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Söyleşi

Interview

ARMENIAN TERRORISM IN AMERICA AND TURKISH-AMERICANS

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Interviewee: Ergün Kırlikovalı

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Mr. Kırlikovalı, you have been involved in the United States, for 40 years without interruption, in the struggle against defamation of all thing Turkish by the Armenian lobby. Can you please briefly introduce yourself to our readers first?

Gladly. I was born in Izmir, Turkey, in 1952. I went to Namik Kemal Lisesi Orta Kismi in Izmir for junior high school and Robert Academy in Istanbul for high school. Then I graduated from Bogazici University Chemistry department and went to Manchester University in England for postgraduate studies in polymer science. I did my industrial internships in Austria (1973) and Holland (1974). I got married in 1978 and moved to the U.S. After working at several chemical companies in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York, I returned to California to start my own business in 1985. I am currently the founding president of my company engaged in research and development of IPN-based advanced materials for aerospace. I have one son who is getting his PhD in chemistry next year. We live in Southern California.

Why do I see nothing in your background that would explain your principled fight against the Armenian lobby?

You are right, there is nothing there to explain my behavior or motivation, as I was nothing like the person I am today when I set foot in the United States more than 40 years ago. The deceptive, dishonest, and racist Armenian lobby made me what I am today and now they have to live with their creation (laugh-ter.)

Can you expand on that?

Three events changed me completely. The first one was a troubling welcome by some hateful Armenian I never met. It was my first or second day in America. I went to a store to buy some groceries. When I was going through the bread section, I was drawn to a bread that looked very much like the Turkish bread I grew up with. While I was buying it, though, I noticed a strange label at the back of the bread that read: "The grandparents of the baker of this wonderful bread were ruthlessly murdered by barbaric Turkish soldiers." I immediately complained to the manager saying the message was offensive to me. He apologized profusely saying it is against their company policy to place political message on merchandise. I accepted the apology and asked what he would do. He promised to remove that brand of bread from all the shelves. I said I wanted to wait and see that happening. A few minutes later, he came back with an empty shopping cart, and indeed, cleaned up the shelves from that brand of bread baked by a racist Armenian. I thanked the manager and drove home. On the way, though, I was still uneasy and could not help but ask myself: "What is this? Am I going to have to check now all the labels on my groceries, milk, eggs, cereals, chocolate, etc., to see if another insult is hurled at my culture and heritage? Is this some kind of a new trend? What kind of country have I come to?" Some time later, though, I have found out that Armenians are the only ones who resort to such under-handed tactics to put racist messages on commercial products. I found no examples of such deep-seated hatred in any other community in America. Unpleasant, that was the first welcome-to-America message to me by the hateful Armenian lobby and it did change me somewhat. That was strike one.

What was strike two?

It was an Armenian bomb threat placed via phone to a public hall in San Francisco where a prominent Turkish folk dance group visiting from Turkey was going to perform colorful Turkish dances. I was so excited that I bought tickets for all my American friends at work. I was living on the peninsula at the

time and San Francisco was a 45 minute drive from my work. 10-12 of us, coworkers, formed a convoy of three cars and drove to San Francisco. When we arrived at the location, we were met with a police cordon. Due to a bomb threat by Armenians, the performance was cancelled. Armenians, thus, not only prevented me from enjoying my civil rights, but also violated the civil rights of about 10 Americans in our group. I tried to reason with the police suggesting maybe we could wait until they finished their search and then go in. He refused to let us in. He said if I had an issue with the police cordon, I should take it up with the police chief or the mayor. Disappointed and angered by Armenian terrorists, we had to return home. That was the first letter I wrote in America – one of some 5,000 to follow in the next 36 years – protesting Armenian terrorism. I was not going to take this lying down. That was strike two.

And what is the third event that shaped you?

The third event was the assassination of Kemal Arikan, the Turkish Consul general to Los Angeles. On January 28, 1982, two Armenians from Lebanon, both members of the JCAG, ambushed Arikan, as he was waiting in his vehicle at a traffic light in Westwood, California. Hampig Sassounian was 19 at the time, and his accomplice Krikor Saliba, 20. The JCAG telephoned the United International Press in Los Angeles shortly after the murder, claiming responsibility. Luckily, an American witness took down the plate of the car escaping the crime scene and immediately informed LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department.) Sassounian was arrested at his home hours after the killing. LAPD searched Sassounian's car and found a .357 caliber bullet and a one-way airline ticket from Los Angeles to Beirut. In Sassounian's home, LAPD found a gun receipt, pistol targets and a proclamation by AYF, the Armenian Youth Federation. Saliba escaped to Lebanon thereafter. Sassounian and Saliba's crime was planned ahead of time and the two terrorists even scouted the intersection where they knew Mr. Arikan would cross and where they would shoot him. Nothing was left to chance.

I heard the news on the radio while driving to work in the morning. I was shocked as I had known the victim. He was a gentleman with a pleasant personality and even had offered me a cup of tea when I had visited the consulate last, a few weeks prior to the killing, as he routinely did to many visitors to show the legendary Turkish hospitality. I pulled into a gas station to listen to the developments unfold. In the meantime, station after station, those interviewed

about the assassination were, curiously, mostly Armenians. They would say things like the victim deserved his tragic end as he was representing Turkey which denied the alleged Armenian genocide. I drove back home and checked the TV stations where the one-sided coverage was even worse. Only Armenians were being interviewed and the Armenians were using this solemn occasion as a chance to defame and demonize Turkey and Turks. Everytime I tried to call the TV and radio stations to present the other side of the story, they would ask who I was. Was I the president of some local organization? When they heard that I was an ordinary citizen, they would hang up. This pattern continued with all TV and radio stations. No matter what I said, I could not get on TV or radio. Enough was enough! This was strike three.

