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Bondo Arveladze



Teimuraz Mibchvani

ARMENIAN BATTALION
NAMED AFTER BAGRAMYAN
AND
ETHNIC CLEANSING
OF GEORGIANS IN ABKHAZIA

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**Armenian Battalion Named after
Bagramyan and
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Abkhazia**

Tbilisi
2009

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In this work by well-known scientists Bondo Arveladze and Teimuraz Mibchuani, the evidences of active participation of Armenian Battalion named after I.K.Bagramyan, marshal of the Soviet Union in genocide and ethnic cleansing of Georgian population during provocative war in Abkhazia (1992-1993 and the following period) are provided based on archive materials. The Armenian side did not show any attempt to apologize for these actions. On the contrary, they started to advance absurd claims going beyond any decency and jurisdiction. This is their answer to Georgia, the country always supporting Armenian people in their hard times. Such betrayal by Armenian diaspora is to be expected in any part of the world, wherever such diaspora exists if they sense the gain. Regrettably, this was demonstrated not once or twice, but many times during the history.

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კანონმდებელი
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Abkhazians

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Introduction

Abkhazia is a historical region of Georgia like Samegrelo, Svaneti, Guria, Kakheti etc. A Georgian tribe named "Abkhaz" populated this region from ancient times. 72.7% of the people, who identify themselves as "Abkhaz" (the number of those today is less than 90 000), are still ethnic Georgians with Georgian surnames and have namesakes only among Georgians. The number of such surnames in modern Abkhazia exceeds 400. Only about 20% of the people identifying themselves as "Abkhazs" are not of Georgian ethnicity. This is a part of the people, who migrated from north Caucasus in late Middle Ages and belong to Adigean and Apsuan ethnic groups. Their surnames, such as Adleyba, Shinkuba, Ziba, Arzinba, Tsvizhba, Gicba etc., were never known in Abkhazia until 1621. The number of such surnames stays less than 150 until today. Even more, many of them factually are the ones of Georgian origin transformed in Abkhazian fashion, such as Khubua – Akhuba, Okujava – Okujba, Eristavi – Arista, Gunia – Gunba, Mikenia – Mikanba, Chichua – Chichba and others. There are also some surnames of other oldest Georgian tribe named Lazs. Such are Babalishi, Trafshi, Tsargoshi, Bagapshi, Phazilishi etc.

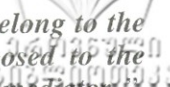
There were no geographic place-names of Adigean-Apsuan origin in Abkhazia until the XVI century. All the Kings and Lords of Abkhazia were Georgians. Every one of cultural memorial artifacts, all Christian churches and monasteries in Abkhazia are of Georgian origin with Georgian epigraphy until the XIX century.

Starting from the XV century, when continuous invasions of different conquerors led to splitting of Georgia into separate kingdoms, the population started to thin out. This process was more acute in provincial, buffer regions such as Abkhazia, Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Shida Kartli, where newcomers from bordering regions started to create their settlements. The Georgian feudal lords, who needed additional labour and military power, did not see any danger to this process. The Great Lords of Abkhazia, Shervashidze family even supported these settlements in mountain regions of Abkhazia. Meanwhile, the ethnic name of local Georgian population "Abkhaz" was transmitted to north Caucasian Adigean and Apsuan tribes, but at the same time, they preserved their original name too



and even more – they started to call the region (historical Abkhazia), as “Aphsny” issuing from their own name (Aphsua). Such country or region was never before known in the history of Caucasian people. It is extremely ironic for any person more or less acquainted with the history of Abkhazia that the “Abkhazian” separatists have written Aphsny instead of Abkhazia on the signboards at the frontiers by river Phsou.


All this started after XIX century, when Abkhazia together with the whole Georgia was occupied by Russia in (1801). Until that, Abkhazs were loyal to the Georgian kings, as did the rest regions of the country. Even more, offended by Russian anti-Georgian politics, the Abkhazs desperately fought against the Tzarism, what ended by public uprising in 1866. Russia answered to it by their forceful moving them to Turkey during 60-70-ies of XIX century (Makhajery). This resettlement was applied manly to Aphsuans and Aphsuafied Abkhazs. Georgian public figures steadfastly opposed this brutal political scheme and managed to return a part of the transmigrated and the ethnos Abkhaz was saved (*G. Dzidzaria, Makhajery and the Problems of Abkhazs in XIX century, Sokhumi, 1982*). In 1880, Russia declared Abkhazs as “guilty people”. Russians, Armenians, Greeks were put in the houses of resettled Abkhazs. Abkhazia was refashioned in the region of mixed ethnicities, what forced them to accept Russian language as the main instrument of communication. Eventually, Georgian language was forced out of Abkhazia. In 1907, Russia released the Abkhazs of accusation in “guiltiness” and started to punish Georgians instead. The Abkhazian writing, which was based on Georgian alphabet, was replaced by Russian. This is the period, when they started to set the population of Abkhazia against Georgia by creating an enemy figure in the face of Georgians. The battle took more than a century and reached at its peak during the governance of N. Khrushchov, Secretary General of the Communist Party of USSR during 1954-1964. Offended earlier by Stalin, N. Khrushchov often spoke about his intention to set Abkhazians against Georgia. Mikhail Suslov, USSR Central Committee Secretary in Ideology has written in his confidential report to the CC in 1961: *“It’s just a matter of time, when Georgians start to fight for their independence. We shall to start actions against them by Abkhazia. Megreles and Svans need to be given autonomies in order to fuel separatist ideas. We need to*



declare and assure everybody, that Georgians do not belong to the native population. The eastern Georgia is to be opposed to the western part and after that take the mission of the mediator

Today we can state that they were not able to do it in the whole western part of Georgia but succeeded in Abkhazia by means of provocative war. Then Russia, incongruously placed their military forces in so called conflict zones. This is probably the most outrageous fact, as the whole civilized world knows, that the Abkhazian war was a Russian Aggression against Georgians and not ethnic conflict between Georgians and Abkhazs. In fact, Russia occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions and gave to the remained local population, after ethnic cleansing Russian citizenship, what, in fact, is a prerequisite of ethnic elimination of small in number Abkhazs. Such danger was initiated firstly in XIX century during forceful resettlement to Turkey (Makhajery). Later Georgian "intelligentsia" rescued them. Today they have already been jeopardized again by Russia, but the scheme is much more insidious. The population of Abkhazia was ethnic Georgians, they identified themselves as Georgians and they knew that could survive only in union with the whole nation. Even in case of having its own citizens in Georgia, Russia has no right to occupy Georgian territories. As far as they intend to protect their citizens, they can take them in their country and protect them there.

Even though Abkhazs were the smallest in number in the former USSR (93 267 by data of 1989), they were granted privileges by the Soviet Government not thinkable to any other ethnicity in other Soviet Republics. Abkhazian Autonomous Republic was created on the territory, where 45.7% of population were Georgians (identifying themselves so including Abkhazians, which still consider themselves as Georgians), 17.8% were Abkhazs (identifying themselves so, including Apsuan and Adigean tribes mentioned above). Despite this percentage, 8 out of 15 in total USSR Supreme Soviet delegates from Abkhazian Autonomous Republic were Abkhazs. 140 delegates of Abkhazian Supreme Soviet consisted of 57 Abkhazs, 53 Georgians, 14 Russians etc. Out of 12 Ministers, there were 8 Abkhazs and 2 Georgians; In Georgian Supreme Soviet delegated were 28 Abkhazs, 26 Georgians, 11 of other nationalities living in Abkhazia. Abkhazians had their University, Agricultural Institute, local television, theatre, schools,



publishing houses, etc, when just 3% of the total income of the Autonomous Republic fell on Abkhazs.

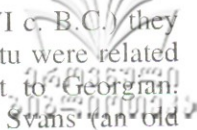
The Russian Government managed to win over a part of Abkhazian intellectuals and form an aggressive wing of separatists. Nowadays, Russia uses them to lead Abkhazian people to precipice, as Russia needs Abkhazia without Abkhazs and Georgians. After genocide and ethnic cleansing of Georgians, they took over finishing with Abkhazians, who still remain in Abkhazia with support of separatist Abkhazian Government, who cares for nothing but their career and wellbeing.

“We will make you Georgians to shoot at us (Abkhazians)” – wrote newspaper “Aidgilara” of Abkhazian separatist (in Russian) and so was done. Georgian Government of that time fell for the bite. They justified their actions by the fact that Abkhaz separatists blockaded the railroad. In this case, the Georgian government was authorized to relocate certain part of its army to any part of the country within its borders if it was necessary moreover, this was agreed with the Abkhazian Government. Nevertheless, appearance of Georgian forces on Abkhazian territory was provocatively used by the separatists and they started shooting... it was followed by Russian media declaring to the whole world that Georgian military forces attacked small in number people of Abkhazia.

The whole North Caucasus was set against Georgia. Chechen militants among others were the most aggressive. Ironically, they were the very people, who suffered most from Russian “kindness” after some while.

Now, about participation of Armenians against Georgians in this provocative war, i.e. the genocide of Georgians, exercised by Armenians. Georgians shown any mercy from Chechens, Circassians, Kabardinians, Adigeans, who are of the same Iberian-Caucasian race like Georgians, so its not a surprise that Indo-European Armenians did not show any mercy to them? During long history, Georgian kings were protectors of Armenia and Armenians. That is why they were entiled as: “The King of Abkhazs, Kartalines, Rans and Kakhs, Armenians and Movakans, Shakhan-sha and Shirvan-sha”. Together with Georgian regions, there are mentioned Armenia and part of Azerbaijan as well.

Armenians belong to Indo-European race and they came in Asia Minor during the period of invasions of so called “sea people”.




At the end, after Kingdom of Urartu was defeated (VI c. B.C.) they settled on today's Armenian territory. People of Urartu were related to Khurites and the language of Khurits is closest to Georgian. Academician N. Marr has published a study about Svans (an old Georgian tribe) to be descendents of Khurits. Georgian ethnic elements played significant role in formation of Armenian nation. Armenian ethnarchos Haos, the senior brother to Kartlos, was originated from the very Georgian ethnic element. Although, it is impossible for one brother to be of Iberian-Caucasian race, while the other one is an Indo-European.

As for Armenians in Abkhazia, they started to create settlements there after XIX century, but most part of them came in XX century. Insidious scheme of moving Armenians to Abkhazia (and not only there) by Ivane Khatisov (Father of Al. Khatisov, the leader of Armenian Dashnack Government, who held high position in Russian Government and played significant role in ruling Caucasus in XIX century), was revealed by Ivane Javakhishvili in 1925 in a letter to the Soviet Government. This letter is preserved in the State Archive of Georgia (it was published in newspaper *Literaturuli Sakartvelo*, №43, 1988). The letter is included in "Additional Materials", the final chapter of this book.

Led by greediness, high ranked Georgian and Abkhazian officials in the Soviet Government, who could not see the real purpose, supported the process of moving in Armenians. Armenian priesthood also played significant part. There are many examples during history, when Armenians took side of powerful intruders in Georgia. However, they supported Georgians if they sensed that Georgia is the winner. This is Armenian politics until today. The same was done in Abkhazia. Armenians in Abkhazia created Battalion named after marshal I. Bagramyan in order to "help" Abkhazians in 1993, when they were convinced that Russia would take over.

The Battalion was officially created on February 9, 1993 by the order of Colonel G. Arshba, the Defense Minister of Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia at that moment. Eventually, R. Khojaa wrote a book in Sokhumi describing "heroic actions" of armenians.

The annals presented in this book show the brutality of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan against Georgians in Abkhazia. They killed men, raped and killed women and



children, tortured, decapitated and robbed. Together with Abkhazs (or, rather Apsuans and Adigeans naming themselves so by need) and Russian army they made about 300 000 Georgians to abandon their native land and become refugees. The genocide of Georgian people committed in Abkhazia is a horrible crime against humanity.

The world indeed needs to know who is who.

We want to say at the end that everybody, who took part in genocide of Georgians in Abkhazia, shall account to law. Here we need to mention also that talking about actions done by Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan, we never forget that some part of Armenians fought side by side with Georgians defending its territorial integrity. Georgian people will never forget their support. A book about these Armenians is in the process of preparation and will be published in the close future.

We want especially underline that it is time for Georgian National Security Service to reveal the Armenians dispersed in different regions of Georgia, who took part in the Georgian Genocide in Abkhazia and still walk on the Georgian ground with impunity. They need to be charged by law for the crimes committed.

While translating this book into English and Russian languages, Russia took off the peacekeeper's mask and showed its real face. In August 2008, Russia attacked independent Georgia and occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region (so called South Osetia). At the same time, Russia recognized independence of these regions. Although no countries, but Russia and Nicaragua, so far have recognized these separatist regimes.

The authors

P.S. My coauthor, true Abkhaz, academician Teimuraz Mibchvani, the President of Academy of Sciences of Abkhazia passed away unexpectedly during preparation of this book. He gave lectures in Sokhumi University, where he led the Department of History of Georgia. Refugee himself has never lost hope to go back to his motherland but his heart gave up. May his soul enjoy reunion of Georgia and Abkhazia! May God bless his soul!

On Bloody Footsteps of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan




Tens of thousands of Georgians including children, women and elders were victims of genocide and ethnic cleansing during provocative war in Abkhazia (1992-1993) and afterwards. There was committed a horrible crime against humanity and nobody has answered for this until today despite the fact that this was recognized and condemned by OSCE summits in Budapest (1995), Lisbon (1997) and Istanbul (1999). Abkhazian separatists, Russians, Kazaks, Armenians, Chechens, Adigeans, Circassians, Kabardinians killed Georgians just because they were Georgians. Among them Armenians stood out by their viciousness. These are the same Armenians, which made their living, got farmlands, opened their schools with support and help of Georgians and had even rights with the local population. They always kept good relationships with Georgians, who made almost half of the whole population of Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia. However, as it appears, they bore malice inside and made it clear when they sensed the moment of gain. It turned out that they had a deal with anti-Georgian forces in advance. This may serve as warning to every country where Armenian Diaspora exists. They can do the same with local population in analogous situations, as there are many such examples in Armenian history.

