gusar	Lezghins
159	Yengikend	Yengikend	Rustov	Lezghins
160	Yerkuch	Yerkuch	Mushkur	Lezghins, Kryzes***
161	Youssif-Gyshlaghy	Alik, the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
162	Zargova (Zargava)	Zargava	Rustov	Azerbaijanis
163	Zeykhur (Ghede-Zeykhur)	Khudat, the Old	Gusar	Lezghins
164	Zeykhur, the Lower	Zeykhur, the Lower	Mushkur	Lezghins
165	Zeykhur, the Upper (Yukhary Zeykhur)	Zeykhur	Gusar	Lezghins
166	Zizik	Zizik	Fethibey 5	Azerbaijanis
167	Zukhul	Zukhul	Gusar	Lezghins

\* *Reference: Datasheet on Baku Province. Issue 1, Tiflis, 1911.*

\*\* *Tatars in the original. Tatars in this context was the official ethnic name used for the Azerbaijanis by the Czarist administration.*

\*\*\* *The Shahdagh ethnic sub-group. Reference: Geybullayev G.A. Toponyms in Azerbaijan. Baku, 1986.*

### **Annex No.3**

## **General Datasheet on Human casualties and Loss Inflicted to the Detriment of the Population of the Town of Guba and Guba Uyezd I the Course of Muslim Pogroms in April-May 1918.**

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Murdered</b>	<b>Injured</b>	<b>Passing away from fear</b>	<b>Damage (in rubles)</b>
The Town of Guba	2000-2800	Not available	100	63.703. 760

### **Guba Uyezd villagers**

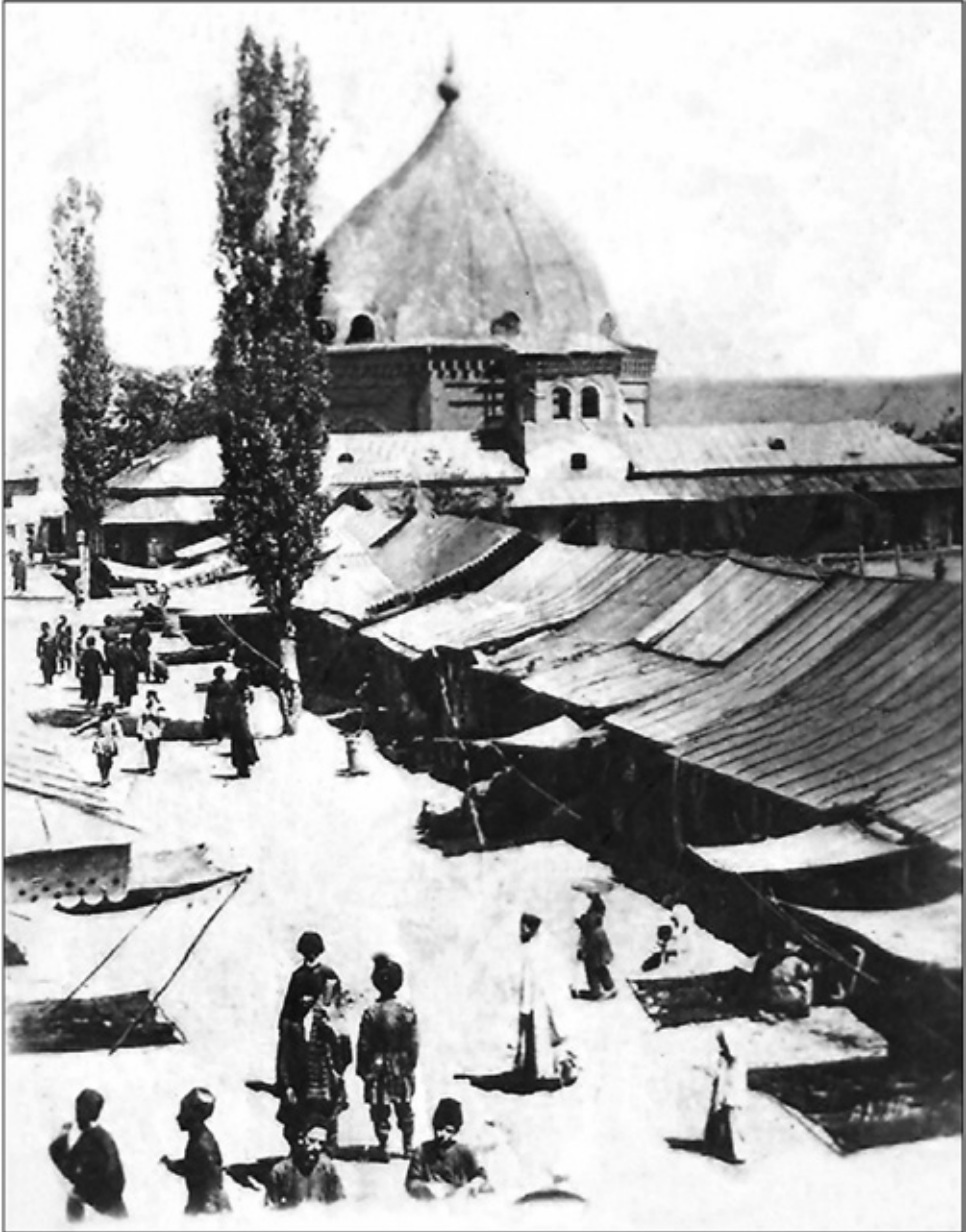
<b>№</b>	<b>Police Precincts:</b>	<b>Murdered</b>	<b>Injured</b>	<b>Passing away in refuge</b>	<b>Damage (in rubles)</b>
1	Davachi	64	n/a	n/a	14.162.510
2	Mushkur	197	n/a	593	22.683.330
3	Gusar	163	36	188	10.129.249
4	Rustov	49	3	n/a	2.694.800
5	Fethibey 5	107	16	n/a	8.451.162
6	Total:	580	55	781	58.121.051