I booked the first available slot at the Los Angeles Pres Club the next morning and left a voice mail message to the joint media line:

“ Hi, my name is Ergün Kırıkıovalı and I am the president of **Turkish News & Views** (TNV.) Tomorrow morning at 8 am, I will be presenting the Turkish side of the story on the Arıkan assassination at the Los Angeles Press Club.”

I established the organization called TNV in a few seconds and only in my head. The media wanted a president and they got one. One of the TV reporters later asked when TNV was established. I said “Last night”. He was startled and followed with “How many members do you have?” I said: “One. Just me. If I can convince my wife, though, we will experience a 100% growth in membership this year.” He started laughing. I continued also with smiles: “It is the message, not the messenger.” Amused, he nodded and played the entire press conference at his TV station many times that day.

Back to the press conference. I read a short statement and then took questions. I remember saying:

“Here is a human being, collapsed in a car seat, soaked with blood, a victim of a dastardly assassination , and all you did was interview the perpetrators’ community members. What about the victim? Doesn’t the victim have a family, a wife and children? Doesn’t he have co-workers, friends, and compatriots? Doesn’t he have a country, a culture, and a history? You left half the story out. Is that what you call objective journalism? ”

The press conference hall was packed with many reporters and TV cameramen were busy taping. In spite of the huge crowd, the silence was so intense that you could hear a fly buzzing. I continued:

“ I am a polymer scientist. I got a day off from work, rented this facility with my own money, prepared a press release, so that I could convey to you the other side of the story, the Turkish side. It was your job to seek out and find me, instead, I found you. Are you comfortable with that lack of fairness on your part?” Total silence.

Then I told them that events of 100 years ago some 8,000 miles away should not be used today to kill innocent victims. History should not be turned into a weapon for brain-washed assassins. If there are disagreements in interpretations, then we should have a civilized dialogue and discuss all of them. If we still cannot agree, then we should, again in a civilized manner, agree to disagree. Those Lebanese-Armenian terrorists should pack up their bombs and guns and go back to Lebanon where they came from. We want peace and dialogue in America, not guns and bombs.” Still total silence.

I continued: “As far as history is concerned, we have a different view on the 1915 events. Armenians, considered a loyal nation until the end of 19th Century, changed their stance drastically, staging massive armed revolts, resorting to terrorism and siding with the invading enemy armies. Turks only defended their home in the face of such a supreme treason. Armenian community in eastern Anatolia was mostly supporting Armenian terrorists, by design or default, and there was no way of separating guilty from innocent. Wartime conditions did not help. The Ottoman Empire felt the military necessity to remove those Ottoman-Armenians involved in fifth column activities away from war zone to safer parts of the Ottoman Empire, like Northern Syria and Iraq at the time. Armenians of Istanbul, the capital, were mostly untouched because they presented no threat. Most Armenian in Western cities were also not moved. Those in government service, doctors, nurses, crafts people, Protestants, Catholics were also not moved. As one can see, there is no one-size-fits-all approach aimed at systematically exterminating Armenians, as deceptively claimed. About 700,000 Armenians were moved in the nine months from June 1915 to March 1916, and more than 500,000 were known to have arrived at their Syrian destinations safely, according to American records. New housing was arranged for them. Those who wanted to start a business in the new territories were also helped by

the Ottoman state. The loss of around 200,000 are deaths due to wartime conditions like epidemics, starvation, climactic conditions, and less than 10,000 were actually killed by bullets. The latter were in retaliation for Armenian terrorism that claimed the lives of many Turks, Kurds, Circassians, Arabs, and other Muslims. No matter how one interprets it, the claim of genocide cannot be supported by historical facts and has no legal basis. If you want further information, facts, figures, books, sources, and more, please contact me separately, as I cannot go into details here."

What were the reverberations of your press conference?

The press conference was an absolute hit. The news was played from noon onwards that same day, every hour, on every channel, until midnight, even the next day. The Armenian lobby was stunned. Who was this Ergün Kırıkocalı fellow? He must have been a shameful Turkish government spy or a highly paid lobbyist or a Nazi-sympathizing genocide denier or a crypto fascist. All kinds of insults and threats were hurled at me in the media. Turkish-Americans, on the other hand, were equally startled. Who was this guy? Anyone knew him? Let's find him and make him the president of ATASC (the Association Turkish Americans of Southern California.) They, indeed, found me the next day and, with a quick vote of the board of directors, declared me the new president of ATASC for the 1982-1983 term. Being elected the new president, I requested from ATASC to stage two more press conferences. In the first one, we fielded a strong team of six Turkish-American scholars, all with PhD degrees: Orhan Gurbuz, Bulent Basol, Tulin Mangir, Metin Mangir, and two more scholars whose names escape me right now. This was a perception management step to change the usually negative public image of Turks and Turkey. They drove home the points raised above and then took questions. The second press conference was also unique: we fielded a 16-year-old high school girl, a beautiful Turkish-American young lady, born and raised in the US. With her accent-free speech, she made it clear that Turkish-Americans wanted peace, dialogue, and progress, not hostility, polarization, and violence. She said Armenian hate for all things Turkish is, unfortunately, deliberately taught to young Armenian children by their parents and grandparents, which is, as we all see, leading to Armenian terrorism. She wanted such madness to stop. She finished her speech with the wonderful wish: "Teach the children well."