The materials of investigated crimes committed against Georgians in Abkhazia make numerous volumes. They are held at the Office of the General Prosecutor of Georgia. In this crime against humanity, the role of the members Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan is the gravest. Here we point to facts that confirm this statement (the style of narrations is preserved):

Gulripshi District

Witness – Nargiza Gelantia (born in 1959, village Matchara, Gulripshi District):


“...My son informed me that in October 18, at 6PM three armed Armenians came to my mother’s house. It is thought that they



were from the village Ganakhleba, Gulripshi District. Our neighbour, Rozan Kesyan who worked as a driver in our collective farm (kolkhoz) was their acquaintance. They killed there my husband, my mother and two our neighbours – 50 years old and 60 years old Angelina Didishvili and Vladimer Didishvili. Then they burned the house with bodies inside, so that no remains were left. The killers wanted to kill my son too, but he managed to hide and escaped from the burning house after they left. My neighbour Butba (an Abkhaz) hid him in his house and saved him.”(v.37, p.300-302);

Witness – Zaliko Shamatava (born in 1934, village Azanta, Gulripshi District):

“...In October 5, 1993, 7 Armenians came in our village Azanta from Tsebelda. A son of Avak who lives in Kada accompanied them. He was the first who came in our house. The group was led by someone named Karpo, an Armenian from Gagra. They started shooting and robbing right away. They took our blankets, clothing, Givi Barkalaya’s car and many other things. Barkalaya asked them not to take the car, but they threatened him. The same group came back the very next day at 7AM and threw a grenade at our house twice and destroyed it. Then they make all of us including children and women to lie down in our back yard. At that moment another group of Armenians led by Valiko Nersesyan from Thebelda came in. One of the groups asked Shakro Kopaliani where he was from. There was everybody from his family members presented, including his mother and children. Shakro told he was from Merkheuli, Gulripshi District. The one, who asked, hit him right away on his head and killed him. When he was asked, why he did so? He said that he just did what he wanted. At that day, they robbed our and our neighbour’s families. They took everything including track of Zelim Dgebuadze. Zelim is in Tbilisi now and can testify how they robbed. It turned out later that Armenians raped dead Sh., his sister-in-law, M., and others. After they were finished, the one who killed Shakro, took M., his wife with him and had her during 15 days. For the moment, M. is in Senaki and can prove my words. We buried Shakro Kopaliani in our back yard. I want to say, that our neighbour Armenians felt sorry for us. They cried with us, but could do nothing. Karpo’s group took 30 cows, 100 goats, pigs,



chickens. They did not leave anything to us. I want to say also that son of Avak who lives in Kada helped the raiders. They were gathering all looted belongings of Georgians in Avak's house and then later taking them to Sukhumi. I had a gun hidden in the forest and told about it to Rasmik Ialanuzyan, my neighbour Armenian. I told him about the gun, because his son fought in our side. I wanted him to think that I am gone. He informed Karpo about it. Karpo made me give him the gun, ordered to leave for good and threatened by killing me if I would not do so. The same day, my wife and I walked from Azanta to Sokhumi. This was in November 5th, 1993. We spent the night in Sokhumi in one our acquaintance's house who was Greek. The same Greek helped us next day to come to Enguri Bridge. We paid 50 Thousand Rubles for the ride." (v.37, p.276-279);

Witness – Zaira Shamatava (born in 1938, 15 Gegechkori st., Gulripshi):

“...In September 30, 1993, armed to the teeth Armenians and Chechens entered our house. They took everything they liked. At that moment about 30 refugees from different areas of Abkhazia stayed in our two houses in Azanta. There were two brothers, Shakro and Makar Kopalians with their families including their mother. The same separatists and about 50 armed Armenians additionally came back after three or four days. Valiko Nersesyan and Avak's son, whose name I don't remember, were among them. Karapet (nickname “Karp0”), an Armenian from Gagra, led the group. They started yelling and swearing right away shooting in all directions from all kinds of guns including granade. The roof of our house was half destroyed. Then they took everything from the house and burned it. Before that, they made all men to lie down on their backs, they made all women to go inside the house, selected the youngests from us and raped them. The same way they behaved with the wives of Shakro and Makar Kopaliani. Later they killed Shakro Kopaliani who was lying in the back yard. His killer was an Armenian, who raped D.M. and then took her in Gagra and had her during several days.

They took all our possessions starting from furniture ending with linens. They took a track, two cars – GAZ-42 and VAZ-2121,

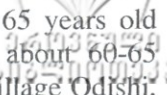


Shakro Kopaliani's car – VAZ-21. They were looking for my brother, Zelim Dgebuadze to kill him, but he was hiding and they could not find him. At the same day, they ordered us to leave the village and go to Georgia, considering that Abkhazia was not Georgia any more and there was no room for us there.

I can answer on your question that Karpo was of neither very fat nore very thin man with a reddish beards and mustache and average hooked nose. Avak's son was a big guy, fat, with black mustache, big black eyes, black curly hair, wide straight nose. When we left, my brother stayed in Azanta. He left in 1994 and lives now in Tbilisi"(v.37, p.267-269);

Witness – Indiko Kvaratskelia (born in 1932, village Pshavi, Gulripshi District):

"...In September 29, 1993, armed Armenians came in our village and started robbing and burning the houses of Georgians. The very same day, in September 29, they killed Valeri Kvashilava, 40 years old neighbour; 70 years old Cata Gegechkori; 70 years old Cata Gegechkori's wife from village Lata – I don't remember her name; 80 years old Masho Chikovani; Masho's daughter-in-law, 55 years old Nanuli Chikovani was slaughtered on her husband's grave. They killed also: 80 years old Vladimer Skhulukhia, 60 years old Bichoko Lataria and his brother 55 years old Givi Lataria, 65 years old Valeri Samushia, brother and sister from Shroma – 70 years old Keto Bebia and 68 years old Revaz Bebia, Lida Samushia from Zemo Pshavi was killed in her brother's house, 70 years old Tina Chemia, 70 years old Luba Chemia. G.Zh. of 40 and her 14 and 13 years old daughters were raped and killed in Mogeli Samushia's house. At the same day, in the same house other 15 persons were also killed – 55 years old Vladimer Samushia, his sister 65 years old Luna Samushia, Leila Samushia, Khuta Samushia and his wife 60 years old Raia. There were also two women from Sokhumi whose names I don't know. Both were killed. Also 43 years old Murman Tsurtsunia, his 9 years old son and his father-in-law 70 years old Mikheil Gogua were killed. In Zhora Shonia's house, they killed two from village machara – wife and husband of 80 and 79 years old. 80 years old Shota Kardava was killed in his back yard. Also there were killed his son 50 years old Davit Kardava, 80 years old Tarasi



Darsania, his son 50 years old Kukuri Darsania, and 65 years old Shalva Kvaratskhelia. In Gedevan Chkhetia's house about 60-65 years old man was killed from Sokhumi, 3 men from village Odfshi, Sokhumi District and one from Dranda, which names I don't know, 70 years old Apolon Samushia, 65 years old his wife Eteri Samushia, 60 years old Isa Ismailov from Azerbaijan. When I left Abkhazia, My wife, Gulnara Kvaratskhelia and daughter Marina Kvaratskhelia, born in 1962, stayed there as the daughter was heavily wounded during bombing of Babushera airport and they could not leave. In 1995 my wife came from Pshavi and informed me that Albert Kabaskalyan, our neighbour Armenian killed our daughter with gun in May 18, 1995.”(v.37, p.333-335);

Witness – Gulnara Kvaratskhelia (born in 1939, village Merkheuli, Gulripshi District):

“...In May 18, 1995, my Armenian neighbour, Albert Kabaskalyan killed my daughter Marina Kvaratskhelia, born in 1962. We were hiding in our Abkhaz neighbour's house, whose name is Ujush Akhsilba. Kabaskalyan came in Akhsilba's house and shot my daughter in her head saying in Russian: “you want to give a birth to a Georgian, who may fight against me”. There were two armed Armenians with him whom I don't know. I can't describe them either as it was dark. The householder Ujush ran after the killers. Next day he reported to the police about the incident, but nobody came and asked anything. Akhsalba helped me to bury my daughter. Then he advised me to leave. He was not sure whether Armenians were going to leave me alive. That's why I left Abkhazia in May 25.

Armed Abkhazs and Armenians came in our village in September 29, 1993. They started killing Georgians, robbing, and burning our houses. There were 90 houses in our village. All of them are burned now. Our neighbours 67 years old Suren Markaryan, Albert Kabaskalyan and Artur Markaryan, a son of Beniko Atulyan, were among the ones who killed and burned Georgians. They killed: 70 years old Revaz Berbia and his 68 years old sister Keto Bebia, father and son – Tarasi and Kukuri Darsanias, who were burned alive in their own house. The leaders of those separatists were Ardash Avelyan, the chairman of Labra Collective Farm (kolkhoz) and Suren Markosyan, our neighbour. Ardash Avelyan was the chief of



the Staff and Suren was his deputy. They headed all killings and burning of houses in our village. They supervised robbing as well. They gathered the loot at Kirovi Collective Farm and carried them out to Sokhumi later on tracks. My property was taken by tractor by an Armenian Gikor. He lived in 3 kilometers from my house. Razmik Martirosyan, our neighbour also robbed other houses belonging to Georgians.

There are no Georgians left in our village. Some left others were killed... (v.37, p.335-338);

Witness – Gvadi Kvartskhava (born in 1967, village Merkheuli, Gulripshi District):

“...I know many facts of killing and robbing, also burning of houses committed by Armenians under the leadership of the chairman of Labra Collective Farm, Ardash Avelyan ,


After Avelyan’s order, Armenians drove about 70 Georgians in Boria Kvaratskhelias house as if to move them in Zugdidi. The people came with all they had left. The combatants took everything from them. Six Armenians raped 16 years old girl. One Russian woman tried to save her, but the Armenians beat her. The girl was taken away and nobody saw her since then. This was a group of Ardash Avelyan. Also I know that Armenians killed Gedevan Ckhetia, Shaliko Kvaratskhelia, Kiki Kartsava and 50 years old someone, whose name I do not know. They were killed in October 7. Then they threw the four bodies in Gedeon Chkhetias house and started fire. All were burned with the house. Besides this, for my information, father and son Kukuri and Tarasi Darsalia were killed and burned in their own house. In September 14, somebody with a surname Giorgadze was also killed. Abkhazs burned houses of Georgians in Merkheuli and Armenians did the same in Pshavi.” (v.37, p.339-340);

Witness – Eteri Sichinava (born in 1942, village Pshavi, Gulripshi District):

“...a seventh grade child whose name I don’t remember, was shot to death in his own house balcony. E. J. and her seventh grade sister were raped before killing. The killers were Armenians from Labra, Ochamchire District. Gasparyans, our neighbour Armenians







who lived in front of our house, helped them to commit this crime. The most aggressive among the killers was Gasparyan's nephew.


I have learned that Abkhazs came to our house. They appeared to be in some relation with us and did nothing bad. Moreover, they promised that nobody would harm them and left peacefully. There was one Armenian among the Abkhazs at that moment. He did not like what happened and left the group angry. The second day, the Armenian came with his other Armenian fellows and killed everybody in the house..." (v.37, p.209-211);

Witness – Rauli Akhalaia (born in 1954, village Pshavi, Gulripshi District):

"...In September 30, 1993, Armed Armenians came in our village from Shaumyanovka and started to kill and robb Georgians. Ardash Mazmanyanyan, who worked as a driver in Gulripshi District Police Department, sent a killer to 80 years old Khuta Bokuchava. He was killed because he lived at our border and their villages and could see the robbers. After killing, the body was burned inside his house... They killed also 70 years old Lili Mebonia, 60 years old Mavra Mebonia and 55 years old Neli Mebonia. The killers came from Dranda. There were three men and one woman in the group, all young Armenians..." (v.37, p.291-292);

Witness – Domenti Samushia (born in 1931, village Pshavi, Gulripshi District):

"...In September 30, 1993, Armed Armenians came in and started to kill and robb Georgians right away. They killed Valerian Samushia born in 1930; 55 years old Iuri Gadilia; 75 years old Chuchu Zarandia; 50 years old Valodia Samushia; 65 years old Lena Samushia; 30 years old Lamara Samushia and her sister 32 years old Leila Samushia; 70 years old Tina Chemia and all her family: her daughter and two granddaughters; 80 years old Katia Samyashia; 45 years old Murman Tsurtsunia and his 9 years old son; 70 years old Shota Kardava and Lavekhi Kardava, his 45 years old son; 75 years old Tarasi Darsalia and 55 years old Kukuri Darsalia, his son; 60 years old Shaliko Kvaratskhelia; 70 years old Shota Tsurtsunia and 70 years old Lili Tsurtsunia, his wife; 43 years old Guguli Tsurtsunia and his 40 years old wife; 44 years old Achiko Bebia;



66 years old Mushni Shelia; 68 years old Shaliko Mirtskhulava; 64 years old Otari kalandia; 64 years old Valeri Kvashilava; 90 years old woman Mashiko Chikovani and her daughter-in-law 50 years old Nunu; 70 years old Jalagionia (I don't remember the name) and his 65 years old wife, Greek by nationality; 55 years old Ladi Suduraia; 50 years old Bichiko Lataria and his brother 49 years old Givi Lataria. Some of them are buried in their backyards without coffins and some were burned in their own houses. There were about 50 families in our village. None is left today, all houses are burned...

Also I know that they killed in our village 80 years old Keto Bebia and her brother, 68 years old Revaz Bebia. Our neighbour Armenian was the one who killed them. His father's name was Albert. Samushia knows his surname. They used to walk with knives and guns and shouted that they wanted our houses. When I realised that they were going to kill all Georgians, I left with other 60 Georgians in October 15 1993. When we were ready to leave, Armenians gathered us together in the building of Armenian school in Pshavi and took everything we wanted to take with us. Then they raped almost all young women. They took clothes off from women when looking for gold on their bodies. I do not want to name the ones who were raped. It is humiliating for them. Neighbour Armenians robbed us. I buried someone named Giorgadze at the gate of our village cemetery. There were buried also several children and their toys and clothes were thrown around on the ground.” (v.37, p.302-305);

Witness – Jemal Robakidze (born in 1954, village Ganakhleba, Gulripshi District):

“In October 30 I was informed that my mother and father were killed by Armenian brothers Mesor and Iurik Chemyans. Iurik led the gang of Armenians from Gudauta. My parents were brutally tortured and killed personally by Iurik Chemyan. He and his friends fractured both legs to my mother and laughed aloud looking her suffering. When she finally passed out, they killed her with gun. They made my father to watch everything and then killed him too. Iurik Chemyan is 35 years old and his brother, Mesorik is 42. The Chemyan family consists of 12 brothers. One their brother was killed in Dranda prison several years ago. Besides my parents, the



Chemyan group killed also 50 years old Nodar Rapava, Parthen Rapava, born in 1910, his wife, born in 1914 and their daughter 47 years old Raisa Rapava; Also, I know that they killed 50 years old Zhora Chopliani; 70 years old Vakhtang Gvinjilia and others about 100 people in total”. (v.37, p. 59-60);

Witness – Zurab Lipartia (village Babushera, Gulripshi District):
 “...As for killing and raping Georgians just for nationality, I want to mention the following: in September 23 and 24, in village Akhaldaba, Ochamchire District, they killed women and children as savages, raped women before killing. They bombed my neighbour Mitusha Murghulia tearing his arm off. Then they did not let the others to approach and threw him on the ground. Then pigs ate him finally. People were not allowed to bury him in his back yard. Chechens, Russians, Armenians and others fought together with Abkhazs. (v.37, p. 12);

Witness – Mediko Kukhalashvili (village Amtkeli, Gulripshi District):
 “In August 30, 1993, Abkhaz separatists attacked village Amtkeli. The local guardsman captured 14 Abkhaz separatists. Armenians helped the others to escape.” (v.37, p. 23);

Witness – Zurab Lipartia (village Babushera, Gulripshi District):
 “...As for killing and raping Georgians just for nationality, I want to mention the following: in September 23 and 24, in village Akhaldaba, Ochamchire District, they killed women and children, brutally raped women before killing. They shot my neighbour Mitusha Murghulia by granade which teared his arm off the body. Then they did not let the others to help him and threw the body on the ground. Later, the dead body was eaten by the hungry village pigs. People were not allowed to bury him in his back yard. Chechens, Russians, Armenians and others fought together with Abkhazs. (v.37, p. 12);

Witness – Mediko Kukhalashvili (village Amtkeli, Gulripshi District):

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Witness – Valida Lukava (village Dranda, Gulripshi District):

“Armenian combatants were the first ones who came into my house. They called themselves as members Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan. Most of the Armenians were from Akhaltsikhe. I learned this from my Russian neighbour, whose name I don’t remember.”(v.37, p. 251);

Witness – Tamar Skhulukhia (born in 1929, village Tsebelda, Gulripshi District):

“...Me and my family members were at home during all that time. Our neighbour Armenians tried to help us, but the newcomer Armenians (from Armenia) were forbidding them to help us. I remember them saying, that the Armenians, who raped and killed, were from Gagra Battalion.”(v.37, p. 35);

Witness – Eteri Chelidze (born in 1926, village Dranda, Gulripshi District):

“...It turned out that Armenian combatants build their headquarters next to Dranda Prison in the house of Tamaz Gulordava and vigiled on the road. They removed all of us from the bus and started checking our belongings. My son and I ran away and hid in nearby forests. Armenians tortured everyone (not taking into consideration their age or sex). The Armenians raped the Georgian women and had them in their headquarters during all night. My husband was at home, but we were hiding in the forest. When my husband was killed, my son made a deal with Rafik Kesyan, our Armenian neighbour, who worked as a teacher in Dranda. We gave him all money and gold that we could collect in exchange to our own lives, finally he accompanied us to Enguri Bridge. Then we came to Tbilisi”(v.37, p. 35);

Witness –Giorgi Tolordava (born in 1924, village Ganakhleba, Gulripshi District):

“Tsaturyan, is a resident of Sokhumi, who lived on Cheluskinlebi st. and owned his business, raised money and bought munitions for Abkhazians. In addition, Topolyan, is a resident of village Myasnikov, Gulripshi District, who formed an armed division and fought against Georgians”. (v.31, p.33);



Witness – Venera Omiadze (born in 1950, village Tsebelda, Gulripshi District):

“...Most of the combatants were Russians and Armenians. They usually went in groups of 8-10 with just one or two Abkhazians among them. These Armenians did not look like locals neither by their accent nor by appearance. They were armed with sniper guns and grenade cup discharges.