### **Total Datasheet on Guba Uyezd:**

<b>Murdered</b>	<b>Injured</b>	<b>Passed away while in refuge or out of fear</b>	<b>Damage (in rubles)</b>
Circa 2580-3380	110	881	121.824.819

**Reference:** Files of the Extraordinary (Ad Hoc) Investigation Committee.  
The State Archives, The Republic of Azerbaijan,  
Stack (fund) 1061, dossier (opis) 1, foles (delo)  
95, 96, 97, 98.

**City Guba**



*Guba, the Central Square, Juma Mosque and commercial area*





*Streets of the town of Guba*



*Guba, Construction of a bridge over the Gudiyal-Chay River, 1907*



*View on the Jewish Settlement*



*A school in Guba*



*Carpet weaving, a traditional signature craft in Guba*

**Population of Guba and the Uyezd**



*Azerbaijani residents of the town of Guba*



*The family of Abdulhamid Shahverdiyev,  
an Azerbaijani resident of Guba*



*Ethnic Azerbaijani government officials of Guba Uyezd. Mahmud-bey Farzalibeyov, the Head of the Town Council (sitting in the middle), circa 1913-1914.*



*Representatives of Guba's nobility: Aliabbas-bey Alibeyov, the Head of the Town Council in 1918-1920 (middle), Ismayil-bey (right) and Meshadi Alimardan Huseynov (left). 1899.*



*The Family of Meshadi Aliabbas Orujov, assistant secretary of the Peace Department of Guba. A.Orujov sitting with his daughter Betul, sons Aliheydar (left) and Aliakbar (right) and daughter Asia (sitting). A boy in a traditional wool hat (papakha) is servant Khanali.*



*Azerbaijani students of a Russian-Tatar school, Davachi village, Guba Uyezd.*



*Ismayil Efendi and Abdulrahman Efendi, leading clerics of Davachi Precinct, Guba Uyezd*



*Lezghin residents of  
Guba Uyezd*



*Mustafa Efendiyev, a lawyer by  
training born in the Lezghin-  
populated village of  
Imamgulukend, Guba Uyezd*





*Tat residents  
of Guba Uyezd*



*Dadashbala Bakhysh oghlu  
(son of Bakhysh), a native of the  
Tat-populated village of Zargava*