These three press conferences took Southern California by storm. With the momentum generated, we easily collected, in small donations from many in the Turkish-American community, the required \$20,000 for a Los Angeles Times advertisement that was published on April 25, 1982. That ad was a masterpiece unequalled to this day. We had bought the media rights to a beautiful American baby and hired a professional speech writer from Hollywood for that ad. The result was spectacular. Turkish message was heard loud and clear. 1982 turned into a year of awakening for the entire Turkish-American population in the US. Turkish-American communities from coast to coast were asking how we did it in Southern California. Most of them then emulated those efforts later on. All of a sudden, Turkish-American voices were heard all over America. More importantly, media started searching for Turkish-American leaders to get insightful comments on matters related to Turkey and Turks. I can say that the Turkish-Americans have truly arrived in America that year and became part of the American social fabric. Even politicians started taking note of the Turkish Americans. It was an awakening that came about purely by chance, a tragic event, owing to Armenian terrorism. Yes, there were double killings by another Armenian extremist, Gourgen Yanikian, of Turkish diplomats in Santa Barbara in 1973 and some in the Turkish-American community did try to speak up. But I do not know of any press conference designed to wake up the big media back in 1973. While 1973 reactions were soon forgotten, 1982 reactions were not. That 1982 spirit is still with many of us in the Turkish-American community today.

What would be a good summary of Armenian terrorism since 1973?

Between 1973 and the present, avowed Armenian terrorists committed over 230 acts of terrorism, murdering more than 70 and wounding 524 innocent people. Armenian terrorists took 105 innocent hostages, executing 12, one of whom was an American. The Armenian terrorists waged a bombing campaign with more than 160 attacks committed in crowded public areas such as airports, city squares and shopping malls, to cause maximum damage. For instance, the New York UN Plaza bomb was exploded as some 200 people at the nearby B'nai B'rith building were about to leave a conference hall to exit into the Plaza area. The Armenian bombing campaign destroyed more than 160 properties around the world (mostly in the United States, Europe, Middle East and Australia) costing nearly a billion dollars in damages. The Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide (JCAG) and the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) are the two Armenian groups that are directly responsible for

most of these acts of terrorism. JCAG is the militant wing of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, an ultra-nationalist political party in Armenia. ARF's foreign agent in the United States is the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). ARF recruited from its offices in Boston members to the JCAG from the Armenian Youth Federation (AFY). Between 1980 and 1986, Armenian terrorism accounted for 24.1% of all terrorist incidents in the United States, according to the FBI.

Can you dwell a bit on Armenian terrorism in the United States and Canada? How serious is it?

Very serious. Let me put it this way. There are at least 23 American and Canadian Armenians that have been convicted of terrorist crimes and most of them were members of JCAG. Here a list I often refer to in my writings: In the United States: Hampig Sassounian, Los Angeles, California JCAG; Mourad Topalian, Los Angeles, California, JCAG; Dikran Berberian, Los Angeles, California, JCAG ; Vartan Chirinian, Van Nuys, California; ASALA; Steven John Dadaian, Los Angeles, California, JCAG ; Viken Hovespian, Los Angeles, California, JCAG; Hratch Kozibioukian, Van Nuys, California, ASALA; Siranouche Kozibioukian, Van Nuys, California, ASALA; Suzy Mahseredjian, San Francisco, California, ASALA; Monte Melkonian, Dinuba, California, ASALA; Krikor Saliba, Los Angeles, California, JCAG; Arnig Sarkissian, Los Angeles, California, JCAG; Harout Sassounian, Los Angeles, California, JCAG; Vicken Setrag Tcharkhutian, Hollywood, California, ASALA; Viken Vacoubian, Los Angeles, California, JCAG; Gourgen Yanikian, Los Angeles, California, JCAG. And in Canada: Haig Balian, Ottawa, ASALA ; Melkon Karakhanian, Ottawa, ASALA; Haig Karkhanian, Ottawa, ASALA; Haroutium Kevork, Ottawa, ASALA ; Kevork Marachelian, Ottawa, JCAG ; Ohannes Noubarian, Ottawa, JCAG; Rafi Panos Titizian, Ottawa, JCAG .

I understand at least one of those terrorists, Hampig Sassounian, still has not condemned Armenian terrorism by the JCAG or ASALA in his published interviews, although he is seeking parole. What are his chances of getting one?

The Turkish-American community is very sensitive on this issue. Almost every other year, we are faced with a renewed effort by the Armenian lobby to have him released. The Armenian lobby, backed by most in the Armenian community, support this blood-thirsty terrorist's release from prison. We find that

to be a sad contradiction coming from a community claiming a massive wrongdoing had been imposed on them 100 years ago, as most Armenians see nothing wrong with openly promoting one today. Sassounian's seemingly perpetual hatred for all things Turkish and Muslim is still clearly conveyed in his messages to the Armenian youth (AYF), ARF, and JCAG.

Why do Armenian resort to terrorism?

Violent extremism in Armenian political culture and history dates back to the second half of the 19th Century. Armenian historian Nalbandian starts Armenian terrorism with the first Sassoon revolt in 1862. More terror groups were formed in 1860s and 1870s. Armenakan (1885), Hunchak (1887) and ARF (1890) followed these. That is considered the first wave of Armenian terrorism.

Some historians place the dark origins modern Armenian terrorism in the Armenian network, Nemesis, which, in the early 1920s, planned, pursued, and murdered six former Ottoman officials living in Western Europe. This is considered the second wave of Armenian terrorism.

Why did the Armenians establish Nemesis in 1920s?