I witnessed, how Armenians, I mean Armenian militants, bombed three times Georgian Houses and burned them down. (v.31, p.51);

Witness – Grigol Jgerenaia (born in 1941, village Gulripshi):

“Abkhazs rushed into our village. Kazaks and Armenians were by their side. They started to terrorize people and kill according to their nationality. They took everything from the houses... I witnessed murdering of my neighbours: Eteri Akhalaia, Gulo Akhalaia, Tamazi Pertia, Reno Pertia, Gogi Jokhadze, Tamar Gogokhia, Valeri Murgulia and others. Gulo Akhalaia was killed with especial brutality. They tortured her, decapitated and threw her in the backyard well belonging to Akhalaia family. Local Armenians also killed Avto Tskvitaria, Maka Rukhaia and Dato Bagaturia. One of the killers was a son of Volodya Alazanyan. I do not remember his name. The other was someone named Ruslan, who worked as a driver in Rustaveli Collective Farm (Kolkhoz). In killing of Georgians participated also our Armenian fellow-villager, who owned a dye-house... We tried to escape to Svaneti, but the local Armenians started shooting at us and we went back to forests...

In September 30, by night, as soon as they were brought at autorepair shop, Abkhazian separatists selected out young women and teenagers and took them to the shop to rape. Several Georgian youngsters tried to resist them, but they were killed immediately. Then Abkhazs and Armenians started shooting the people, who fled in terror and tried to escape. I want to notice, that among the girls, who were taken by Abkhazs and Armenians, were 12 and 14 year old ones as well. I do not know, what happened to them afterwards. As long as I was there, Abkhazs and Armenians terrorized Georgian population not considering neither age nor sex..” (v.31, p107-110);

Witness – Nana Belousova (born in 1949, village Dranda, Gulripshi District):

“In September 20, 1993, Armenians, Kazaks and Abkhazs entered village Akhaldaba and made everyone leave their houses. They gathered people in the stadium, then choosed some 10 to 14 years old young girls and raped them. When they were done with young ones, killed everybody afterwords not considering their age and sex.” (v.31, p.67-68);

Witness –Luda Kobalia (born in 1957, Gulripshi District):

“The Armenians were the worst. They created Armenian Battalion and fought against us. They burned down our city and my house too”. (v.31, p.26);

Witness – Teimuraz Dolidze (born in 1955, village Dranda, Gulripshi District):

“In village Dranda, Gulripshi District, The houses of Georgians were burned down. As far as I know, Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan, lead by Topolyan, were most aggressive. They lived in the same village and knew the neighbourhood pretty well,”. (v.31, p.40);

Witness – Mamuka Kubetsia (born in 1969, village Varche, Gulripshi District):

“Local Abkhazs and Armenians pushed us back long before Georgian forces came into Sokhumi. My neighbour Valodya Kanzusyan was encouraging Abkhazians and Armenians to kill Georgians. Valodya Kanzusyan lives in village Zemo Vache, Sokhumi street”. (v.31, p.174);

Witness – Sergo Oganyan (a local Armenian. born in 1953; 3 Gulia st., Gulripshi):

“...In our area, national Guards out of Abkhaz population was created... As far as I know, Adigeans, Chechens, Kazaks, Russians and Armenians also participated. Ossetins showed up at the end, as well. (v.31, p.56-57);



Witness – Suliko Shelia (born in 1928, village Pshavi, Gulripshi District):

“... Armenian Kaspar Kasparyan, who lived in my neighbourhood, helped the militants (Abkhazian side). Specifically, he told which house to burn. He knew the nationalities of the settlers and the houses of Georgians. Khacho Kundakhchyan (a retiree) did the same. He told me personally – “why don’t you get out of here! This is my land!” They burned my and my son’s houses. So was done with the houses of our neighbours. After this, we left our places and ran away”. (v.31, p.224);

Witness – Tamaz Sordia (born in 1949, research worker of Sokhumi Physical-Technical Institute):

“... About 400 men were killed in Gulripshi. The killers were Abkhazs, people from Northern Caucasus, Kazaks and Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan... The combatants killed staff members of Gulripshi regional hospital: Aleksandre Zakharov, Kako Sichinava – the chief doctor, Temuri Bareia – surgeon, Jgamadze – Professor, chief doctor of the resort. They killed almost the whole medical personnel.” (v.31, p.234);

Witness – Mziuri Gvalia (born in 1955, Sokhumi):

“...As it turned out, in September 25, 1993, when I left, some Armenians with guns entered my house. They took my husband and Giorgi Kacharava, our 60 years old neighbour. They were never seen again after that moment.

As I know, my mother-in-law begged to leave her son, but they took them anyway.” (v.31, p.278-279);

Witness – Otar Akishbaia (born in 1943, Village Gudava, Gali district, high education):

“Abkhazs were the most brutal and dissolute. Armenians were the seconds and then went the confederates. One may say that Kazaks were somehow softer and more humane than the rest.” (v.31, p.284);

Witness – Nugzar Bebia (born in 1955, Sokhumi, employee of Sokhumi Physical-Technical Institute):

“...As it turned out, in village Tsebelda, Armenians killed Lili Uridia-Chochua, stepmother of my father-in-law and 65 years old Chaligava-Ghiba, her neighbour.” (v.31, p.326);

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Witness – Giorgi (Kako) Sichinava (born in 1937, village Gulripshi, secondary education):

“In September 27 they entered our village with tanks and armored cars. Along with Abkhaz combatants, there were: Alik Davityan, a tankman, my former neighbour, who worked before as a tractor operator; Azik Davityan, his brother; Sergey Ovanesyan with his two sons; Arshavel and Rozik Oganyans, the sons of Arshak Oganyan; Sons of Jora Oganyan; Mikheil Martirosyan and his son, who worked before as a gynecologist, the name is Aghasik; Tulunjyans, a father and son, Grachi and Ruslan; Sakri Azarapetyan, son of Robik Cholokyan; Sergey Saakyan; Three families of Minasyans; Cholokyans named Khoren and Ardash; Family of Topchyans, one of the sons worked as a supplier in the Collective Farm (Kolkhoz); Valodya Oganyan and his sons; Arsen and Andrey Kekendzyans; Arut Alazyan and his son. The above mentioned people entered the village Gulripshi with Abkhaz separatists and hired combatants. They burned down a house of Anzor Bortsvaia, police officer right away. Then they burned Pitava’s house. The housewife somehow managed to hide herself in a cornfield and that’s how she survived. They went in the house of Iuri Voltsov, a soldier of Georgian Army, tied up Dusia Voltsova, his mother and burned her alive. They entered into the Givi Davitaia’s (an engineer of the Airport) empty house and burned it down. They burned Murtaz Kokaia’s and Gia Pertia’s (a police officer) houses as well. They burned also my and my son’s houses. They demolished Tamaz Pertaia’s house with tanks. Killed 56 years old N. Gulua. I was hiding with my wife in a cornfield. As the location was familiar to us, we were able to move towards Abkhazian Svaneti by nights. We saw numerous killed man, women, children. All of them were Georgians. Among them I recognized Mikheil Shurgaia, who worked as electrician at the airport; Tengiz Sichinava, a retiree, who lived by bay in village Varchi; Shaliko Khupenia, resident of Dranda, who worked in the wood processing factory. I saw an infant impaled on a fence at Toliati Holiday Home. Raisa Khaburzania and Evgenia

Chemia, both from Tamish, helped the mercenaries in sadistic actions. After each operation they shouted: "this land is to be cleaned from Georgians!" Zoia Chkadua also helped the separatists. Violators took all kind of Georgian possessions with help of Jora Oganyan." (v.31, p.79-80);

Notice – the bearers of Georgian surnames in this testimony (Khaburzania, Chemia and Chkadua) are Abkhazs.

Witness – Ramaz Nanava (a student, from Gulripshi District):


I know from my aunt and uncle that Badri Minadze, resident of Eshera, who fought on Abkhazian side, tortured people. He did so to my aunt. I did notice that Armenians, Chechens, Kazaks, and Russians also fought by Abkhazian side. Most of them were Armenians, who were chosen with their special cruelty towards ethnic Georgians. (v.51, p.31);

Notice – more than 70% of Abkhazs are Georgians by birth and have namesakes only among Georgians. This applies to Badri Minadze mentioned in this testimony.

Witness – Khukhti Kvaratskhelia (born in 1940, village Zemo Pshavi):

"...They entered in September 29 1993... Armed to the teeth three Kazaks and two Armenians entered my house. They tried to torture me, however the Kazaks did not let them to do it, but they warned me not to go anywhere. I do not know the names of these Armenians... Most of the houses in the village are burned; all possessions and domestic animals are taken. The following are the names of my neighbours who were shot by Armenians: 60 years old Jojua Samushia, 60 years old Revaz Samushia, 23 years old Gocha Bebia, 65 years old Luba Chemia, 38 years old Gocho Samushia, 63 years old Khuta Samushia and many others... I witnessed many Abkhazian extremists' and Armenians' shocking actions." (v.51, p.33);

Witness – Galina Shonia (born in 1932, village Merkheuli):



“...Armenians and Abkhazs were the ones who did the most horrifying things in my village. They shot my fellow-villagers to death...”(the names are listed. V.51, p.35);

Witness – Lela Rogava (born in 1952, 18 Lasuria st., Gulripshi):

I have witnessed how Armenians shot my neighbour Bagaturia. They were saying that Georgians should not grow in number. Here I want to mention a special brutality of Armenians, who killed Shaliko Jalagonia, Irodi Jalagonia, Shota Todua, Nodar Chitaia. At the end, Armenian combatants burned alive 17 years old boy and four others. (v.51, p.49);

Witness – Eteri Tkebuchava (born in 1949, village Vache):

“... I want to underline actions of Armenian citizens, who did horrible things to Georgians. For instance, they decapitated them and played football with the heads of Georgians. They said the Georgians should not multiply... The Abkhaz separatists had their own organization and Armenians took active part in it. There is a village Pshavi in neighbouring area, where Armenians are living. They collected money and gave it to Abkhaz separatists for purchasing armament.” (v.51, p.49);

Witness – Guram Beria (born in 1953, village Merkheuli):

“..Chechen, Kazak, Russian, and Armenian combatants fought on Abkhazian side. It needs to be noticed that Armenian militants stood out by viciousness. They killed Georgians, raped Georgian girls repeating that the number of Georgins should not increase in Abkhazia.” (v.51, p.56);

Witness – Laskhia Mzia (born in 1956, Gulripshi):

“In September 29, about 15 men, all Armenians attacked Kurashvili Family. They took out Guli Kurashvili and two her daughters. They wanted to rape and then kill them. On the scream, Georgians, who were hiding in nearby cornfield came out and asked to release the women. Atula Goginava and Rodiko Shelia were among these Georgians. The Armenians said – “OK, we will free them, but give us Atula Goginava and Rodiko Shelia instead”. When

the above mentioned were given to Armenians, they were brutally killed right away...

Armenians killed also Khuta Lemonjava in September 29, 1993, in Gulripshi. They burst into his house and killed just because he was Georgian. They also burned his house. Such facts were numerous" (v.51, p.73);

Witness – Avtandil Gulua (born in 1928, village Pshavi):

"... Two Armenians were robbing my house. My brother also was there. I heard shooting. I did not know what happened. It turned out that one of the militants shoot my brother Aram. When I entered the room, my brother was dying grasping and behead. The Armenian told me and my mother– "see, how peacefully he is sleeping". He kept repeating it, but our mother was speechless and shocked. The murderer threatened – "you old women, if you dear to tell about us, I'll put you by his side!" He used terrible language too. Mother did not believe the death of her son and tried to call out for me.

During robbing of upper stare of my brother's house, one of them, who was exclusively long-nosed, told to others: "do it quickly. I can't wait to take this house up to the sky with those alive." (v.51, p.80-81);

Among the Armenians was a one-handed young man with a gun and trench bombs. He had a big silver cross with the image of Crucified Christ...– The subscription on their hats was saying "Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan". According them they were from Gagra. I don't believe it as in Gulripshi district, combatants from Labra headed by Ardash Avedyan, the head of Zhdanov Collective Farm, were raging. They charged Georgians with gold and money to let them pass Enguri and Phsou rivers. Zhora Oganyan and Aram Melkonyan know their names and addresses.

When I was there (October 6, 1993), and other days, terrible horror was raging in Pshavi Village Council territory. They killed innocent people just because they were Georgians. (The list of killed Georgians follows. p. 27-29)

An Armenian combatant was shouting at Georgians– "what you Georgians want here, on Abkhaz land" Maybe, he never knew that Abkhazia is a native Georgian territory as other its regions.



As it turned out, our neighbour Armenians fought against us in Abkhaz Separatist's divisions. These are Alik Davityan (27, 30 Gamarjveba st.) and a son of Khoren Cholokyan (I do not remember his name, or address).

Alik Davityan was raging especially. He shoot to death many Georgians and kept saying: "I will clean this village from Megrels (a Georgian tribe, aboriginal population of Abkhazia, close relatives of Abkhaz tribe –transl.)" and ended those words with terrible swearing. (v.51, p.84-85);

Labra Battalion headed by Ardash Avelyan was raging in just the same manner. In the beginning of October they killed more than 60 local residents (list follows) all Georgians and Shaghdik Iritsyan, an Armenian postman, who helped Georgians.

