

**REPORT of Mr. Novatsky, member of the Extraordinary Investigation Commission CSAOR  
AzSSR, f.1061, op.1, f.95, pp.5-8**

To Mr. Chairman of the above commission concerning devastation of the Guba city and villages of Guba uyezd and violence over the residents of the above-mentioned city and villages.

In the month of April of 1918, when Baku and the Baku province were held by the Bolsheviks, David Gelovani of the Bolshevik party arrived in Guba with a squadron of 187 armed soldiers and declared himself the Uyezd Commissar of Guba. He suggested that the population should immediately recognize the Soviet authorities. Guba residents fulfilled this order. Gelovani began to introduce the Bolshevik power in the city. He learned of peace attitude of the Guba Moslems and released up to 200 interned Armenian prisoners from jail, as he knew that Moslems could not represent any danger to them.

The next few days were quiet. All of a sudden, Lezghis from the neighboring villages approached the city from the mountains and offered Gelovani to abandon the city with his squadron or give up. Gelovani rejected this suggestion. Lezghis started to fire the city. This led to a skirmish, which lasted for several days. A squadron of soldiers with one gun and machine-guns arrived to support Gelovani. Nevertheless, Gelovani still had to abandon the city. As he was leaving, he forced the Christian population, mostly Armenian, to leave. The Lezghis followed and fired the retreating troops. Several persons of peace Christians were killed in the skirmish, namely Armenian Machak Kasparov, Armenian priest Aleksander Bogdanov, Duhol Pogosov, Russian Orthodox priest, chemist Golubchik, excise official Polesny, forest warden Abrosimov, doctor Michels and many others. Gelovani retreated with his squadron and Christian population. The life in the city was quiet after that. Armed Lezghi troops, which forced Gelovani to abandon Guba, dispersed to their houses.

Approximately two weeks later, news came that a large squadron of soldiers with guns and machine guns was approaching Guba from Baku. Some of the residents left their properties in the city and escaped to the forests, while others remained, because they did not allow the idea that the squadron could represent any kind of danger to them. The squadron, headed by a famous Dashnak Amazasp and his assistant Nikolay, was composed exclusively of Armenians. It surrounded the city on May 1st 1918 and began to fire it from guns, gun machines and rifles. This led to a terrible panic and chaos. The squadron entered the city unimpeded. The seizure of the city was accompanied by fierce beating of the Moslem population and various kinds of violence over them. Armenians were merciless to men, women and children in the city streets; they broke into houses and murdered whole families without any mercy for infants, who were shot and knifed dead on the breasts of their mothers. Among such victims are Kerbalay Mamed Tagi oglu with his family of 14 members; Magomet Rasul oglu with his family of wife and three children - he had his abdomen unstitched, and heads of children were cut; Haji Dadash Bala-Kasum oglu with his spouse Meshadi Bibi-Hanum and son Abdul Kasum, who were burnt in their house; Hokima and Busta - two daughters of Kerbala Abuzar Mastan oglu, who were knifed to death on their mother's breast; Meshadi Gambar Molla-Magomet Salekh oglu with his wife and several infants. Among other killed persons are Molla Shahbaz, Usta Magomed Rasul Bayram oglu with his son, Meshadi Musa Zeynal oglu, Meshadi Ali Meshadi Fayzulla oglu, Kerbalay Dadash Bagir oglu, Jabbar Mamed Ali oglu, Saiba, Safar-Ali Meshadi Talib oglu, Meshadi Musa Zeynal oglu and others. There were cases of tortures and mockery, for instance honorary oldmen were ordered to deliver Moslem women to soldiers. Ali-Pasha Kerbalay Magerram oglu and his

son were killed because they refused to fulfill the order, the latter was thrust with bayonet in the eyes of his father and had his eyes put out and face and abdomen cut. Nearly two thousand men, women and children were killed. Armenians raped up to one hundred Moslem women and girls, whose names are kept secret by relatives. The property of Moslems was stolen. Public activists calculated that Amazasp squadron stole four million roubles in cash, gold, gold products and jewelries worth four and a half million, various products and food products worth twenty five million roubles. Besides, Amazasp squadron burnt one hundred and five houses and buildings in Guba, which belonged to Ibrahim-bek Shikhlarsky, Meshadi Aliy Huseynov, Orudj-Aliy Ahmedov, Bekir Megraliyev, Sattar Mamedyarov, Gidayat Amirbeyov, Gafar Orudjiyev, Ali-bek Zikiksky, Radjab Orudjev, Yusuf-bek Abusalambeyov, Iskender Abdullayev and others. They also burned houses where Moslem establishments were located. The victims suffered damages worth one hundred million roubles from the burning.