The mission of Nemesis was to seek vengeance for massacres of Armenians committed by Ottoman forces and others, ignoring the fact that most of those killings, though sad and unacceptable, were actually carried out by irregulars in retaliation for Armenian cruelty and massacres in Turkish and Kurdish villages in eastern Anatolia during World War I. Nemesis, headed by an Armenian American by the name of Hagop Der Hagopian, was the terrorist cell of the ultra-nationalist Armenian political party, ARF, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation ("Dashnaks"), which led the Armenian nationalist movement against the late Ottoman Empire (1890-1922). Their aim was to create an ethnically, religiously, and political homogenous Armenian state in areas of eastern Ottoman Anatolia where Armenians were in minority, no more than one-third the population at best. ARF formed the short-lived Armenian Republic (1918- 20), before the territory was added to the Soviet Union in the Bolshevik Revolution (1917-19.) Der Hagopian assigned two young Armenian recruits, Soghomon Tehlirian and Arshavir Shirakian, to carry out the Nemesis assassinations in Europe. Tehlirian was brought to Boston, Massachusetts, for training. Soon after, Tehlirian traveled to Germany where he assassinated his first Ottoman official, Interior Minister Talaat Pasha on March 15, 1921. Tehlirian was tried and acquitted by a

German court, rather a Kangaroo court. Decades later, in 1973, another Armenian American, Gourgen Yanikian, reignited Armenian passion for terrorism by assassinating two Turkish diplomats in Santa Barbara, California. It was Yanikian's dream to be another Tehlirian and to bring world attention to the Armenian community's re-formulated and cleansed allegation that the 1915 incidents constituted genocide against the Armenians. In the mind of Yanikian, Armenians died not because they engaged in a revolt and civil war to secede from the Ottoman Empire, but because they were ethnically Armenian, which of course, could not be farther from the truth. The California court convicted Yanikian of two counts of first-degree murder and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Yanikian served 10 years of his life sentence. In a blaringly partizan move, Yanikian was ordered released by California's then- Governor George Deukmejian, another Armenian-American. When Yanikian died at the age of 88, an Armenian American newspaper, The Armenian Reporter, declared that he had "opened [a] new era of political struggle" and "changed the course of Armenian history." Yanikian became an Armenian role model for Sassounian. Both of these terrorists are still considered heroes in the Armenian community.

What about current day ASALA and JCAG?

Current day Armenian terrorism and violent extremism, re-invigorated by Yanikian's double assassinations in 1973, has been implemented by two militant Armenian organizations: The Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia ("ASALA") and the Justice Commandos for the Armenian Genocide - Armenian Revolutionary Army ("JCAG - ARA"). ASALA, an anti-American group with Marxist-Leninist goals, was formed in the late 1960s by four Armenian intellectuals/militants: Rev. James Karnusian, Simon Simonian, Kevork Ajemian, and Hagop Hagopian. JCAG-ARA, also an anti-American group, but with ultra-nationalist objectives, is linked to the right-wing Dashnak party, like its predecessor Nemesis. JCAG-ARA was created to keep the young Armenians from joining the left-wing ASALA. All told, Armenian patriotism is largely measured by these groups on their "success" to conduct anti-Turkish violence; the larger the scale of devastation, the more patriotic these Armenians consider themselves.

ASALA and JCAG-ARA represent the third and latest wave of Armenian terrorism against people of Turkish heritage and scholars who reject the Armenian allegation of genocide. The first wave, which started in 1862 and ended in

1919 peaked during World War I (1914-1919) and was led by ARF. Historian William Langer documented that the ARF (Dashnak) militants worked “to incite disorder, bring about inhuman reprisal, and so provoke the intervention of the powers.” By the term powers, ARF extremists meant Russia, Great Britain, France and/or America. Thus, the Dashnak party would be able to carve out an Armenian state from the eastern provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

What about the third wave of Armenian terrorism?

The third wave emerged in the mid 1970s to punish Turkey, the successor state to the Ottoman Empire, for denying the alleged genocide. The aim of obtaining international recognition that the 1915 events in the Ottoman Empire constitute genocide was added later along with demands for reparations and land. This is what the Armenian radicals refer to as the “Armenian Cause” or Hai Tahd; to get recognition of the alleged genocide, payment of reparations to Armenians and to have Turkey cede eastern Turkey to Armenia.

Why then did ASALA split?

ASALA’s leader was Armenian American Monte Melkonian of Dinuba California, working in concert with French Armenian Ara Toranian and Lebanese Armenians Hagop Hagopian and Hagop Darakjian. In 1983, ASALA split into ASALA and ASALA-RM (ASALA-Revolutionary Movement). ASALA was taken over by Hagopian and Darakjian, with bases in Greece, Syria and Lebanon, and continued its terrorism against anyone in its way including civilians and non-Turkish targets. ASALA-RM, on the other hand, was led by Melkonian and Toranian, directed its terrorism against Turkish targets only, again civilian or not. Hagopian was assassinated on April 28, 1998, in what can be described as settling of an inter-organizational account, by a four-man hit team made up of professional ASALA killers Kovsep Artinian and Garabed Kazazian of Beirut, Vartan Gozuboyokian of Damascus, and Albert Abreus of Teheran.

And why did JCAG split?

None of the above, i.e. ASALA and ASALA-RM split, should be confused with JCAG and JCAG-ARA split. According to the FBI, JCAG-ARA was created by the right-wing Dashnak party in order not to lose young Armenians to the ASALA leftists, reporting that Dashnaks constantly supplied JCAG-ARA with new recruits through the Armenian Youth Federation.

When did the intense lobbying of the US Congress by the ARF start?

In 1984, at the Dashnak party's international convention in Munich, Germany, Dashnaks announced a new campaign to promote the Armenian Cause by lobbying the U.S. Congress and UNCHR (UN Commission on Human Rights.) The ARF, in the convention's closing statement, made its intentions clear: "We will continue to pursue the Armenian people's legitimate rights and demand recognition of the Genocide by Turkey, reparations for human, economic, and cultural losses and for the restitution of the millennial Armenian homeland." In summary, the ARF wanted the 3R's: recognition, reparations, restitution.