Witness – Stanislav Gurchiani (born in 1969, village Merkheuli):

"... The Armenians collected money for them long before the war. As for military operations, they showed no less cruelty to Georgians. Tsaturyan, who lived on Dzadzamia street, Sokhumi, was a trustee of Ardzinba and he was a person in charge for collection of money in Sokhumi... He was a businessman... After war started, Armenians fought against Georgians" (v.51, p.107-108);

Witness – Lali Tsulaia (born in 1937, village Babushera, Gulripshi District):

"... Armenians were cruelter to us than Abkhazs. I am saying this, because in October 18, when Armenians beat me, Rudiko Ckhutia, an Abkhaz from Gudauta warned me to leave my house saying that there are people who do not just beat and kill elders, but also brutally rape them. In our village, Armenians raped my underage neighbours G.K., Zh. N., and their 80 years old grandmother. Then they killed all of them and made the father to bury his daughters and mother-in-law. They left him alive. I do not know who these Armenians are, but the only people I saw assaulting us were Abkhazs and Armenians. (v.51, p.126-127);

Witness – Lindgar Kvaratskhelia (born in 1937, village Ganakhleba, Gulripshi District):

“...Armenians were more brutal. Many of our villagers were among those Armenians, who raped and killed Georgians.” (v.51, p.130);

Witness – Zaur Zhvania (born in 1938, village Dranda, Gulripshi District):

“Armenians and Abkhazs had agreement before the war was started” (v.51, p.170);

Witness – Vakhtang Berulava (born in 1929, village Ganakhleba, Gulripshi District):

“...In October 1, 1993, armed Abkhazs and Armenians entered our village. They killed everybody they saw at their day. We were hiding in nearby forest for 18 days. Abkhazs and Armenians killed 48 years old Zurab Berulava, 45 years old Valeri Tsaava, Khocho Mikava born in 1931, and started robbing and burning their houses. They burned alive 75 years old Ilia Gogokhia, killed other 25 Georgians.

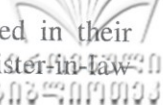
...I know my neighbour terrorists, who were mainly Armenians. Among them was my neighbour Zhorzhik Mkhitarian. He robbed the houses of Davit Tolordava, Shalva Tolordava, Amiran Eloshvili and others.

Rafik Kirakosyan robbed the houses of Irodi Vekua, Boris Vekua, Nugzar Vekua and others. Also robbers were Andro Aslanyan (nicknamed Pushkin), Vagan Kalenjyan, Tomoj Ovakisyan, Andrey Oloyan, and Ishkhan Topolyan. They robbed the houses of Misha and Ilusha Berulava. Sumbaat Kurdyanc robbed Iuza Robakidze, Vazha Robakidze and Nunuka Kvirkvelia houses. Ripsime Aslanyan took my horse, Aykush Kondakchyan took my tractor and I saw my carpets in his house too.

... I want to notice that Ardash Aslanyan was the cruellest among the robbers. He robbed Amiran Ejiashvili, Neli Tolordava and other neighbours. He took all their domestic animals.” (v.61, p. 3-13);

Witness – Rima Kharbedia (born in 1947, village Matchara, Gulripshi District):





“...My mother-in-law and father-in-law were killed in their own house by Armenians in October 3 1993... My sister-in-law buried them in the back yard.

I want to tell that more than 60 were killed by Abkhazs and Armenians in village Akhalsopeli and houses were burned.”(v.61, p. 27-28);

Witness – Lamzira Gvinjilia (born in 1952, village Ganakhleba, Gulripshi District):

“...My mother knows for sure that brothers Chamyans, our Armenian neighbours were the main killers and robbers in our village.”(v.61, p. 58);

Witness – Taniel Gvaramia (born in 1954, village Merkheuli, Gulripshi District):

“...Wife of Boris Berulava and his sister Potola berulava let me know that armed Abkhazs and Armenians entered our village in September 29, 1993 and started to torture and kill the local Georgians in the very same day. They killed many Georgian and 33 years old Boris Berulava among them.”(v.61, p. 73);

Witness – Naziko Khurtsilava (born in 1951, village Tsebelda, Gulripshi District):

“...In October 5-6, 1993, one Abkhaz asked me where was I from. I told I was from Tsebelda. He told me that they sent Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan in Tsebelda intentionally to kill everybody in that village. (There are Armenians and Chechens in this Battalion, but mostly Armenians). The surname of this Abkhaz was Adleyba. .”(v.61, p. 75-76);

Witness – Ciala Kvaratskhelia (village Merkheuli, Gulripshi District):

“...Vazha Kvaracxelia, my father’s cousin, was burned alive in his house after we left.”(v.61, p. 80);

Witness – Nato Samushia (village Pshavi, Gulripshi District):

“...In September 29, 1993, after we left, armenians invaded our village. They burned our houses. They killed everybody, who

stayed there including children, women and elders. I can name several of them for instance: Khuta Samushia and his wife Raisa Gogua, Bochia and Leila Samushias, Luba Chemia and her little grandchildren.”(v.61, p. 4);

Witness – Gulnara Chitaia (born in 1928, village Machara, Gulripshi District):

“...Isak Oganyan, a local Armenian, gave shelter to Georgian neighbours. As soon as Armenians from Gudauta learnt about it, they killed Oganyan.”(v.61, p. 1-2);

Witness – Zaira Torchinava (born in 1952, village Machara, Gulripshi District):

“...In October 1, 1993, one of the Armenian combatants killed my grandmother Ekaterine Shengelia (born in 1090) by grenade. In October 27, 1993, Armenian combatants killed Apolon Samushia (born in 1926) and 9yo. Eteri Samushia.” (v.61);

Witness – Meliton Vekua (born in 1930, village Merkheuli, Gulripshi District):

“...In September 29, 1993, at 10A.M. Armenian combatants entered village Merkheuli. They called themselves as Warriors of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan and justified it with the identity cards. They terrorized the village and burned houses of Georgians.”(v.61, p. 152-153);

Witness – Temur Beraia (born in 1955, village Tsebelda, Gulripshi District):

“...In September 29, 1993, Tsebelda was attacked by Armenian killer combatants. The leader was Armenian Bagor Topchyan. He came from Sochi (he lived there) with group of killers and robbers, 80-100 men in total. Local Armenians, Ovik Topchiyan, Alik Topchiyan, Nersik Danelyan joined the group. The last was the deputy of Bagor Topchyan. The group killed Valiko Nersesyan and Eghishe Danelyan, local Armenians who were accused in helping Georgians.

Valiko Kailajyan and Anderi Kailajyan told me that my mother and syster were killed in September 13, 1993, at 11A.M. by

two Armenians and one Abkhaz on the village graveyard. The killers were from village Gantiadi”(v.61, p. 46);



Witness – Avtandil Kvaratskelia (born in 1944, village Gamakheba, Gulripshi District):

“...Georgian residents were totally robbed by Armenian combatants. Andrey Aslanyan nicknamed as Pushkin, resident of Pshavi carried his loot by 15 trucks.” (v.61, p. 71);

Witness – Gulnazi Shengelia-Shonia (born in 1951, village Dranda, Gulripshi District):

“...I can recognize those who kidnapped and raped my sisters. These were Armenian combatants.”(v.61, p. 10);

Witness – Zaza Samushia (born in 1976, village Gulripshi, Gulripshi District):

“...My aunt, Nadia told me that my father was killed personally by our Armenian neighbour Karapet, whose nickname is “Shiroki”(v.61, p. 21);

The same witness – “We saw everything from forest. They burned houses. The local Armenians took all our possessions including livestock. They destroyed the whole village”(newspaper Archevani, 1994, August-September).

Witness – Rita Baghaturia (born in 1964, Gulripshi District):

“...Iango Anastasiadi, a Greek who grown up in Georgia, told me that my father was killed by Armenians in our own house. He said he did not know the name of the killer.”(v.61, p. 9);

Witness – Jemali Letodiani (born in 1958, village Kelasuri, Gulripshi District):

“...My second uncle, Vladimer Letodiani lives now in Rustavi – 37, Rustaveli st. He lived in Gulripshi before. In October 1993, he witnessed Armenians killing his wife Tina Morgoshia (50yo.), his sister Letodiani-Kobalia Liza (68yo), his handicapped niece Taliko Kobalia (36yo) and wife of my father’s uncle Olia Kalandia (75yo).



...Everyone killed in my uncles house were burned in the house. The person who did it was from Tsebelda. My uncle knows his name and surname.”(v.61, p. 297-299);

Witness – Boris Bendeliani (village Pshavi, Gulripshi District):

“...Armenians took three Georgians out from our room to theirs. One Armenian combatant asked me my name, but hid my last name and told him my wife’s surname. He started mocking at me and hit my head by his foot, then hit again by his gun and told to Russian companion to throw me from a window. Then after he drank a glass of water, he changed his mind and decided to torture and kill me slowly. I lost my patience and started shouting at them to kill me soon. They did not” (newspaper Archervani, August-September, 1994);

Witness – Nari Nachkebia (born in 1964, village Zemo Pshavi, Gulripshi District):

“Armenians stood out by their astonishing cruelty. After Labra, they came into Zemo Pshavi. Zaira Samushia wrote that Armenians killed her parents. She managed to escape and buried them. The Armenians killed also husband and wife – Shota Tsurtsunia 74 y.o. and Lili Tsurtsunia 65 y.o.

Zaira saw a badge of executioner on one of them. Zaira Samushia could not come out of Zemo Pshavi. My mother, sister and brother also could not escape and I still do not know anything about them.” (v.111, p.231, or 12; recorded in February 6, 1994);

Witness – Jujuna Chilagava (born in 1940, village Machara, Gulripshi District):

“Armenians were distinguished by their cruelty”.(v.111, p.235, or 115;)

“...In September 27, 1993 we went to Machara bridge to go to Svaneti way. Abkhazs and Armenians from village Estonka caught up with us. We lost 30-35 men in that fight by the bridge...” (v.111, p.241, or 20);

Witness – Anzor Papaskiri (born in 1948, village Dranda, Gulripshi District):

"After Sokhumi was captured, Armenians, Abkhazs, Kazaks and Northern Caucasians entered Dranda. They came in the village on an armoured troop-carrier. When this happened, all men, women and children were hiding in tea-plantations. I have witnessed how they raped my neighbour. An Armenian did this in front of others. I do not know the name of the Armenian. He was tall, swarthy and had a scar on his right cheek. They were Armenians from Labra, or Gagra. There were some Abkhazs too." (v.111, p.242, or 22);

Witness – Nora Khasia (born in 1940, village Vladimirovka, Gulripshi District):

Khasia testifies that Armenians killed her neighbours: 62 years old Khoto Khasia, 52 years old Venera Khasia, and 80 years old Vera Khasia,

"... They were buried in my backyard. The killers were Armenians Vazgen Bastyan and Sargis Kandarchyan." (v.111, p. 346, or 128);

Witness – Indiko Berishvili (born in 1934, village Pshavi, Gulripshi District):

Armenian militants shot Nodar Gulua to death (10, Gamarjveba st.)

"... There was written "Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan" on their hats with black ink. I remember, one of them being one-handed (the left hand was missing); the other one was very long-nosed; there was the third one to whom they called "Colonel", he was of medium height, very strong; I can recognize the fourth and the fifth, if I see their faces. The Armenians behaved brutally. Chechens did not let them to kill and burn down the houses of me and Avtandil Gulua, Nodar Gulua's brother, who was a teacher. Our neighbours, the local Armenians robbed Georgian houses and took their domestic animals. They killed several cows a day and celebrated their deeds. I can name those who did that, they were: Zhora Oganyan, Eprem Oganyan, Levon Khachaturyan, Aram Melkonyan, Sergey Shevlikov, Arshavel Oganyan and others from Gamarjveba street. We saw Arut Kalenjyan and Arut Ianukyan taking away our cows. The Armenians from our neighbourhood saluted Armenian militants with loud cheering, kissed and

congratulated them with victory. As soon as Abkhazs came in, they hung new inscriptions and red fabrics on their gates. They had fabrics of the same color on their arms and breast pockets.” (v.111, p. 351, or133);

Witness – Margo Chikovani (born in 1941, village Vladimirovka, Gulripshi District): “...Armenian and Abkhaz separatists entered our village for several times. They burned houses of Georgians, took our domestic animals... Armenian combatants were always helping Abkhaz separatists and distinguishing by their severity.” (v.111, p. 363, or145);

Witness – Enver Dzadzua (born in 1952, village Babushera, Gulripshi District):

“In December 1993, Armenians and Abkhazs brutally killed Ipolite Gartskia and his wife. They slit his throat, killed his wife with a gun and burned their house, because their son fought against them”. (v.111, p. 395, or179);

Gagra and Gagra District

Witness – Venera Rakhviashvili (born in 1934, 151 Vazha pshavela st., Gagra): “Armenians, Chechens and others helped Abkhazs in every way. They tortured Georgians and were playing football with decapitated Georgian heads. .” (v.51, p. 28-29);

Witness – Taniel Chalichava (born in 1939, 15 Gudauta st., Gagra): “Kazaks, Chechens and others fought with Abkhazs against us. Armenians were the most brutal among them. ” (v.51, p. 71);

Witness – Nanuli Kvanchiani (born in 1958, Gagra): “...We could not escape and were captured. My son and I were exchanged for Abkhaz hostages. A group of Armenians leaded by Ardash killed my other son and mother-in-law in our house. I think, the surname of Ardash is Kaldakheshyan. He lived in Alakhadze, 12, 13 Pushkini Street.

Another Armenian group attacked Mari Khvistani family, which lived in village Bziphi. They killed Ekaterine Khvistani and Tamila Kikvidze. Givi Kikvidze, her husband was taken as hostage and was never seen again since then... They raped young girls. They did terrible things to Georgians.” (v.31, p. 147);

Witness – Marekhi Garibashvili (born in 1967, Gagra, journalist):

“Armenians spent a lot of money to help Abkhazs with purchasing armaments. In general, they took the side of the expected winner, but always kept hatred towards Georgians...

We had neighbour Armenians, intelligent people, who were members of Mashtotsi (Armenian Anti-Georgian group in Abkhazia) and maybe of Krunk (Armenian Anti-Georgian group in Abkhazia) too. They were very close to Abkhaz extremists as well, Helping them with money.

My father stayed in village Zemo Kolkhida, where we lived. I still don't know where he is. All I know is that our and our relative's houses are burned.” (v.17, p. 28);

Witness – Iza Mushkudiani (born in 1964, Gagra, village Bziphi):

“Our villager Armenians fought against Georgians on Abkhazian side. They shot to death our neighbours Lamazo and Zauri Jojuas. Armenians killed also Petia and his wife Ninusha Rogavas; Vazha Gulia and his wife, whose name I don't remember; I don't know the names of those Armenians, who killed them, but I can recognize, if I see them.

There is an Armenian in Kolkhida by nickname “Gambuz” his real name is Artina Oganyan. He escorted the others to show where they could find Georgians to kill.