On his way to Guba, the Amazasp division attacked Moslem villages situated on both sides of the railroad track. The squadron burned those villages down, misappropriating properties and murdering those residents who did not manage to escape, without consideration for women and children. Cases are reported when local population sent parliamentarians with white flags to Armenians to express their obedience, but Armenians did not even open the negotiations and killed those parliamentarians and devastated the villages they were sent from. Such a case was particularly registered in the Alihanli community, where Armenian squadron killed parliamentarians Mirza Mamed Dadash oglu, the senior representative of the village, and Gulhuseyn Magerram oglu. Another such case took place in the Divichi community, where the residents of Divichi-Bazar and Kizil-Burun villages sent fifteen honorary elders with food to welcome Armenians. Armenians did not accept the presents and killed them all. The Amazasp squadron did not even have mercy for the religious feelings of Moslems - they burnt numerous mosques, while the Holy Koran books were cut into pieces and burnt. It was established that the Amazasp squadron burned and devastated a total of 122 Moslem villages in the Guba uyezd, namely Divich, Saadan, Charkhane, Darazerost, Zaglidjan, Alikhanli, Eynbulag, Arab Al-Mamed, Agasibekli, Kelani, Arab-Hamiye, Tugay, Nardarin, Siyazan, Razimli, Surra, Gulamlar, But-But, Andrew-Abad, Halilar, Karakashli, Ashaga-Kushi, Sarvan, Amirkhaim, Tura, Aykun, Jey, Kibla-Grez, Kara-Kurtli, Karach, Naridjan, Hudat, Lower Budug, Hachmaz station, Yeni and Kohne Hachmaz, Murshid Sube, Aziler, Karagilli, Nabur, Hasbullat, Bibishi, Babashlu, Ashali, Mekhrali, Bek-Kishlag, Janafur-Kishlag, Kulesh-Kishlag, Yusif-Kishlag, Gui-Guraki Dendenik, Mursali-Kishlag, Charkhi, Hirda-Oymak, Karachayli, Lanluk-Oba, Hizri Feriz, Er-Kodj, Gluli, Hasan-Efendi, Arab, Arab-Sof, Kara-Bagi, Chakhmakhli, Cagatay, Kazsiniye-Ilhi, Avaran, Hural, Chilakir, 2nd Hazri, Adjikhur, Zubul, Dustair, Okur, Major Murug, Gidjan, Kusari, Imam-Kuli, Yukhari-Zikhur, Hasan-Kala, Urva, Ashagelik, Lower Leki-Hel, Kohne Hudat, Avkhchik, Dashti-Yatag, Teki, Kasish-Kishlagi, Alibek-Kishlag, Igrikh, Anikh, Lower Huch, Alpan, Digah, Elzik, Mirza-Mamed-Kend, Uchken, Haji-Kaib Kishlag, Susay, Hach-Bala, Jim, Rustov, Engi-Kend, Glabi, Chichi, Sahub, Hudin, Zirgva, Akhurcha. 60 men, women and children were killed and 53 men were injured as a result of devastation of these villages. The devastation of these houses, buildings, public buildings and devastation of movable properties and cattle caused damages of 58,121,059 roubles to the population of the above-mentioned villages.

It follows from Gelovani's reports that Amazasp squadron was sent to Guba for the purposes of punishment at the desire of commissar Shaumyan, without the knowledge and consent of other commissars. The squadron was made by military commissar Karganov and the

squadron consisted of two thousand Armenians who were the members of Dashnaktsutun party. It was headed by a famous dashnaktsatan Amazasp. The functions of the squadron commissar were served by Venunz. The squadron was named the punitive and did not pursue any political objectives.