Did ASALA go along with these goals?

While ASALA may not have objected to the goals, ASALA did not believe that the ARF's "lobbying" was the way to achieve them. ASALA criticized the Dashnak party's strategy most severely. Here is a direct quote: "...the solution of the Armenian Cause cannot be found in false international tribunals, as our people have been made to believe over the years. The Armenian Cause can only be realized through armed struggle and by liberating Armenian lands from Turkish fascism. Is it possible to expect the liberation of our lands with the help of the West when imperialist military bases exist on these territories?" In other words, they are saying, the Armenian cause cannot be advanced through lobbying the people who maintain military bases in Turkey, meaning NATO and the U.S. bases.

Did ARF succeed in its new plan to lobby the US and the UNCHR?

Not, really. Neither the US, nor the UNCHR supported the claim that 1915 events constituted genocide. For example, the powerful Armenian lobby has forced the introduction of 14 resolutions in the US House of Representatives and Senate; six that passed used the word "massacre", not "genocide". Of the eight that did not pass, some were rejected, others died of inaction, because they all insisted on using the term "genocide". The Armenian lobby also failed to persuade the UNCHR.

How does Sassounian parole hearings fit into this picture?

Sassounian's parole hearing was important to the Armenian Cause. For example, the year 2015 marked the centennial of 1915 events that ARF and the

nationalist Armenians consider genocide. As 2015 approached, the Armenian lobby desperately needed a grand gesture to symbolically mark this occasion. Sassounian's release, if it could be obtained, would have made such an impact.

Did ASALA go along with ARF's lobbying policy?

No. For example, on January 20, 2000, ASALA during its 25th anniversary observations, stated, "The acknowledgement of genocide is a political question, and this kind of question is resolved according to the balance of power. Turkey is much stronger now than in the 1970s and 1980s. Our goal is to liberate western Armenian territories in Turkey. We intend to keep a strong fight for our lands." In a separate but related development, authorities within the government of the Republic of Armenia reinstated ARF, the ultra-nationalist, right-wing Dashnak Party. As you might remember, the former Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossian had suspended ARF in 1994, alleging that it was harboring a terrorist cell within Armenia. Combined, these two developments were interpreted as ominous signs of an approaching new (fourth) wave of Armenian political violence.

How did the Armenian elite view this new threat by both ASALA and ARF? Did they oppose ASALA and ARF?

Far from it. Some of the political violence, in fact, has been inspired, if not also directed, by the elite of the Armenian American community. Take Mourad Topalian, for example, former chairman of ANCA, the US agent of the foreign political party ARF and a member of the Armenian elite, who made his way all the way into President Clinton's White House. The Government's indictment of Mourad Topalian in 2000 cites eight counts in which he led three bombings in the United States, two in Los Angeles and one in New York. Moreover, Topalian led an attempted assassination of the Philadelphia Honorary Turkish Consul. Each of these bombings was claimed by JCAG-ARA of the ARF. Topalian was later caught, tried, convicted, imprisoned, and served his years in prison. Imagine that! A notorious bomb-supplier and ruthless assassination organizer, rubbing elbows with a US president! Of course, the US president had no idea that at least one in the group of deviously smiling Armenian elite visiting him at the White house is a crypto-terrorist with blood on his hand. How could he know? All this is interpreted as the Armenian elite, having failed in peaceful ways to obtain recognition for their genocide claims, has endorsed terrorism once again, leading the way to the fourth wave of Armenian terrorism.

Was the Armenian youth used in this fourth wave of Armenian terrorism?

Of course. Whether the young Armenians commit ahead of time to acts of terrorism that may be asked of them in future, allegedly during the armed-training at an AYP summer camp, or keep this commitment at heart, as in secret sleeping terror cells, to act years later, we cannot be sure. One thing is certain, though: Armenian terrorism uses Armenian youth. Recruitment of youth is done by the AYP, the youth branch of ARF. For example, several connections were made with respect to Sassoonian's affiliations with the ARF and AYP summer camp training. It should be no surprise, therefore, that shortly after Mr. Arıkan was shot, the JCAG phoned United International Press in Los Angeles and claimed responsibility for Arıkan's murder. There are many more examples like that in the more than 200 acts of terror committed by Armenians around the world since 1970s, suggesting systematic use of Armenian youth in Armenian terrorism.

Looking back, where did Armenian terrorism lead the Armenian cause?

When the third wave of Armenian terrorism start in 1970s, the terrorism staged by ASALA and JCAG-ARA were based on the conviction that the Armenian Cause (Hai Tahd) could be achieved at a moment of weakness of the Turks. Armenian terrorism clearly failed to achieve that. What's more, Armenian terrorism caused the world to lose sympathy for the Armenians.

What is the PKK connection all about?

The sudden slow down (but not termination) of Armenian terrorism in 1986, curiously, coincided with the start of Kurdish terrorism under the name PKK (Parti Kurdistan Karkarani, the Marxist-Leninist, Kurdistan Workers Party). This switch in source of terrorist campaign directed against Turkey, through documented and serious cooperation between the JCAG, ASALA and the PKK, with support from Hafız Assad's Syria, caused Turkey to look at global terrorism in a much different light:

- 1) terror was universal, not regional or local;
- 2) terror was integrated, systematic, and deep-rooted, not compartmentalized, disorganized, and shallow;

- 3) terror required a professional force of elite soldiers and police equipped with sophisticated weapons to fight effectively, not regular soldiers and police equipped with conventional weapons;
- 4) Some NATO members, along with some ex-Soviet countries were, unfortunately, financing, arming, training, and/or otherwise supporting the terrorists named above through clandestine ways. While some politicians and diplomats of the “allies” of Turkey were smiling at Turkey’s face in international meetings, some were dastardly and shamelessly helping avowed terrorists, spilling the blood of innocent civilians. Terrorism being nothing less than a survival issue for Turkey, these revelations, facts, and/or realizations caused Turkey to re-examine its relations with most countries. Turkey is relying more on itself now, rather than neighbors or allies, and Turkey’s defense industry is now developing, designing, and manufacturing its own sophisticated weapons, surveillance systems, and communication platforms. One can say that the recent impressive successes scored by Turkish Armed Forces and Police against PKK in Turkey, Northern Syria and Northern Iraq are a result of this awakening.