*Representatives of Guba Uyezd's Gryz population*



*Children from the Gryz village, Guba Uyezd*



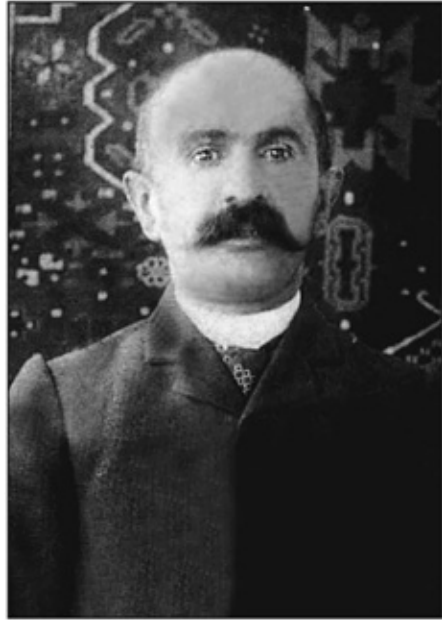
*Jewish residents of Guba*



*A Jewish family, Guba*

**Residents of the Town of Guba and Guba Uyezd, testifying to the  
Ad Hoc Investigation Commission and  
mentioned in the AHIC files:**

*Aliabbas-bey Alibeyov, head of the  
Guba Municipality  
(file N 56)*



*Meshadi Hajjiagha Kerbelai  
Ahmad oghlu Kasimov, resident of  
the town of Guba (file N 57)*





*Durna Meshadi Talyb gyzy,  
resident of the town of Guba  
(file N 62)*



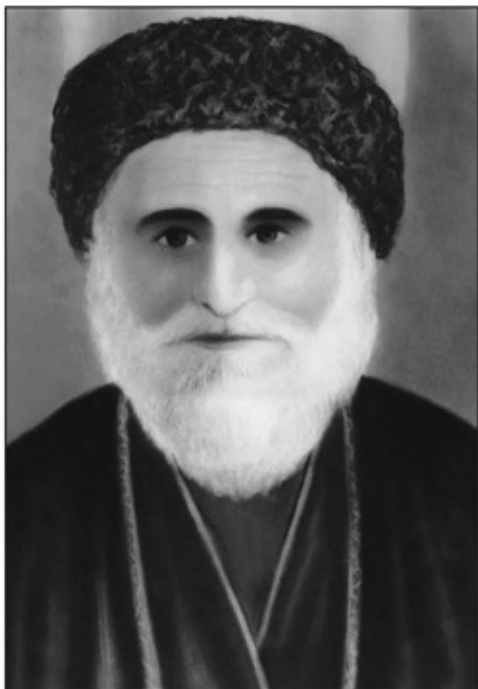
*Shamsaddin Efendiyev, police  
superintendent, Davachi  
Precinct, Guba Uyezd (file N 97)*

*Alibey Ziziksi (standing), the Guba Uyezd, Commissar and a recognized local public figure, later a member of Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1918-1920), with his family: Mother Ummnissa khanum, wife Fatima khanum and brother Abdulla*



*Hamdulla Efendi Efendizadeh, a recognized public figure in Davachi Precinct, Guba Uyezd and a member of the Azerbaijani Parliament*





*Abdurahman Efendi  
Chelebizadeh, spiritual leader of  
Guba's Sunni Muslims*



*Mirjafar Baghirov, a Guba  
resident involved in the events of  
1918*

*Residents of the town of Guba  
Meshadi Abbas Muhammad  
oghlu, his wife Imamil  
khanum and their nephew  
Abulfaz Guliyev (standing),  
the latter one murdered in the  
course of Guba events of 1918*