Nodar Anakhasyan, our neighbour is the Commander of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan from Gagra. He personally supervised the killing and torturing of ethnic Georgians... Abkhazs were not brutal. Moreover, even they wanted to help us.” (v.111, p. 121);

Sokhumi and Sokhumi District



Witness – Nato Gotsiridze (born in 1975, Kirovi st., Sokhumi):

“In September 27, 1993, members of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan killed my mother Eteri Abramia, her sister Zaira Abramia and her brother Gigla Abramia, who were buried by Our Russian neighbours. The same killers killed 50 yo Mzia Izoria-Kalandia; her daughter’s mother-in-law, whose name I do not remember; and our neighbour Shero. My mother, her sister and brother are buried in Shero’s backyard.” (v.23, p. 20-21);

Witness – Malvina Berodze (born in 1941, 38 Orjonikidze st., Sokhumi):

“The separatists Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan took Merab Kvilitaia, the oldest son of the family in hostages and we do not know where he is. All I know is that Armenians tortured him.” (recorded in 21.04.1994; v.23, p.53);

Witness – Anzor Birkaia (born in 1941, 58 Chochua st., Sokhumi):

“I have seen numerous dead Georgians who were not buried, because there was nobody left to bury them. Armenians, both locals and newcomers, were the most eager ones to kill Georgians. They did not spare anybody. .” (v.27, p. 24);

Witness – Nugzari Jimsheleishvili (born in 1959, Sokhumi):

“In September 28 1993, I came to Tbilisi. On October 3, Nana Izoria, my sister-in-law called me and told me that Armenians brutally killed my mother Babutsa Pipia, born in 1939 and my mother-in-law Mzia Kalandia. Also they killed our neighbour sisters Eteri Abramia and Zaira Abramia and their brother Magati Abramia. All this happened in 70b Kirovi st., my mother-in-law’s house, my sister-in-law is a witness. She was hiding outside the house, but could hear and see how they killed the listed above people.”(v.27, p. 228);

Witness – Revazi Abkhazava (born in 1947, 191b Eshba st., Sokhumi):





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“... I was hiding in the village Pshavi. I know that Armenians entered our house and took everything in September 29, 1993. They killed my neighbours Otari Sordia, his wife Domna Sordia, Givi Sordia and Reso Ochigava. Almost all of them were about in their 60ies.”(v.27, p. 228);

Witness – Vazha Kenteladze (born in 1971, military police officer):

“... Georgians from Sokhumi told me that Armenians betrayed Georgians and they expressed openly their happiness, when Georgians started to leave Sokhumi.”(v.28, p. 26);

Witness – Lia Beraia (born in 1972, 54 Tsereteli st., Sokhumi):

“In general, Armenians were more brutal than Abkhazs... They did not spare even each other over looted goods. When they could not divide my Father-in-law’s house between each other, they simply burned it. To my information, they burned many houses” (v.28, p. 28);

Witness – Liana Kacadze (born in 1960, Sokhumi):

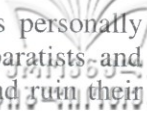
“... Until January 24, 1994, I was in Sokhumi, in my house... On February 2, one Armenian, who robbed earlier our house, came to me and told that my dead husband’s body lied in Achagvara Granite Factory building. My neighbours went there and brought the body. We could see the marks of torture and two bullets in head and face areas.

After a while, an Abkhaz came to our house, took away the documents of our house and gave them to Armenian Asaturyan telling us that this was his house from now.” (v.28, p. 158);

Witness – Taiguli Betria (born in 1968, Village Gumista, Sokhumi District):

“...In November, 1993, our neighbours Tatacho Sichinava and his wife Lena Sichinava came in Tbilisi. They told me that in October 5, 1993, Armenians killed my father, who stayed in our house in Gumista. Then they burned the body.” (v.28, p. 161);

Witness – Fatima Pochkua (born in 1964, 28 Batumi st., Sokhumi):



“One of my neighbours, Pavlik Zopunyan, was personally nice to me, but secretly collaborated with Abkhaz separatists and helped them to terrorize Georgian residents... to burn and ruin their houses.” (v.26, p. 52);

Witness – Tariel Milorava (born in 1930, 14, Chamba st., Sokhumi):

“In September 30, 1993, combatants of Gagra Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan killed my aunt – 78 years old Tamar Milorava; raped and killed her daughter – Laura Japaridze, who was born in 1941. They were killed because they defended daughters of Laura Japaridze – Tamriko and Keto. Keto is 15 years old and Tamriko is of 24. They lived in Sokhumi. Also, I know that in Pshavi Armenians killed 50 years old Nodar Zhvania, his brother 45 years old Kalo Jvania and 63 years old Mzia Todua... They burned numerous houses.” (v.26, p. 39);

Witness – Valeri Chubinidze (born in 1946, 14 Ardzinba st., Sokhumi):

“I was in Zemo Pshavi, Gulripshi District until October 18, 1993. I know that 26 men were killed by Armenians in village Labra, Ochamchire District.

My brother-in-law, Rudion Sajaia told me that in September 29-30, the same Armenians killed 60 years old Kukuri Kardava and 60 years old Ilusha Kajaia. Nazi Milorava and Suliko Chuchulaia buried them in their backyard.” (v.26);

Witness – Demuri Kekutia (born in 1946, 5 Zhdanovi st., Sokhumi):

“...As I know, Armenian separatists came into Khuntuli Torchinava, Tutu Torchinava’s brother’s house. Khuntuli Torchinava was ill lying in bed. He was killed right away. When his wife, Madona Torchinava saw it, she started crying. As Tutu Torchinava heard the voice, he rushed in the house and killed one of the Armenians. The other one shot Tutu Torchinava. Georgian security came in after this shooting, but Armenians ran away. When Georgian guardsmen left, Armenians came back and burned the house with the bodies inside.” (v.26);

Witness – Nana Tevzadze (born in 1959, 16 Kierazi st., Sokhumi):

“On June 28, 1993, Armenians caught us total of 14 people. They separated three of us and killed the rest 11 with submachine guns. Then they ordered us to move the bodies to the other side. Meanwhile the Armenians left. There was one Abkhaz, who started to help us and then let us to go.” (v.26, p. 198);

Witness – Zinaida Khurtsilava:

“...about 200 Abkhazs were led by the armenians. I was hiding, but could hear their voices. One armenian gave an order to the other to burn our houses. There were three houses – one mine and two of my sons. When I saw the houses burning, felt unconscious. My neighbour armenian took my four cows. When I saw this, I called out for help. But the “helpers” tied me by ropes between the cows and stroke them with a stick. I was nearly torn apart. My neighbour armenian told me: “This is what you deserve, Zinulia. This is what we fought for this long.” (Newspaper Archevani, 1994, August-September);

Witness – Marine Malisheva (village Iashikhva, Sokhumi):

“Armenians came into house of 86 years old Grisha Salia and his wife 78 years old Eloko Kirtadze, who they robbed earlier. Now they were asking them about Sergi Sajaia whereabouts. They beat the two and drew them out of their house. Doing this, they cut the old woman’s hand.” (Newspaper Archevani, 1994, August-September);

Ochamchire district

Witness – Zina Bendeliani (born in 1928, village Akhaldaba, Ochamchire district):

“During the war, Armenians played active role in bombing our village and terrorizing and killing of civilians. They took all residents of our village in Atara and drove them in the school building. Then they took out 12-years-old girls and raped them. Some were never returned. They tortured and killed men, raped women. They took my girl too and did not return her. I have no information about her since then.” (v.29, p. 98-99);



Witness – Guram Gulua (born in 1947, village Kochara, Ochamchire district):

“Abkhazs and Armenians were always privileged, Georgians were pushed. ... During the war, Armenians, Chechens, Russians and Kazaks fought against us.” (v.29, p. 189);

Witness – Omari Chabukiani (born in 1955, village Tsagera, Ochamchire district):

“I am a witness and testifying that not only Abkhazs, but Chechen, Adigean, Kazak and Armenian mercenaries also took part in genocide of Georgians. They terrorized, killed and tortured them just because they were Georgians.”(Then the list of killed Georgians follows) (v.29, p. 22-223);

Gali District

Witness – Dali Jumutia (Tkvaltcheli):

“Armenians caught three old women from Saberio – 74, 65 and 54 years olds and started to beat, and rape them. They laughed at them, tormented them and disgraced in any way they could until the women lost their consciousness. Then the violators left them there on the ground. The wretched women somehow managed to reach Enguri Bridge. They were taken in hospital and saved.

Nana Deisadze was evacuated from her house and Armenian from Armavir took her house.

Seedrak Saryan was marauding in Odishi and he was killed there.

Armenians abolished Georgian School in Iakhshikhva and there is an Armenian school in its building. The same they did in Tavisupleba.



Armenians gang-raped and killed N. K. in Iakhshikhya in December 1993.

In January 17, 1994, Rezo Khaburzania and his niece were brutally murdered by Armenians and Abkhazs in Gudava.

In January 1994, Armenians tortured and killed Kako Papava and 83 years old Dome Ketsbaia, who tried to “steal” some products left in their own houses.

In village Barghebi, during just one day in December 1993, burned 97 houses by Armenian fighters.

In Otobaia, Armenians (I am not naming the name of the victim here because of his request) seized 19 years old boy, who tried to “steal” some food from his own house. They hung him upside down on a tree branch, swung him and started shooting at him. The boy was severely wounded, but rescued afterwards.

Armenians caught local father and son in Otobaia, tied them up with ropes and then tortured them.

In January 29 Abkhaz and Armenian fighters killed brothers Turavas in Gali District, when they tried to take some food from their house.

By information of Guram Tsaava, who left Sokhumi in January 27, 1994, Armenians killed a teacher from Akapa Irodi Pipia and his wife in September 29.



Estonians, who live in Akapa, begged Armenians not to ruin Georgian houses.

The looted goods from Georgian houses in Akapa-Kelasuri and Odish-Besleti by Armenian separatists are gathered in a farm called "The Way to the Communism", where Misak Depelyan, Delegate of Abkhazian Supreme Soviet was the chairman.

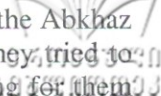
In February 4, 1994, Armenians tortured and killed Rabi Shonia.

In addition, they killed women and unarmed old men in Zemo Barghebi and Sida, the same day.

In February 5, 1994, more than thousand confederates, mainly Armenians and Kazaks rounded up villages Tsarche, Bedia, Okumi, Chkhirtula, Mukheri, Lemureshi, Rechkhi, Saberio, an Lukuhuna in Lakada area of Gali District with heavy armament and started the "brushing" operation. The locals, who ran towards Enguri Bridge, were killed. Some escaped in nearby forests, where the snow reached 1 meter height. They died of cold and hunger, as there was no time to put on any warm clothes, or take some food along.

Desperate battles are still going on at Muzhava, Tsalenjikha District, where part of the IDPs managed to arrive at, but the attackers are killing them brutally. I want to notice here that, the leaders of the villages in the zone and Gudauta region rulers had an agreement between each other on the level of so-called folk diplomacy. By this agreement, the residents of this village could create pickets by their own forces and protect themselves from marauders (separatists) and thieves. Due to this agreement more than 500 local residents with women, children and elders among them returned to their houses.

The Abkhazian side has one treacherous manner, which they have used in each step of this war.



The matter was that at the quiet spots of this war, the Abkhaz fighters pretended to be angry with Ardzinba politics. They tried to win over the Georgians with saying that there was nothing for them to fight about. This happened in Gagra, Gumista, Kochara, Bedia etc.

With this, they won confidence of the local residents and the Georgian television and other media sources talked about success of Georgian diplomacy, restraining of Russian factor, returning of Gali residents from February 10 and so on.

As it turned out, the confused people were ordered to change their nationality and to turn against Georgians. As the separatists saw that there was no unanimity among the villagers, they started massive genocide.

About three thousands of innocent residents are already killed and the hunting down is still on.

There is no provocative Abkhazian flag in Kodori Gorge until today. The local partisans won more than one unequal fights and never accepted the treacherous agreement about making piece and letting them to hoist their flag at Chuberi. The most interesting in this agreement was the fact that the sides interested in this agreement were Armenian combatants – Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan.

Witness – Nutsa Chkhikvaria (village Gudava, Gali District):

Armenian combatants attacked Demiko Salia's family on January 1994. Demiko was not at home at that moment. The attackers tied his elder son to a chair and killed him slowly in front of his mother and youngest brother's eyes. Then raped the wretched woman in brutall manner in front of the son and finally shot her to death. Then they took the boy as hostage and asked 5 million Russian rubles from his father.

Armenian fighters seized husband and wife with their two under-aged children and raped all of them. The children ran away and nobody knows where they are now. The parents were taken in Ochamchire.

By the way, there are numerous bodies of women in Okumi-Muzhava road left without being put in grave.



The fights continue in Bagada. Ours are still opposing. As I have learned, the enemy has used some Chemical compound. They burn houses with people inside. For instance, in Bargebi, Armenian and Kazak mercenaries went into house of some Kokaia family. The 80 years old housewife was ill in bed. The husband said he could not take her out and he would sit there with his wife and the intruders could burn them together with the house if they wanted to do so. So, the Armenians locked all doors and windows and started the fire. At the very same time, Tbilisi was getting ready for Armenian Music Days in February 25-26 and when several exhausted by hunger and distressed. Georgian television panicked about violating the rights of others in Georgia.

In march 4, separatists came in village Gudava. As always, Armenians leaded Abkhaz intruders. They tried to rape 65years old M. G. and beat her to death, requested gold from Natela Kardava. She said she had no gold, but still had some cattle and they could take it. The Armenians started to beat her again saying – “What? How come you still think you have something?!” They made Mimoza Bezhania (Abkhaz) to bring rope and hang herself on because she was a wife of an enemy (Megrel). Then they changed their mind and beat her.

Mourning over her dead husband, Rima Marghania, indigene Gudava resident, who was ill lying in bed at that moment, was sentenced to be burn with her house (for being a wife of a Georgian). They started fire and went out. Rima Marghania miraculously managed to escape from the burning house.

This was the way newcomer Armenians and Kazaks treated Marganias, Emkhvars, Shervashidzes, Anchabadzes, Zukhbaiais, Zvambaias, etc.

August 6, 1994. The material for the newspaper was already ready, when Vani Ardia, a refugee from Chkhumi let us know that the balconies of houses of exiled Georgians are “decorated” by uniforms of former Russian Generals and Colonels.

What is the most outrageous, hundred kilometers long Kodori Gorge, where the occupant could not set his foot owing to many lives of patriots, is going to Russian “peacemaking” jackboot with the consent of the high and mighty.

Otar Abrakhamia, a Georgian fighter from Gagra, now refugee, showed me some manuscripts and asked to take a look at them. I saw professional estimation of the methodology of giving Abkhazia to others and advance measures taken for assured losing of battle. For instance, In September 1992, Armenians purchased submachine guns for just 50-80 thousand rubles from the Georgian Commissariat.

It is interesting why nobody thought (was that so?) that some Tigran, or Siranush did not need the guns for farming.

Recently, I talked to Laura Jaiaani, a resident of Sokhumi. By her information, with encouragement of Abkhazian anti-national illegal Government, when some stubborn Georgian, who does not want to live his house is killed, the house is quickly legalized to the killer.

Many killings are committed just for this reason.

*Sergi Sajaia,
The days of Voiceless Scream of Deads,
Archevani, February, 1994*

As it is known, when Sokhumi was occupied, the Georgian forces left Sokhumi and the civilian residents were left there facing specially trained and armed to the teeth Russian and confederate formations.

Exalted Confederates started executions of Gali residents. In the very first days, Vakhtang Emkhvari, Khuta Firtskhalava, Vera Sigua with her sister and brother – all teachers known by their honesty and education, were killed without any reason. There were numerous such cases.

Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan stood out with fierceness. They mercilessly treated the local civilians – killed, raped, robbed and tortured... They justified their actions with anger caused by killing their congeners by Georgian soldiers during the war.

Shota Chkhotua and his wife Vera were killed in their backyard without any reason. In the evening, neighbours came out of their shelters and buried the husband and wife in their backyard hoping that eventually their family members could bury them in a Christian cemetery. This was followed by unbelievable events. Members of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan came several times and dugged the bodies out looking for gold buried with them. The neighbours begged them to believe that there was nothing but just bodies, however they did not believe and did it anyway. The neighbours buried the bodies again and again and at the end, they had to cover the grave with constructional materials to defend it from the barbarians.