As a footnote to the above, I can add that in 1999, the PKK’s leader Abdullah Ocalan was captured, tried, convicted of multiple murders, and his death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment after Turkey invalidated the death penalty. Another footnote would be that the Janes Intelligence Review reported in September 1998, that ASALA members from Beirut and South Cyprus traveled to Teheran to meet with Iranian intelligence officials. ASALA met with the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (VEVAK) to revive ASALA terrorist cells in order to exert pressure on Turkey in case political tensions develop between Turkey and Iran. Once again, one can clearly see, that ASALA is not dead yet, terror is universal, and so is the support for terrorism.

What is the current status of Sassounian?

Sassounian, as you know, had pled not guilty and was tried and sentenced to life imprisonment by the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles in 1984. In 2002, though, faced with the possibility of being retried under special circumstance for killing Mr. Arikian because of his Turkish heritage – an added dimension which makes the crime and its punishment more severe – Sassounian finally confessed, not only escaping from a retrial but also

obtaining the chance to apply for parole every four years. Both at his first hearing in 2006 and second one in 2010, Sassounian was deemed unsuitable for parole and an unreasonable risk of danger to society and public safety.

It is interesting to note that while Sassounian denied that the killing of Mr. Arıkan was conceived and planned with the influence or assistance of any Armenian terrorist organization, his claim contradicted the massive government evidence that refuted him. It is quite clear by now that the JCAG and the ARF are closely affiliated with each other. ARF recruited Armenian youth for JCAG and recruits were trained within the AYF. This fact has been confirmed by the FBI. The evidence supporting Sassounian's ties with the ARF and connection between his crime and the AYF is substantial. He was a member of the AYF when he murdered Arıkan and, in fact, wearing clothing with AYF emblem on it at the time of the killing. Pictures of him and other young men holding machine guns were taken alongside a flag depicting the ARF symbol. He admitted that there was a shooting range at the AYF camp which he frequented with other AYF members. He even bears a tattoo of the ARF symbol on his chest, over his heart. It was none other than the JCAG who called the United International Press in Los Angeles, taking full credit for the assassination of Mr. Arıkan. What's more, AYF has never condemned Sassounian's murder or expressed regrets that a cold-blooded killer like Sassounian was a member of the AYF for many years, which is understandable as AYF has never condemned any Armenian terrorist act.

Evidence compels us to conclude that Arıkan's murder was not an isolated event, and occurred as a part of the long string of Armenian terrorist activity that has been present since the 1860s, i.e. for more than 150 years. These obvious threads of continuity between first, second, and third waves of Armenian terrorism, as explained above, created traumatic effects on the Turkish American community. This is why emotional anti-parole campaigns were launched instantly by the latter, participated enthusiastically by many in the community, resulting in the rejection of Sassounian's parole by the parole board. The net result today is that he continues to be behind bars for at least another year or two, until he qualifies for yet another parole hearing. When that happens, we will be ready to extinguish is hopes. He will rot behind bars which should be a lesson to potential Armenian terrorists and those Armenian youth who aspire to be terrorists. It is also a lesson to those Armenian leaders who teach hatred to Armenian

children. I base this assertion, of course, on the testimony of relatives of Sassounian and Saliba, during Sassounian's trial, that Armenian children were raised with hatred against Turkish people. Moreover, Sassounian admitted to harboring such hatred against people of Turkish heritage and the Turkish government, adding that Arikian was targeted because of the Arikian's statements rejecting the Armenian allegation of genocide.

In your view, when did the third wave of Armenian terror end?

I am not sure it ever ended. ASALA and JCAG and their spinoffs may be in their sleeper-cell mode, to be awakened by a moment's notice. Members of such terror organizations disguise themselves well and may appear to us today to be respectable Armenian neighbors, laughing at our face, just like Topalian did hobnobbing with President Clinton. Most scholars consider the terror act of November 23, 1986 in Melbourne, Australia, where a bomb exploded in front of the Turkish Consulate General, killing one person, perhaps the perpetrator, and injuring an Australian national, to be the end of the third wave of Armenian terrorism. I beg to differ.

What is your evidence to support that conclusion?

Here is my evidence for thinking the third wave has not ended yet:

On April 28, 1988, in Athens, Greece, the leader of ASALA, Hagop Hagopian was assassinated by other ASALA members Hovesp Artinian and Garabed Kazazian of Beirut, Vartan Gozuboyokian of Damascus and Albert Abreus of Teheran. Then on December 19, 1991, in Budapest, Hungary, an Armenian gunman attempts to assassinate Turkish Ambassador Bedrettin Tunabash, causing damage to property. The "ASALA Sassoon Unit" claimed responsibility. These sound to me like ASALA is alive and well.

Continuing with evidence, on September 5, 1992, the Armenian Reporter, an Armenian newspaper in New York, published a statement which said the JCAG "will resume its activities" by the application of revolutionary traditions against representatives of the government of Turkey. And this sounds to me like JCAG is not dead yet, either.