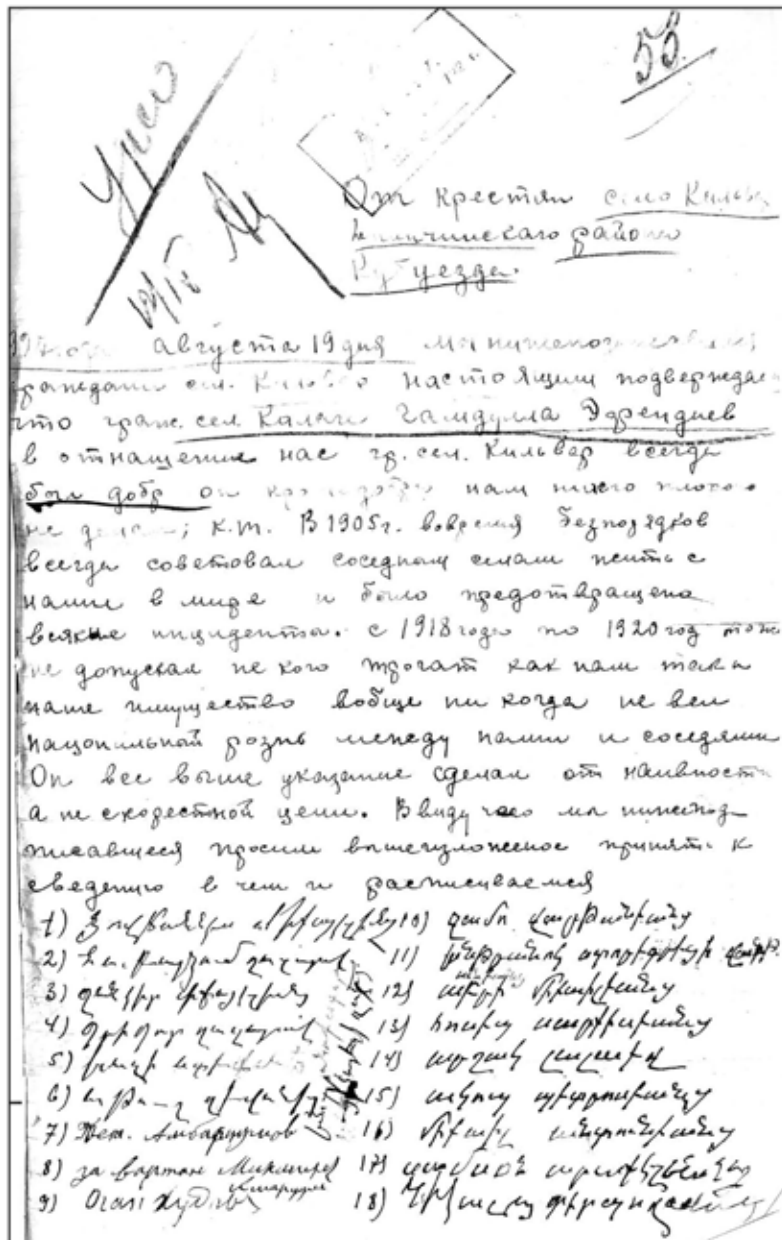



*Residents of Gusar village  
Hamid Ashurov with his wife  
Uglanagha khanum and son  
Ismayil. H.Ashurov was killed  
in the battle with the Armenian  
units over Digah village.  
The spouse, also involved in  
combat actions managed to  
carry out her husband's body  
from the battlefield*







**Letter by residents of the Armenian populated village of Kilvar.  
Davachi Precinct, Guba Uyezd,  
to support Hamdulla Efendi Efendizadeh**



19) 	52) <i>Zea Mays</i> var. <i>peruviana</i>
20) <i>Lindl. ...</i>	53) <i>Ipomoea ...</i>
21) <i>Abies ...</i>	54) <i>B. ...</i>
22) <i>Muscum ...</i>	55) <i>R. ...</i>
23) <i>Oran ...</i>	56) <i>P. ...</i>
24) <i>Agave ...</i>	57) <i>L. ...</i>
25) <i>Orchid ...</i>	58) <i>L. ...</i>
26) <i>Cyperus ...</i>	59) <i>L. ...</i>
27) <i>Cyperus ...</i>	60) <i>L. ...</i>
28) <i>Banden ...</i>	61) <i>L. ...</i>
29) <i>Harmonia ...</i>	62) <i>L. ...</i>
30) <i>Yucca ...</i>	63) <i>L. ...</i>
31) <i>Quercus ...</i>	64) <i>L. ...</i>
32) <i>Quercus ...</i>	65) <i>L. ...</i>
33) <i>Quercus ...</i>	66) <i>L. ...</i>
34) <i>Quercus ...</i>	67) <i>L. ...</i>
35) <i>Quercus ...</i>	68) <i>L. ...</i>
36) <i>Quercus ...</i>	69) <i>L. ...</i>
37) <i>Quercus ...</i>	70) <i>L. ...</i>
38) <i>Quercus ...</i>	71) <i>L. ...</i>
39) <i>Quercus ...</i>	72) <i>L. ...</i>
40) <i>Quercus ...</i>	73) <i>L. ...</i>
41) <i>Quercus ...</i>	74) <i>L. ...</i>
42) <i>Quercus ...</i>	75) <i>L. ...</i>
43) <i>Quercus ...</i>	76) <i>L. ...</i>
44) <i>Quercus ...</i>	77) <i>L. ...</i>
45) <i>Quercus ...</i>	78) <i>L. ...</i>
46) <i>Quercus ...</i>	79) <i>L. ...</i>
47) <i>Quercus ...</i>	80) <i>L. ...</i>
48) <i>Quercus ...</i>	81) <i>L. ...</i>
49) <i>Quercus ...</i>	82) <i>L. ...</i>
50) <i>Quercus ...</i>	83) <i>L. ...</i>
51) <i>Quercus ...</i>	84) <i>L. ...</i>