There were more than one similar facts in Gali District but the locals are afraid to talk about it and they have reasons to be afraid.

There were just few Armenian families in Gali District before the war. Now they ask to render their contribution and they get it. As soon as nut and citrus harvesting season comes close, the Abkhazian clans start acting and Armenians are there by their side. All have their spheres of operations and get the corresponding share.

While aboriginal Georgians are exiled from their own houses and are not allowed to attend the graves of their family members, Armenians feel as the owners of this land. It is really astonishing that Georgian society does not pay appropriate attention to these facts and they were not considered at any Governmental or other meetings.

The refugees from Abkhazia will never forget or forgive to anybody what was done and especially Armenians, who were sheltered and helped by Georgians in difficult for them times. Now, together with Abkhaz separatists, they try to drive out the autochthonic Georgian population on Abkhazian territory.

*Zurab Toria, an
author- writer, 2006. (the narration individually for this book).*





Национальное общество
за права человека



Incomplete list of Members of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan



(Reference: R. Khojaa, *Armenian Battalion of Patriotic War of Abkhaz People (1992-1993)*, Sokhumi 2006)

- Vagharshak Kusyan** – the Chief Commander of the Battalion, senior lieutenant. Later he was assigned to a Company Commander. His brother was assigned to Platoon Leader Commander. At this time, commandment was taken by Jemal Chikirba;
- Levon Markaryan**–the Chief of Staff. Born in 1939, retired colonel, awarded 3rd grade medal “For Serving the Fatherland”;
- Suren Minosyan** – the Battalion Commissar, senior lieutenant. Before the war he worked as a teacher at Alakhadze School. He was elected as a leader of “Mashtots” community. Three days later, he became the battalion commissar. He started to recruit the fighters in the Battalion;
- Sedrak Cholokyan** – senior lieutenant, Commander of the Battalion in Arming and Techniques;
- Gevork Markaryan** – a Captain;
- Sergey Zebelyan** –Commander of the Battalion in the Rear;
- Leon Dashyan** – awarded with Lion Medal;
- Amazasp Abyan** (village Salama, Gagra District) – a member of the Battalion, disabled;
- Sarkis Kerekyan** – from Salama group;
- Armen Kochoryan** – from Salama group;
- Karpo Naragozyan** – from Salama group;
- Gevork Kevkusyan** – from Salama group;
- Robik Tevdenjyan** – from Salama group;
- Andrey Magharyan** – from Salama group;
- Karpo Magharyan** – from Salama group;
- Akop Matosyan** – from Salama group;
- Vitali Stefanidi** – from Salama group;

Nybar Matulyan – the Commander of Bziphi Group, awarded with Lion Medal. He was wounded and then assigned to a Company Commander;

Galust Trapizonyan – A Hero of Abkhazia;

A. Savoyan

A. Kundakchyan;

Petros Stefanyan – Platoon Leader Commander;

Ursen Krbashyan – Platoon Leader Commander;

Misak Kiulyan – awarded with Lion Medal, the 2nd group invalid;

Karen Shimsharyan;

Eduard Melkonyan (village Makhaduri);

Eduard Kivisyan (village Achmarda);

Demirchyan (village Baranovka);

Melik Khachatryan;

Sergey Tomasyan – A Hero of Abkhazia;

Ishkhan Tomasyan;

Andre Davityan – representative of Abkhazian Ministry of Defense;

Vartan Asatryan – accompanied Davityan;

Albert Topolyan – was the first, who loathed first. Then he was followed by others. Sergey Shamba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Abkhazia attended the ceremony;

Nshan Ustyan – Platoon Commander. A Hero of Abkhazia;

Aruta Chakryan – Medservice Chief ;

S. Chakryan – Administrative Service Chief;

Arutyun Terzyan – the Battalion Commissar after Minosyan, was a nominee for the status of a Hero of Abkhazia;

V. Tatulyan – the Battalion Commissar after wounding of Arutyun Terzyan;

K. Minalyan – the Chief of Autobrigade;

Z. Kalaijyan – the Chief of Grenadiers of the Battalion;

L. Selvyan – a deputy of Kalaijyan;

Vaham Rganyan – A Hero of Abkhazia. Anti-tank Platoon Leader Commander;

T. Kalaijyan – Chief of Intelligence;

Hayk Ustyan – Chief of Communications;

K. Keshyan – a member of the Division of Artillerists;

M. Danelyan – a member of the Administrative Unit;

Sarkis Karskyan – A Hero of Abkhazia, the 1st Company Commander;

Karapet Karagozyan – A Hero of Abkhazia;

Sergey Tovmasyan – A Hero of Abkhazia;

Galust Trapizonyan – A Hero of Abkhazia;

Ashot Kosyan – A Hero of Abkhazia;

Norik Pehelvanyan;

Boria Kosyan;

Razmik Zakaryan;

Sergey Manutsyan – was killed in March 16, 1993;

Avel Avdjyan;

Karpo Kirakosyan (Gagra);

Artur Matosyan (Gagra);

Avak Zabunyan – was wounded and died of loss of blood;

Renik Kapekyan (village Pshavi);

Rafik Hovanesyan;

Gevork Takhmazyan;

Alber Paronyan;

Gevork Zurnachyan – awarded with Leon Medal;

Leon Solomonyan;

Saak Papazyan – a Company Commander;

Samvel Shahbajyan – stood out in September;

Garik Munjyan – stood out in September;

Arutyun Meletyan – stood out in September;

Iura Tirosoyan – was killed at the attack in September;

Gevork Meletyan – Commissar of the 2nd Armenian Battalion;

G.V.Khorozyan;

Albert Delyan – was killed;

Karapet Khazarjyan;

E. A. Telnejyan;

M. A. Davityan;

Mrktich Davityan - was wounded;

Andranik Trapzonyan;

Andrey Trapzonyan;

Zaven Bayrazyan – was wounded;

Markos Demirchyan;

Gevork Kochkonyan – born in 1968, awarded with Lion Medal.
Was killed in March 15-16, 1993;





Ashot Barukyan;

Ashot Bojolyan;

Seirad Iehmelyan;

Artavazd Dovarjyan;

Benik Grigoryan;

Tores Khrjyan;

Karapet Sarian;

Misak Tuisusyan – was killed in Tsugurovka;

Arkadi Sukiasyan – born in 1965, Gudauta, was killed in
21.07.1993;

Sergey Esoyan – born on 1951, in Adzapa, Gagra District. Died of
wounds on 29.07.1993;

Sergey Akhanjian – born in 1975, Akhali Atoni. Dyed in 3.07.1993;

Andranik Ekrusyan – was killed in helicopter;

Samvel Minasyan – born in 1974, Kveda Eshera, Sokhumi District,
was killed in 21.07.1993.

.....

Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan just maintained its initial name, but in fact, it was a real division with all needed units. As it turned out, there were about 2000 members united in this so-called Battalion.

Additional materials



A prominent Georgian scientist, Ivane Javakhishvili sent a letter to the Government Georgian SSR in 1925. He wrote about the history of colonization of Georgian land by Armenians and did it with characteristic to him scientific justification. This history comprises XIX century and is shown very clearly artificial mixing of many nationalities in those days Georgia by Tsarist Government.

Public did not know this material until 1998, when I published it in newspaper "Literaturuli Sakartvelo" №43.

Bondo Arveladze

* * *

From the Archives of Ivane Javakhishvili

9.4717. №1. Case №6. Report by I.Javakhishvili Written by His Own Hand (pp. 82-111; held in the State Archives).

“Right after abolition of Georgian independence, the representatives of Russia started to take steps against possible political movements in Georgia. They did it by promoting Armenian officials, settling retired Russian soldiers in Georgia for restraining the local population. Armenians were assumed as a political nation loyal to them. Starting from 1828, when Russia took Samtskhe, Javakheti, Erusheti and Plakatsio – Georgian lands populated by Georgian Muslims was put in terrible conditions so that finally they were made to leave their motherland and move to Turkey. Count Paskevich did not let the Georgians from Likht-Imereti area to make their homes in there and brought 40 000 Armenians instead. By these non-natural means, owing to Russian officials, Armenians became the major population of Meskheta by 1832 while until 1828, 90% of the inhabitants were Georgians.

After 60-ies of XIX century, Russian political circles tried everything to replace all Caucasian population by Russians. In 1864, Katkov was not satisfied by just moving in Russian former soldiers and wanted to establish the conditions for intruding Russians not

only in Caucasian towns but in villages as well. This would greatly increase the Russian influence. **“Imagine, how Russian influence would have been boosted if such conditions were created if such the villages were filled with “Russians”** (see *Moskovskie Vedomosti*)(*Moscow Bulletin*), 1864, №168, or *“Sobranie Peredovikh Statey “Moskovskikh Vedomostey”* (*Collection of Superior Articles of Moscow Bulletin*), 1864, p. 467) (Russ.). Katkov considered settling of Russian aristocrats in Caucasus and particularly by the Black Sea side as a supportive measure.

At the same time, Russian Administration tried to russify Poland. So, the Russian politicians realized that their human resources were not enough to do it simultaneously in two different countries. Somebody named Kananov, an Armenian figure of that time, proposed to colonize the Black Sea area of Georgia by Armenians from Turkey. Katkov supported this idea for the lack of Russian colonists and recognized it as productive from both political and economical points of views – **“Armenians will be loyal to us and bring quite profit as people of trade”** (*Sobranie Peredovikh Statey “Moskovskikh Vedomostey”* (*Collection of Superior Articles of Moscow Bulletin*), 1864, p. 500-502) (Russ.). After Russian “black squader” Katkov approved the idea of Armenians to be settled in Caucasus, the local officials took on. They started moving in Germans and Estonians as well. The Russians seemed to be little in amount. So, they realized that the colonization did not do much good for Russian colonization purposes. Of course, Russian politicians were very pleased by the fact that Georgians had no means to propagate, but they did not like the fact that Russians were out of area as well. By 1867, the same Katkov angrily proclaimed: **“Everybody comes and makes homes by the Black Sea side even from Asia Minor, Austria and Germany but from Russia!** (*“Moskovskie Vedomosti”*)(*Moscow Bulletin*), 1867, №264 and №282, or *Sobranie Peredovikh Statey “Moskovskikh Vedomostey”* (*Collection of Superior Articles of Moscow Bulletin*), 1867, p. 687, 688) (Russ.).

Ivane Khatisov, father of Al. and G. Khatisovs was a very active and productive implementer of the politics of colonization Georgia by Armenians. He was an influential official at the

Administration of State Property and Agriculture in Caucasus from 1865 to 1875; Special Proxy official at Tsar Deputy Office in 1875-1883 and Chairman of State Treasury Management during 1885-1893. He helped many Armenians to come and settle in Georgia. Namely – in Borchalo, Javakheti and the Black Sea side. As the latest was considered as a location of political significance, he did everything for Armenians to support their colonies. He claimed to Russians that this country was to be a place of promoted farming and only the ones of corresponding culture should be given the right to live there. Russians were used to different climate and grew only grain-crops. Malaria, common in these areas could kill Russians. Armenians and Greeks are used to such places. They will dry the marshland out and prepare it so that the others (i.e. Russians) also can live in there – insisted Ivane Khatisov. Using such justifications and his high position, he did his best to bring his fellow countrymen in Georgia. Tsarist Government never trusted in political loyalty of Georgians and considered their active life dangerous. At the same time, they never thought that Armenians would ever think of independence and had nothing against Armenian settlements in Georgia. Quite the contrary, they were pleased by decrease of Georgian population in Georgia and increase of subjects loyal to Russian inseparability as they thought of Armenians. However, soon Katkov saw that all of this was just a bluff. He wrote in 1887 about his doubts why the Russians should die by the Black Sea sides if Armenians, Greeks and Germans could survive. He surmised that Russian political interests were neglected (Mosc.V. №13), but the job was done. There was no more room for new settlers and especially for Georgians, who were the first legitimate claimers, but neither Russians, nor Armenians wanted to hear about it. In this, they were unanimous. The vital interests of Georgian peasants were totally ignored and they were restricted to propagate in their own motherland when the newcomers were supported thoroughly.

When talks about “narodnik movement” was started, everybody knew that saving of lives of oppressed congeners in Turkey was not the only aim of Armenian politicians. They tried to accomplish their own national scheme to make an integrated territory for dispersed in different countries Armenians. They demanded separation of Borchalo and Akhalkalaki districts from Tbilisi

province and integration them with Gumr (Leninakan at this moment.- B.A.) to create Gumr Province of Armenians, Count Vorontsov-Dashkov, the Tsar Deputy at the time and his wife were sympathetic to Armenians. Al. Khatisov, a son of Ivane Khatisov was their main advisor. Dashnaks held the bridle and Vorontsov-Dashkov ordered to consider the issue of separation and the consequent integration. The special meetings were held in November 6 and December 18, 1913. Despite the fact that there were 6 Armenian and 2 Georgian representatives taking part in these meetings, they found separation of Borchalo and Akhalkalaki districts from Tbilisi province totally impossible from both economic and geographic points of views. The Special Council of Tbilisi Province approved the resolution in January 24, 1914.

The First World War was started by then. Russian rulers advised Dashnakians to organize rebellion of Armenians in Turkey. This would make easier their military operations in there. In return, they promised to free them from Turks and give them autonomy within the borders of Russian Empire. Armenian politicians and Dashnakians took this trick for real and timely did as were advised, but the things went wrong and embittered Turks started slaughtering of Armenians. Some of them escaped in Caucasus, Persia, or somewhere else. The rest of them were killed. After the second invasion Turkey by Russians, they did not want Armenian refugees to come back to their fatherland and started to propagate colonies of Russian Kazaks on Valashkert (Alashkert) and Basiani (Pasiani) Vales. Russian revolution and retreat of the Russian Army allowed Turks to return everything what was taken away, advance to Karsi District and come right to Gumbr. However, Germans lost in the end and helpless Turks were forced to obey to the French and Englishmen. Army of English occupants came in Istanbul and then in Caucasus. The hope of Armenian Dashnak Government and political cycles was recommenced. It is very characteristic that at the very same time, in 1918, in Istanbul, a new fantastic map was printed (as if historic), where Armenian borders expanded from the Black Sea to The Caspian Sea and reaches starting from the east side of Samsun, reaches even Mediterranean Sea. Batumi. Akhaltsikhe and even Mtskheta (capital of Georgia before V.B.C. – transl.) was inside the “Armenian” borders and Georgia was left just as a narrow band. In





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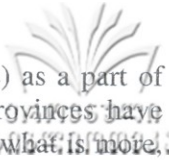
addition, according to the mentioned map, a new state map of Armenia was issued in Istanbul, marking Armenian borders almost in the same frames, plus quite a big part of Turkey, such as Trabzon, Ordu, Kesaria city, Adana, Edessa; Denoted within Armenian territory were northern part of Persia including Tabriz city and Ardebil. By this map, on the Black Sea side Georgia had a small line from Batumi to Makhriali. Imerkhevi (very Georgian territory) is denoted as Armenia. Akhaltsikhe (Georgian etymology, means *New Castle*) was in Georgia, but Akhalkalaki (Georgian etymology, means *New City*) was in Armenia. From this point, the border between Georgia and Armenia is shifted to the north. It is obvious that such borders could not be justified ethnically or historically, as Armenia never existed in such borders (after XI A.C., Armenia did not exist even as a political entity).