Continuing with evidence, on August 22, 1993, in Beirut, Lebanon, ASALA issued a threat to U. S. petroleum firms AMOCO (Standard Oil of Indi-

ana), Penzoil, Unocal, and Dermot, as well as the firms British Petroleum, Norway's Statoil, Turkey's Botas Pipeline, Turk Petroleum, and Azerbaijan's SOCAR company. In it, ASALA stated that it would use all means to bar the passage of oil from Azerbaijan to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, calling it a "Pan-Turkic international pipeline". The threat also stated that "the occupying Turkish regime and its supporters are responsible and therefore face the consequences of their acts." Whether they can do it or not is not the issue here. The fact that there are ASALA members out there issuing ominous threats means acts of terror can also restart in the near future.

In December 1995, in Moscow, Russia, ASALA issued various statements that it is preparing to launch a new phase of terrorist attacks against Turkish targets. On December 30, 1995, The Armenian Reporter, printed an article stating that it had received a statement threatening Turkish targets.

The U. S. Department of State 1997 Terror Report stated that a new terror group by the name of "Gourken Yanikian Military Unit" appeared but that the title was a cover name used by ASALA. And on June 20, 1998, in Brussels, Belgium, a bomb exploded at the Turkish Embassy causing damage and threatening the lives of civilians. A group calling itself "Gourken Yanikian Military Unit" claimed responsibility. These developments make you think, don't they?

On September 18, 1998, in Yerevan, Armenia, ASALA exhibited its "records" in the National Library, when it was claimed that ASALA had carried out more than 350 terror acts since 1975. The exhibition was to educate the Armenian youth about ASALA's mission. On June 20, 2001, in Armavir, Armenia, another exhibition titled "The ARF and the Armenian Cause" opened at the Sardarabad Ethnographic Museum, reportedly "the first of a series of exhibitions dedicated to the national liberation struggle of the Armenian people" and "the decades-long efforts of the ARF at the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide." The exhibit included pictures, documents and publications depicting "heroes-martyrs," as well as a coat of arms of the Armenian Republic that was hand-made by Raffi Titizian – one of the Armenian terrorists of the "Ottawa Three". Terrorists are treated like heroes and they exhibit their "merchandise" in national museums. Can a dead ASALA do all this?

On July 27, 2008, in Paris, France, the ARF commemorates and honors the "Lisbon Five" terrorists.

Canada does not help the efforts to fight global terrorism by granting parole and the permission to return to their families and reintegrate into Canadian society to Kevork Marashelian and Ohannes Noubarian, two of the "Ottawa Three" terrorists who were sentenced to life imprisonment. And on March 19, 2010, the third of the "Ottawa Three" terrorists, Rafi Titizian, who was sentenced to life imprisonment, was granted conditional release and deported to Lebanon, an award not punishment, for this terrorist.

Since 1990s, Armenian youth in American colleges and universities have become more aggressive, in that even cultural nights organized by TSAs (Turkish Students Associations) are raided violently, causing campus police to cancel the event. What even more ominous is that almost all of Armenian American professors and their non-Armenian colleagues who support the Armenian cause have become more antagonistic, belligerent, and destructive to things Turkish. Maybe we can dwell on this in yet another interview, but for example, even an Ataturk lecture, which would have nothing to do with the 1915 events would be raided by violent Armenian youth, interrupting a scholarly lecture and trampling upon the freedom of speech of other scholars and students. When I say Armenian terror did not end, it just change form, I mean this kind of academic terrorism. This unacceptable behavior by the Armenian lobby shows its face in media and politics, too. I will dwell on those in another interview.

How can you summarize all this for our readers?

The third wave of Armenian terrorism, spearheaded by ASALA, JCAG and their spinoffs, started in 1973 with Yanikian murders but did not end in 1986. In fact, it is still continuing as you read these lines. Armenian terrorists seem to have turned over the job of harassing Turkey to the PKK terrorists, with considerable help from some NATO countries, allies, and former Soviet republics. Turkish-American community is aware of these developments and fights back using the American legal system.

Thank you.

My pleasure.

Gençlik Binası

Temmuz, Eylül 2018 Sayı 1 33

Terrorism: Will it turn his American dream into a nightmare?

He's a little shaver, as the expression goes. Knee-high to a grasshopper, but a real tiger. He plays hard, sometimes just his bed-time. Long past knowing what he is doing. This time he was through a bath like James III. Patches his way into his pajamas like a private Sugar Ray. Vaseline on his back like John Wayne on his recent landing out for a show-down. And just when he's ready for the next adventure, his real little body betrays him into sleep. Into dreams of the boundless American boyhood.

He's at Disneyland with his Mom and Dad. Whirling like a little Darvish through dark tunnels and brilliantly lighted skyways and all the aghas and shahs and amirs as a blur. Suddenly, a shoulder runs through the scene. His parents' faces are grim. People are rushing for the exits. In the confusion his hands slip out of his parents' grip and he is lost. He hears shouts of "Bomb!" "Turks!" "Armenian terrorists!" He is being mangled. He screams himself awake.

The little shaver comes in all shapes, colors, and ethnic backgrounds. He could be yours, your neighbor's, your grandchild or



someone else's. He could be dreaming of terrorism, seeing it on TV or caught up in an actual shootout with terrorists at a school crosswalk. A hostage of a terrorist group or a potential victim of the next terrorist strike hood.

Bomb threats, actual detonations, and assassinations are becoming alarmingly routine in Los Angeles and throughout the world. With ghastly pride, terrorist groups calling themselves "The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia" or "The Justice Commanders of the Armenian Genocide"

claim responsibility for these heinous acts in certification against Turks.

This new nightmare of terror that lies in store for our children, or all of us for that matter, is new only in its language and methods. It is an old, old story of a misdeed, blind Armenian vendetta against Turks, Turkish-Americans and even non-Turkish friends of the Turkish people and their ancient culture.