5) Ш. Гурин  
6) Мамтам Забогов  
7) Р. Химидри Шимирин  
8) Заирад Шимирин  
9) Б. Куморд. Бурдого  
10) Мирзаджан Бурдорин  
Ваше предложение подниме изгоним селит  
Кильвар соглаем их после удостоверено  
подписано и предложением  
Председатель А. Шимирин  
Секретарь: А. Шимирин



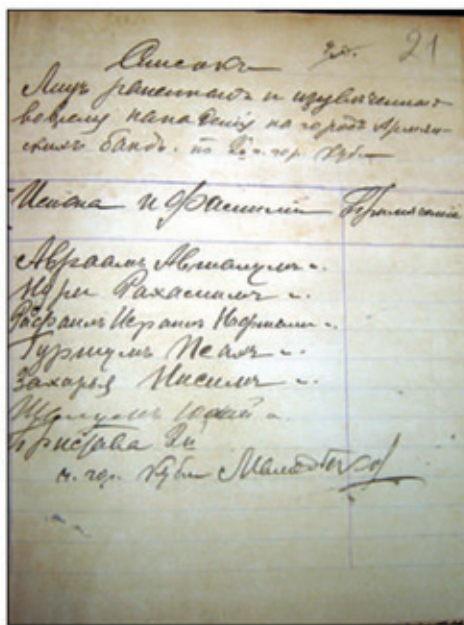
Киньварскому Все еванг. мис. Д. Андриашу

Настоящие письма удостоверяют наши  
подписи на нашей посылке о покупке  
~~определенные~~ Анджие Френгеле по отноше-  
нию к сел. Киньвар. по достоверности (38) велика  
этих границ подписавших на посылку  
Генрих Френгель  
Ульф Фрихт  
Они Бидлихт  
Франц Андерсунд  
Арсент Катраев  
Мурзатхан Тургорхан  
Васи Хосатун  
Маматан Ахметан

Samples of files of the Ad Hoc Investigation Commission  
Investigation Case on the Devastation of the Town of Guba  
and villages of Guba Uyezd

Телеграфный Превычайный следственный Комиссии при Азербейджанском  
Правительстве Новоселов допрашивал нижеспоименованн в качестве  
с соблюдением ст. Уст. Уг. Суд  
которой показать. Али-Аббас-Бек-Али-Бек  
Куба, Городецкий? Золотая  
г.р. Куба, 48 лет.

Вопрос: Каким образом случилось то, что  
по той форме сообщены по с. дел.  
шас, что туда прибыло из Губы  
Бонимевичев, которыми? каково  
решо администрация в Губе. Мос.  
Кубинцев, администрация в Губе  
на Бонимевичевых деловых  
судов, там, Манчичев, еврей  
Кубане Али-Аббасов и Шухеров  
Бонимевичев уполномочен, с кем он  
про Бонимевичев сообщено  
прибыли в Кубу. Деловых  
вернувшись и сообщены, что  
Бонимевичевы направили поди  
тот Кубу и Кубинцев. Уполн.  
еврей Али-Аббас и в доброту  
подробно, и что вместе с





**Mass graves discovered in Guba in the course of archaeological excavations in 2007**









**Solmaz Rustamova-Tohidi**

**Guba. April-May, 1918**  
**Muslim massacres in documents**

**Baku-2013**