Armenian delegation presented this map to the World Conference to justify it. Turkish delegation easily proved groundlessness of the map by statistical data. The French, English, American and other representatives on the Congress saw the falseness of the presented by Armenians "statistical data" and the map. This unbelievable scheme of Armenian Dashnak Government and ruling parties went up in smoke.

It needs to be mentioned that by that moment Armenian Dashnak government had already taken steps for practical fulfillment of their scheme. As it turned out, they were secretly preparing in advance helped by Russian Tsar. They declared the part of Georgia within the borders of the mentioned map as Armenian territory (they had to give up the Turkish territories) and attacked Georgia. Losing the case with Turkish Government made them more vigorous to fulfill their plans in Georgia and they started to extend their territories at the expenses Georgia and Georgian nation.

This stupid war between neighbours brought nothing good to the Dashnaks. They had to stay within their old borders. Thus, the efforts to restore as if Historical borders of Armenia went in vain.

The plan of widening the Armenia borders was never stopped. After establishment of the Soviet governance, Lore area was taken from Georgia and connected to Armenia, although this step was harmful not only to Georgia as a country, but by economical reasons as well. A new project of Armenians was presented again in 1922,



which considered Javakheti (i.e. Akhalkalaki province) as a part of Borchalo province. It is interesting, that these two provinces have nothing common by either geography or economy and, what is more, they are separated by high mountain ridge making even direct physical contact impossible. Of course, this was a first step plan for taking a part of Georgia and connecting it to Armenia. Fortunately, Commissariat of Internal Affairs of USSR rejected this new plan due to protest of the local population and geographic, ethnic and economic reasons. The corresponding Report №291/1367 was presented to the Central Committee of the communist Party in February 26, 1923 and was approved.

The next plan of Armenians was to create Armenian settlements in Karaia-Shiraki plain (one of the most important pastures in Georgia-transl.) and establish cotton manufacture there that would be in "great interests of Russia". This was very harmful for Georgian rural economy, but Armenian politicians never thought about it. The total baseless ness of this plan was not difficult to prove and it was declined.

At the end, I would like to talk about a new project about giving autonomy to Armenians in Javakheti and separation it from Georgia. Everything that I have mentioned earlier in this letter shows the roots and aims of this project (accentuation in ours – auth.). Neither Geographic nor economic conditions were changed after 1923. The interests of Armenian population in these regions are fully satisfied as it always was. What could be the reasons for this new plan? Realization of this project will do a lot of economic harm to the population and especially the ones who make living by sheep breeding in Georgia will stay out of any means. Russia of Tsar wholly neglected the interests of Georgian people in Georgia and quite a big piece of their land was granted to Russians and Armenians, but I find it hard to believe that the Soviet Government can support the same Armenian Dashnak interests. This seems so unbelievable to me that I am sure this project will be denied as it was before done with the same and similar ones.

Open Letter to the Chairman of Writers Union of the Republic of Armenia



“Any Armenian public figure, who does not try his best to defend Georgia, knows nothing about his own people and history and any Georgian, who does not defend Armenians and Armenia, knows nothing about history of Georgia.”

Ovanes Tumanyan

After long hesitation and consideration, I decided to address you with this open letter and express the alarm and resentment of Georgians caused by betrayal of your congeners in Abkhazia. I am talking about Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan and their coward leader. These men of no scruples disgraced Armenian nation and declared grim war to Georgian people.

Mister Sero Khandazyan, Armenian combatant took a great part in genocide of Georgians and even overcame Abkhazs in their brutality. I believe, you will ask about facts. Unfortunately, there are much more than enough... The facts of torture and killing of Georgians by Armenians are accounted and printed in press. Of course, not all the cases are registered as this operation was of the massive character. Even greater, Armenian armed men still exercise punitive expeditions. Ethnic cleansing of Abkhazia was fulfilled by their active participation. By incomplete data, during just one month, in September 1994, houses of 14 Georgian families were burned to the ground, 27 men were killed in Sokhumi Region. The same group destroyed and executed more than 180 families in Gali District during the same month (September 1994). The Armenian fighters are very active in Kodori Gorge, where big scale ethnic cleansing is going on. Hundreds of raped, tortured and killed Georgians lie on their conscience.

Mister Sero, I think it would be appropriate to present just several cases out of many to let you imagine what a grave crime has been committed by Armenian combatants in Georgia:



“23yo. Mzia M. (I keep myself from naming the surname by the request of the girls father) was gang-raped by Armenian combatants in her house on Gochua st., Sokhumi. Then they threw the exhausted victim down and started feasting. After she came to her senses, she managed to kill three of them by their submachine gun and wounded four. Some neighbour secretly gave her shelter, but the other neighbour, who was Armenian, told on her. The Battalion members came again, took the girl from the neighbour, raped her again, cut out an ear and fingers. Then they shot her to death at the gate of her own house, left her there and went away.”

“In September 10, in old Georgian village Akapa, Armenians killed Raul Pipia and Ilia Pipia, Anzor Gagua and Otar Gagua, family members of Nora Aronia and Kuta Kardava. They burned their houses. Twenty-seven people in total were killed in that day in Akapa (I do not name all of them by several reasons).”

“Margo Narsia and Nunu Chabanava, who came out from village Iashikhva in September 14, have witnessed that somebody named Petrosyan from Armavir, a person in charge, declared that ethnic cleansing of Abkhazia from Georgians was to be finished by September 27. Armenian officials and combatants were very willing in this ethnic cleansing. The house of Margo Narsia was taken away from her by a next-door neighbour Suren an Armenian ”.

“In September 17, 1500 Armenians were already settled in Tkvartcheli (Sergi Sajaia, The Days of Voiceless Screaming, newsp. Archevani, November, 1994).”

I want to draw your attention to some more facts, mister Sero:

Zaza Samushia – village Pshavi, Gulripshi District:

“When the third party of combatants came in, they killed 11 persons. More than half of them were women. They were drawn in one back yard and killed. These murderers were Armenians”.

“We witnessed burning of about 20 houses. Local Armenians took all possessions in advance. They took the stock animals as well and destroyed the whole village.”

“The third party of Armenians came in. They acted aggressively. First, they demanded to hand them over my gun and then asked where my son was. My Armenian neighbour Noriko Khachatryan, knew he was in Georgian guard. They started to torture us. They took

everything we had and constantly repeated that they will never let Georgians to be happy on this land.”



Marina Malisheva – Sokhumi:

“In September Members of Bagramyan Battalion robbed 86 years old Grisha Salia and his wife 78 years old Eloko Kirtadze . Then they came again asking where Sergi Sajaia was, beat them and drew out of their house. Doing this, they fractured the old woman’s hand. Also they evicted Nana Deisadze from her house and let an Armenian from Armavir in.”

“In December 1994, Armenians gang-raped and killed some N. in village Iakhshikhva.”

“In January 1, 1994, Rezo Khaburzania and his son were killed by Armenians in their house”.

“In the second decade of September, 1994, Kako Jobava and 83 years old miller Dome Ketsbaia were brutally killed by Armenians in Otabaia for “stealing” their own family pictures.”

“In village Barghebi, Armenian fighters burned 97 houses of Georgians just in one day of December in 1993.”

“In Otabaia, Armenians (I am not naming the name of the victim here after his request) caught 19 years old boy, who tried to “steal” some food from his own house. They hung him upside down on a tree branch, swung him and started shooting at him. The boy was severely wounded; later the same wounded boy was hardly rescued by neighbours.

“Armenians caught father and son local Georgians, and killed them with a knife”.

“In January 29, Armenian combatants killed Turmava brothers, who stole their own hood from their own house.”

Information of Guram Tsaava, who escaped from Akapa in January 27, 1994: “Armenians killed Irodi Pipia in Tsebelda in September 29. Then they cut out his heart and threw it to dogs”.

“Akakia Kharazania, a local Abkhaz does his best to save his fellow Georgians’ houses from Armenian marauders in Akapa.”

“Estonians from Akapa protect the houses of Georgians from fellow villager Armenians”.

Tsiala Kvaratskhelia:

“I am shocked by what I have seen. In Sokhumi and Gulripshi Armenians always were privileged. The Armenians showed which houses were of Georgians and the Abkhazs burned them”. (Newsp. Archevani, 1994, August).

Mister Sero, as you can see, some Aphsuans and Estonians defend wretched Georgian population, but the case when Armenians helped them in any way are extremely rare. In the contrary, they were and still are the most merciless executors of Georgians. Where does such cruelty come from?! Maybe because of a Georgian general Babunashvili, who saved hundreds of pitiful Armenians in 1905 in Baku and helped them to the safe place. The price he paid for this was his own life.

Mister Sero, the mentioned facts clearly show horrible crimes committed by Armenian combatants in Abkhazia. I want to notice here that I never equate all Armenians, who live in Georgia to the combatant members in Abkhazia. Of course, one needs to remember that some Armenians did not support Abkhaz separatists and became refugees together with Georgians. I will also always remember that there were Armenians who fought by Georgians side defending territorial integrity of the country. Some of them bravely fell in this fight.

There were periods in the history of Georgian and Armenian peoples, where their fellowship was reduced. This happened in 1918, when Armenian Dashnak Government started a war against Georgia. This war horrified Ovanes Tumanyan (a prominent Armenian writer – transl.). He sent a message to his sons who lived in Georgia that if they took a part in this war against Georgia, he would curse them as their father. This was a fact of goodwill between our people as it was during centuries. Ovanes Tumanyan did not stop on it and addressed Governments of both Armenia and Georgia to stop this war between brothers. He did everything to stop it and thus fulfilled his civic duty to his people. Tician Tabidze, a Georgian poet was the first who responded and supported this honorable act. Naturally, the question to the modern Armenian writers appears. It is interesting to know, which side they were now when ethnic cleansing took place in Abkhazia? It is hard to believe that neither of Armenian writers says



any word against this horror. Hrant Bagramyan, your fellow countryman writer, in euphoria after temporary success in Karabakh helped by modern Russian technique and Army, did not call your people to good judgment. Instead, he ecstatically expressed his pleasure and even reminded Georgians about their temporary defeat in Abkhazia. How shameful!

The history does not know a single case, when Georgian writers did anything similar to Armenians. We just answered insult when we had to. Now it is just very strange that neither of Armenian poets, who glorify fellowship of our people, said a word. Even those, who live in Georgia by our side, preferred silence. By the way, after Apsuan separatists used Armenian combatants against Georgia, they turned against them. There are many evidences of confrontations between Apsuan police officers and Armenians.

Mister Sero, several high ranked officials in Armenian Government declared that they have no leverage to influence Armenians who live in Abkhazia. This is a barefaced lie. Armenians in Abkhazia as well as those in Karabakh were controlled from Yerevan. I have witnessed an evidence. When Karabakh war started, I was in Yerevan. I met there Armenian refugees and talked to them. They said sincerely that they were contented by their life in Karabakh, but officials from Yerevan never let them to leave in piece and instigated to separate the region from Azerbaijan and demand its independence or integration with Armenia. The truth was uncovered concerning Armenians in Abkhazia too. When Armenians in Abkhazia felt anyhow offended, Yerevan showed excellent efficiency and sent delegations both to Tbilisi and to Sokhumi and started to investigate the facts of violation of rights of their congeners. Therefore, this means that Armenian Government takes care of the Armenians in Abkhazia. The conclusion is obvious. Even greater, Armenian Government manipulates all diasporas dispersed in different countries and especially the ones on former Soviet Territory. Denial of this fact by Armenians causes just the regretful smile.


Mister Sero, I address you as the greater writer of Armenians and the best confidant of your people. I hope you will apply all your authority and love of people and call your Government to assure the Armenians living in Armenia, , to abandon man-eater Apsua

separatists and come back to the right path. The Romans have saying: "revenge has no borders", but Georgian people is forgiving. I am sure they will forgive Armenian separatists if they sincerely repent. Do not consider this address as my request. ~~This is an advice~~ for avoiding the final cessation of peaceful coexistence of Georgian and Armenian people.

With great regards, Bondo Arveladze.

February 1995.

(This address was first printed in Russian in Moscow - newsp. "Novaya Kavkazskaya Gazeta (New Caucasus Newspaper), and in Tbilisi – newsp. Iveris-Express, February 24-27, 1995).




To Garegin the 2nd, the All-Armenian Catholicos,
to Mister Robert Kocharyan, the President of Armenia

It has been more than ten years as the bloody events of Abkhazian war were over. Russia annexed old Georgian territory of Abkhazia and established his separatist regime in there. By side of Russians, Abkhazs and Northern Caucasians, Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan created by Armenians, which lived in Abkhazia fought against Georgia. This Battalion was distinguished with special fierceness and mercilessly executed peaceful Georgian civilians. Killing of many Georgian elders, women and children lie on their conscience. For this "heroism", 15 Armenian combatants were awarded the title of National Hero of Abkhazia. There are many documentary materials about their "heroic" deeds and they will be printed very soon in Georgian and English languages.

I would like to remind you that when Dashnak Government started war against Georgia in 1918, sons of Ovanes Tumanyan were in Tbilisi. The great humanist sent a message to his sons that if they took a part in this war against Georgia, he would curse them as their father. *This was a fact of goodwill between our people as it was during centuries.* During the war between Georgia and Abkhazia, I addressed the Chairman of Writers Union of the Republic of Armenia at that moment and asked him to summon Armenian fighter to stop slaughtering Georgians in Abkhazia. My letter was printed in Georgian and Russian press. For my great disappointment, my letter was totally ignored.


Now I address you. More then decade passed by and there is no official estimation of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan. You keep silence. Already, this silence can be accepted as your approval of this crime of the century. Believe me, this is unworthy for the descendents of great Ovanes Tumanyan.

This letter is written with sorrow by a person, who published more than one books about Georgian-Armenian literature and cultural affairs and gave lectures about brotherhood of these two people. My humble input in this issue allows me to address you with



this open letter and say it sincerely: **until you both the All-Armenian Catholicos and the President of Armenia apologize to the Georgian people for the crimes committed by Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan, the talks about goodwill between Georgians and Armenians are just false words.** Georgian people will never forget the Battalion crimes in Abkhazia. There is no time for hesitation any more. It is time to restore the old friendly relationship between Georgian and Armenian writers, scientists and artists. The fate entrusted you with the mission to heal the broken friendship and I hope you will truthfully fulfill this honorable task!

**Bondo Arveladze,
Academician of Abkhazian Academy of Sciences,
Doctor of Phylology, Armenologist.
Newsp. Asaval-Dasavali, №33, 2006**



Crimes Committed by the Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan – It is Time to submit Apologies

(Khatuna Paichadze, *Kviris Palitra*, №45, 2006)

*“Armenian armed formation was created not in Armenia, but in other people’s fatherland. In the country that gave shelter to Armenians. This is a significant and proud episode for Armenian people and Armenians living on Abkhazian territory are truly proud of it (formation of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan). I want to say that **during this patriotic war Armenians did everything for the love to their country and not because they were forced.** The Armenian people always remembered that liberation of Abkhazia from Georgian occupants was the main and the only goal of these actions”*


Levon Markaryan.

Armenians has been living in Abkhazia during more than one and a half century and can not (or do not) understand that they live on a Georgian territory, where Georgians are indigenous settlers.

Bondo Arveladze.