It is a vendetta that thrives on ignorance, on the brainwashing of Armenian children into hatred of Turks and of things Turkish. On the indoctrination of great many students and their instructors in colleges and universities who together seek to exploit Turkish history and culture in the spirit of open-minded scholarship.

Thus the Armenian vendetta has become more sinister as each succeeding generation perpetuates it by more and more violent means.

It is time to "tell it like it was and as it is." We are doing so because we firmly believe that only the truth can defuse this explosive threat to the American dream.

Is there a clear and present danger from Armenian terrorist groups?

How much clearer and more present can you get than a typical Saturday night at Disneyland?

HEAUNES — Los Angeles Times — June 8, 1981

TURKISH SHOWS CANCELLED IN WAKE OF BOMB

The city spokesman said that the cancellation of two U.S. State Department sponsored performances of the Turkish Folk Dance Troupe — one at Disneyland that very night — because of a recent bombing and planned demonstration. The reference is to a pipe-bombing of the Arabian Courtyard in Camel the previous Wednesday that caused the evacuation of 5,000 people.

The little boy in our story had good reason to dream his Disneyland nightmare.

And it is here we begin our examination of the facts that have led us to these assumptions of Turkish terrorism within the last decade in the Los Angeles area alone. And each possibility claimed by Armenian terrorists. To us, a string of coincidences rather than, dispirited acts of Turkish fanatics and Catholics in Vietnam, Paris, Beirut, Madrid, the Hague, Ankara, the Holy See of Rome. And several of what has been wrong with us in trying to bring these bombings and bomb threats to Turkish cultural, spiritual, film, show, and talk shows relevant to the meaning of an American presence of Turkish history from a corporate campus after he had been threatened with murder. His terrorism represents a heritage of Turkish and American history establishments and physical attacks on Turkish youths.

In August we see the Armenian agencies to discuss the truth that they have succeeded in preventing Turkish history and culture — a procedure because few of mankind gone back more than a thousand years — from being taught.

In many they have made legends of all Americans — from George Washington to the Turkish-Americans as well as American-Americans of good will. And all the reasons of historical cause based on real dimensions of the historical facts.

How did it all begin?

Armenian terrorism and mass political conspiracies with their cause have tried to justify their campaign of violence and terror by misrepresenting and distorting facts concerning an event that occurred close to 70 years ago.

Armenian terrorism direct and indirectly misrepresents historical facts on a period of violence against Turks.

At the end of the 19th century most of the ministers of the Ottoman Empire were able to establish their independence due largely to population expansion in the lands they claimed. Armenians were considered any majority in any part of the Ottoman Empire at any time. This was because over the centuries they had been scattered throughout Anatolia and Russia.

Without the support of various independence, the Armenians started to large scale propaganda and terror, in they developed their financial and Dardanelles national movements. "Agitation and terror was needed to stimulate the spirit of the people." — The most opportunist to maintain the general rule. The Armenian-Turks were engaged in a war. — Christian Nightingale, University of California, Davis, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1983, pp. 112-113.

This particular policy was employed during World War I. Starting in 1914, arms and ammunition were shipped to support Armenian bands organized at Eastern Anatolia by Russia to

enable the Russian army to invade the lands claimed by Armenians. As the Russian occupied Eastern Anatolia the economic and social life centered by the Armenian "volunteers" were to create that they had to be established by the Russians to strip businesses against Turks and other Ottoman subjects.

In response to the open Armenian result in 1914, the acts of barbarism committed by Armenians, the Ottoman government exterminated all Armenians from the area threatened by war action to create a buffer zone.

As a result of war time conditions, famine, and epidemics over 2 million Turks died, as did 300,000 Armenians.

There was no genocide committed against the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire during this period, as it often claimed by Armenian Extremists.

The genocide was planned and achieved by the Ottoman government and to genocide was carried out. Armenians actually march but established that the series of large scale massacres were, in fact, largely instigated by Armenians in London Paris and London during World War I by their self serving interests.

The conflict between Armenians and Turks was resolved when the Armenians abandoned all of their territorial claims on Turkey with the Treaty of Garmy (December 20th), Moscow (March 1921), and Karaköy (October 1921).

In 1919 Mustafa Kemal ATATÜRK founded the Turkish War of Independence which resulted in the founding of the Republic of Turkey in 1923.

To put the genocide matter to rest for good and all —

Send Ancestral source: Dr. C. C. Copley, British Embassy in Washington, on Lord Curzon, 11 July 1921, Foreign Office, FO/3524/8110 show that after

years of deliberation, British and American negotiators failed to find any evidence to substantiate the charge of "genocide" committed by Armenian nationalists and leveled against the leading Ottoman Turks as well as the Ottoman government in 1921.

The Turkish-American Community wishes to live free from violence and hatred directed at us in our chosen country.

Turkish-American and friends of Turkey believe that a true record of oppression of hatred and debasement of all things Turkish in Armenian propaganda and the misleading of Turkish diplomats by Armenian terrorism, are to continue except to describe an already belated world.

Above all, nobody has the right to bring ancient hatreds to this blessed land.

Further, we realize that having been American we are to be living in the United States we are not to include ourselves from the larger world. Our ancestral land is an integral part of the NATO defense of Western democracy. We recognize that Armenian nationalism has rendered its work international terrorism and has not only organizations. As such they are to be in the hands of those President Reagan on down to our State and local officials. Tell them they must do everything in their power to halt the spread of terrorism too.

We all agree: Armenian-Americans of good will —

And perhaps one day soon there will be no terrorism for our sleeping children.

I am a member of the Turkish-American Association of Los Angeles — Armenia Extension

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