This fact was recognized by Amazasp himself in his speech to Guba residents, as he said: "I am a hero of the Armenian nation and an advocate of its interest. I was sent here [to Guba] with a punitive squadron to have my revenge for those Armenians who were killed here two weeks ago. I was not sent here to introduce peace and order or establish the Soviet power, but to have the revenge for the murdered Armenians. I was instructed to murder all Moslems from the sea coast [Caspian] to the Shah Dag [mountain in Dagestan] and to raze your houses to the ground, as we did in Shirvan [Shemaha] to have the revenge for our Armenian brothers who were killed by you and the Turks, but I had my mercy on you".

The punitive squadron of Amazasp included Amazasp himself, his assistant Nikolay and commissar Venunz. The following persons and residents of Guba also contributed into the barbarities which were described above: Arutun Ayrapetov, barber Jevad, Arutunov, Avakov, son of fish industrialist Avakov, students Amirjanovs, cousins of merchant Mirza Amirjanov, Mirza Amirjanov himself, dukhan owner Melikov, Vartan, son of Grigory who owns a house in Guba, Arutun, grandson of Mirzadjan, Arutun, the mill owner, Vartan Avakov, Arutun Baba oglu, Aleksander Mukasyantz, Tateos Yagub oglu, Babadjan with his son and Arutun Karapet oglu with two sons and cousin who were identified by victims in Guba, city residents Meshadi-Ibad Bagirov, Mamed Musa Mamed-Ali oglu, Kerbalay Abuzar Mastan oglu, Meshadi Huseyn Kuli Bagirov, Meshadi Hamdulla Aliyev, Shukur Turab oglu, Meshadi Molla Yusuf khan, Haji Ahmed Ali Murad oglu and Molla-Haji Baba Ahundzade.

In addition to the above-mentioned victims, these facts were confirmed by Guba residents Mamed-Aliy Kerbalay Irza Kuli oglu, Meshadi Huseyn Kuli Sultanov, Meshdi Sultan Askerov, Meshadi Haji Aga Kerbalay Ahmed oglu, Mir-Alekper Mir Mamed oglu, Meshadi Talib kizi, Kerbala Pasha Turab oglu, Ismayil Kerbala Mamed Tagi oglu, Zahra Yusuf kizi, Molla Shih-Huseyn Ahundzade, senior representative of Divini village Shaban Sharkar oglu, senior representative of the Saadan community Dadash Musa oglu, senior representative of Tugoy community Huseyn Ali bey Huseynbey oglu, senior representative of Siyazan community Amiy Zulfugar oglu, senior representative of Boyat community Bilal Meshadi-Mamed Bagir oglu, senior representative of Jey community Israfil Mamed oglu, beneficed mullah of Kubla-Key village Mullah Seyfaddin Ihdad oglu, senior representative of Karakurtli community Sheyd Shikh-Ali oglu, residents of Seyidlar village Haji Seyid-Abdul Halik Haji Seyid oglu, senior representative of Noradjan village Hammed Barat oglu, resident of Shollar village Rasul Hammed oglu, senior representative of Lower Budug community Mestan Nasir oglu, landlord Hasan bek Shikhlarsky, Susay village resident Ulubey Heyir bey oglu, senior representative of Avaran community Haji Sheyda Nazar-Ali oglu, resident of Nardjan village Ibrahim Zaidov, senior representative of Nuredli community Rustam Fineydan oglu, senior representative of Makhuch community Riza Safar-Ali oglu, residents of Makhuch village Murad Rasul oglu, Fitulla Jafar oglu, senior representative of Amsar community Kerim oglu and landlord of Alpan village Bey Bala-bek Gaibov, as well as by protocol of the examination of Guba and act, composed by the victims.

At the base of the foregoing, I suggest to institute criminal proceedings on charge with violation of articles 13, 129, 927, 1633, 1453 and 1607 of the regulations on punishments against

the members of the punitive squadron of Amazap, who devastated the city of Guba and 122 villages of the Guba uyezd, namely Amazasp, his assistant Nikolay, commissar Venunz, Arutun Ayrapetov, barber Jevad, Avakovs, Amirjanovs and others. Criminal proceedings shall not be instituted against former commissars Shaumyan and Karganov who died.

Commission member A.Novatzky.