At the turn of this August, Garegin the 2nd, the All-Armenian Catholicos is visiting Georgia. Spiritual mentor of Armenians comes to consider church transmission issues, but as it appears, he will have to talk about other things too. Georgian scientists are going to ask his opinion on one particular question. Bondo Arveladze, a Georgian Armenologist already addressed All-Armenian Catholicos and the president of Armenia by open letter. He demanded from spiritual and national leaders of Armenians to condemn and offer apologize for the crimes committed by Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan.

Brutality of Bagramyan Battalion in Abkhazian war stays as a shameful stain in the history of Georgian and Armenian



relationships. However, during all 13 years, Armenian official figures keep silence about what happened. Georgian scientists and public figures, who always were very careful about Georgian-Armenian relationships, get tired of waiting and started to name the facts by the names they should be named. For very this reason, in the near future, a book will be printed in Georgia in Georgian and English languages. The crimes of Bagramyan Battalion committed in Abkhazia will be described in this book based authentic facts.

The idea of the book shocked Armenian society, but nobody hurries to give estimation to the facts and apologize...

Bondo Arveladze (Scientist, Armenologist) – The whole Georgia knows well that Armenians or, rather, Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan fought against Georgians in Abkhazian war. They are well known by their brutality and slaughtering of many innocent Georgians lie on their conscience. I am an Armenologist and this fact always caused me uneasiness. That is why during the war I sent an official letter to Sero Khandazyan, the Chairman of Writers Union of the Republic of Armenia at that moment. First, I reminded him about past friendship between Georgian and Armenian people and then asked Armenian Government and intelligentsia to call Bagramyan Battalion members to stop killing Georgians in Abkhazia. Regretfully for me, I got no answer and nobody did anything to stop his or her congeners. Already 14 years passed away, but Armenian government has not yet given any official estimation to Bagramiabi Battalion actions. Because of it, I decided to remind Armenian Government that they need to apologize to the Georgian people. Therefore, I addressed Garegin the 2nd, the All-Armenian Catholicos and Robert Kocharyan, the President of Armenia but in vain. Georgians understand the silence of Armenian Government as approval of behavior of Bagramyan Battalion, what is really unworthy for the descendents of great Ovanes Tumanyan. In 1918, when Armenians started war against Georgia, sons of Ovanes Tumanyan were in Tbilisi. He sent a message to his sons that if they took a part in this war against Georgia, he would curse them as their father (!).



If the Government of Armenia does not give estimation to the actions of Bagramyan Battalion, the talks about goodwill between Georgians and Armenians are just false words. Georgian people will never forget the Battalion crimes in Abkhazia. Georgians remember also the Armenians who fought by Georgians side defending territorial integrity of the country. Some of them bravely fell in this fight. We will always honor them appropriately, but again, the crimes of Bagramyan Battalion are impossible to forget. This was a crime of the century. Unfortunately, neither Georgians, nor Armenians can deny this fact.

- Could you be more specific about the crimes? Are there any documents that prove criminal acts and brutality of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan?

- I keep myself from naming the facts for several reasons. There are numerous written and video documents showing the crimes by Bagramyan Battalion. The material is being processing at this moment and very soon all facts will be collected in one book to be printed in Georgian and English languages. By the way, apart from documents and photo materials, there are miraculously escaped eyewitnesses as well. They remember very well the “heroic” actions of Battalion.

- Why do you think the Armenians acted this way?

- Some Armenians try to excuse Bagramyan Battalion and claim that Abkhazs forced the Armenians to fight against Georgians. But this is no excuse to fighting against people who gave you shelter in difficult times.

Let us say that they were forced to fight (although this was not the case). Did Abkhazs make them to burn alive and torture women, children and elders?! As I have learned, the very battalion members got houses of Georgians in Gagra. Recently, a letter was printed in Armenian press, where the author boasted about 15 Armenian heroes of Abkhazia. Those recognized by Abkhazs, as “heroes” for slaughtering of Georgians, are members of Bagramyan Battalion.

- Is there any hope that Armenian Government will estimate this fact and submit apologies?

- To be honest – no. However, we need to let Armenians know that we are not fools, that we know and remember everything.



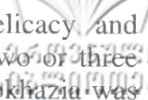
Several days ago, I met one docent from Yerevan, Snasyan by name. He said I was too strict to Armenian issued lately and they were offended but interested at the same time, why my attitude was changed. My answer was that Armenians demand our churches, print some maps out of their own fantasy which is claiming Georgian territories, declare all Georgian cultural heritages as Armenian including our alphabet; Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan in Abkhazia brutally killed hundreds of Georgians and you never thought to apologize for this. I said these reasons were more than enough for being critical. He promised me to give answer by Armenian press, but I have read nothing yet.

From Bagramyan Aims to Bagramyan Battalion



(Khatuna Paichadze, *Kviris Palitra*, №45, 2006)

Sergi Sajaia (a member of Writers Union of Georgia and Academisian of Abkhazian Academy): Creation of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan was the final step of treachery that was schemed many years ago. There was a reason Armenians gave the Battalion name Bagramyan. The covert aggression of Armenians in Georgia has a long history. I can tell about events that took place in Gulripshi and Sokhumi Districts. Inserting of Armenian population in Abkhazia started as if for the lack of manpower. The tobacco industry was announced as a priority direction and for some reasons started claiming that Georgians were not able to succeed in this field. As if for the industry development, they cut off the ground areas of Georgians and gave them to Armenians “not in possession, but to develop tobacco industry”. They took on tobacco for a little while but soon started to plant mulberry-trees as if for silkworm breeding. They were even given bonuses for each mulberry-tree, but the land was not suitable for tobacco plants anymore. Therefore, they were given the other lands to grow tobacco. After some time, Armenians started to put up wooden huts in the grounds with mulberry-trees (as if to take a rest during workday). After several years, the trees were replaced by citrus plantation and the wooden huts refashioned in decent houses. Thus, the lands handed “to develop tobacco industry”, fell in their hands. As a result, Sokhumi and Georgian population found themselves encircled by Armenians. This aimed politics changed the demography as well. Of course, Georgian Communist Party leaders supported everything what happened. This was a measure towards creation the Great Armenia and one occasion convinced me in this once and for all. In early 70-ies, my cousin and I decided to go to Moscow by train. In that period, there were no trains from Tbilisi and we needed to take Yerevan-Moscow train. We could not get the tickets and asked the conductor to let us in. She offered us an international carriage. My cousin is a Greek. I am a Greek by mother too and we started to talk in Greek. After some while, a man in casual garments came in and asked whether we were not Georgians. We got interested did not say



that I was half-Georgian... He brought Armenian delicacy and offered to eat together. We had some wine too. After two or three drinks, our guest started to talk and asked us what in Abkhazia was going on with Georgians. I told there were small disturbances sometimes but everything was OK in the whole... He reassured us that very soon everything would be fine, as Abkhazia is to be a part of the Great Armenia. He said, the things were better in eastern Georgia but here the Megreles stood on their way. I won't repeat the words he used mentioning the Megreles. He started to talk about their plans with Rissians of exiling Georgians and Abkhazs (!) from Abkhazia. The man was **Marshal Bagramyan!** This conversation assured me that Armenization of Abkhazia was a part of Russian politics. This was convenient for them as Armenians were always strategic ally of Rissua in Caucasus. This plan of casting out the local population was elaborated in 60-ies of XX century (*period of Khrushchev Reign – transl.*). By the way, Bagramyan told us that they would never succeed without support of Georgian high ranked officials.

There was a flourishing Rustaveli Collective farm in Sokhumi. In 1989 this Collective Farm distributed 19 ground areas for house-buildings. Only two of them went to Georgians and both with help of Armenians (?!). As it appeared, one of the Georgians had an Armenian girlfriend. In the same year, I was given a mediatory letter of the Council of Ministers of Abkhazia, where they indicated who the ground areas should have granted to. In the whole Gulripshi district, only one Georgian was given 0.15 hectares, while Armenians got 0.25 each. This only Georgian was a chief accountant of Babushera Volatile Oil Manufactory and had a lot of money. He could not get more than 0.15 hectares and what could an ordinary Georgian do. I am from Sokhumi, aboriginal Abkhaz. There is a village Akapa in Berketi Gorge. That is where I come from. I wanted to get some ground area in that village. I had to hand over the land I had the time and waited during six years after that to get a marshy land in my native village while Armenians were given the best areas. During these six years, the village I lived in became totally Armenian. Simultaneously ideological preparations and propaganda was going on full speed, what resulted in formation of Krunk, Armenian anti-Georgian movement followed by Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan known by cruelty and mercilessness.

Bullets are usual in military actions, but certain moral criteria exist even there. This was exactly of what the Battalion members lacked. Not only they killed Georgians with no mercy, but they burned Georgian books. Bagramyan members with my neighbours among them, who could not find me, hung out my coat and fired at it. In short, they executed me symbolically. As for my best-stocked library, it was totally burned.

Unfortunately, Georgian high ranked Party Officials, who always served the Soviet (Russian) Government, partly supported the tragedy.

After Spitaki earthquake, the homeless Armenians were distributed in different Republics of the Soviet Union. There was a directive not to legalize them. Temporary settled in Abkhazia Armenians easily got legalization for money. Despite the fact that I was a school principal, I had to bribe high officials to open a Georgian class for 25 students, while Armenian and Russian classes were easily allowed for 15 students. In Abkhazian District Committee, the members were assigned according to national quotas. They used to select the dregs of Georgian Society, with no dignity and with mentality quite far from idea of being Georgian. Very soon, these Georgians saw that there is nothing worth to exchange the fatherland.

I know numerous facts about Bagramyan Battalion brutality. They tied to trees prisoners and peaceful civilians (even after war), put tyre on their head and burned them; they raped women... One young Georgian woman, who could not run away, was hiding in her Armenian neighbour's house. They handed her to Bagramyan Battalion. Almost all Battalion raped the woman. The wretched woman went crazy.

There are numerous cases like this. Someone may accuse me in anti-Armenian psychosis, but I want to say for them to hear: I am the one, who taught Armenian students their native language and Armenian writing in Russian school at out-of-school activities wanting them to know native history and literature. Unfortunately, our tolerance went to our foolishness. It is time, to reach out. Recently, in Tbilisi was printed a book by some Ishkhanyan, in which the author declares that expulsion of Georgians from Abkhazia was a victory of democracy and progress and that it is time to substitute them with more viable nation (!). After this, I have no

expectation of apology by Armenians, but we should not keep silence anymore and say everything in everyone's hearing.”

Nodar Natadze. “Bagramyan Battalion has committed numerous vicious crimes. The war was already over. Georgian partisans captured one Armenian fighter. They noticed a little bag hanging on his neck and opened it. They found cut out noses, ears and pulled out eyes of Georgians inside. As it appeared, this Armenian was a member of Bagramyan Battalion. Abkhazs paid 100 dollars for each killed Georgian and they needed to show them some organ of killed Georgians...”

A witness of such case, Germane Basilia barely survived. Armenians and Abkhazs killed 67 Georgians in his village.

Germane Beselia. “There were some, who did not want to leave their houses. Some had lying in bed mother, or other family member. A group of Armenians came in our village (Merkheuli) and started to kill the residents. My neighbour woman managed to hide in a haystack, but the Armenians noticed this. They tightly wrapped the haystack around with a rope, set on the fire and watched from the nearby. They decapitated my neighbour old lady in front of the whole village... This was the manner they acted.”

The Battalion was created at the beginning of the war. It was completed with Armenians from Gagra and Gudauta. Some Trapizonyan was the leader.

P.S. There is a host of material stored in General Prosecutors Office in Tbilisi describing crimes committed in Abkhazia against innocent Georgian population. The most horrific are the ones of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan. The people, who have seen these materials, claim that brutality of Gilaev and Basaev troops are nothing comparing to the deeds by Bagramyan members.

The blood of the burned inside a haystack and decapitated women and children lie on members of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan conscience.

Khatuna Paichadze.
Kviris Palitra, №45, 2006

When the Treachery is the Lifestyle



(Printed in newspaper Sakartvelos Respublika (Republic of Georgia),
№220, 2006)

Recently, I got a book written by an ideologists of aggressive separatism, some Khojaa (Khojava in fact, of course). The author describes operations of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan, which stood out by brutality showed during the genocide of Georgians and ethnic cleaning on Abkhazia.


Among the names of bloodthirsty killers, I found my fellow citizens, “good” neighbours, people I have helped many times and people who I worked with.

It was very hard to believe my eyes. How can somebody bear such treachery and hide such hatred.

I just know for sure – this Khojaa (Khojava), who I believe got generous fee, will be condemned by the same Armenians, as he left a testimony of a shameful guile to the history.

Betrayal and duplicity of a part of Armenian settlers in the northwest Georgia (historical Tskhum-Abkhazia) is not given yet any comments by official bodies. This is the metastasis throwing shadow to relationships of our people. On the other hand, changing of history, making it up, just supports the netting of misunderstandings and future oppositions. The truth, as bitter as it is, is the basis for learning. But the necessary step here is firm, cautious and honest response of our good neighbours (fortunately, we still believe in their existence) to everything that would infringe the vital interests of Georgia against the will of great Ovanes Tumanyan and obeying the order of the Empire.

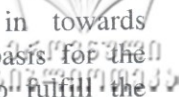
We, the refugees from Abkhazia have firsthand knowledge of the reasons, which we get at this point for.



In the view of aforesaid, I remember August 1989. After bloody events of July 15-16, the kindergarten of village Gumista (Sokhumi District) started working again. There were Russian, Armenian and Georgian groups (no Abkhazian). The Armenian population of Gumista objected opening of the Georgian group and made Georgian children to leave the kindergarten. Thus, Russian and Armenian groups stayed.

In September 5, the same year, I met Mister Van Bayburt and other Armenian Public Figures. I told him about what happened. They promised to talk to their congeners and settle the problem. This meeting is closely described in newspaper Shroma (September 23, 1989). The way the problem was settled became evident by another bloody event that took place in April 30 1990 in the same village. Exhausted with unfairness and Georgians protested giving to Armenians the next portion of land. Armed with axes Armenians descended on them trying to kill.

If someone attributes my recollection of such events to fueling of Antiarmerian attitude, I can tell him or her that in 1987-89, when I worked at Akhalsheni Secondary School (Sokhumi District), I introduced there teaching of Armenian language, literature and history for the Armenian students. After many efforts of the Patriotic Movement of Georgia, I became selected principal of the Georgian School of village Tavisupleba (Sokhumi District), which was opened for the Georgian children who were dissipated in single classes of different Armenian schools. These were the classes, where during 15 years, Armenian teachers oppressed, ridiculed and exiled Georgian children. By the way, this was described in Okros Satsmisi (the Golden Fleece), a journal issued by Zviad Gamsakhurdia. We never requited such treatment. On the contrary, I opened Ovanes Tumanyan hobby group in my school, where high-qualified Armenian teachers were offered all conditions to work. Armenian newspaper Vrastan wrote about it and called it an example of friendship between the people. This was the truth by us, but in 1990-1993, my Armenian colleagues brought down to ground the school, where we worked together. They burned my house and tortured thousands of my fellow countrymen, archly gave my fatherland to others. I let myself to name it by its name – betrayal and stabbing in the back! This needs to be said aloud by Armenian society too.



The animosity of Armenian public figures in towards Georgians coupled with Russian politics made firm basis for the leaders of aggressive separatism like V. Ardzinba to fulfill the successive plan of Genocide of Georgians and ethnic cleansing. If not communities like Krunk and Slavyanskiy Dom, V. Ardzinba would never dear to adopt a resolution about formation of so called Temporary Government in December 29, 1991, which brought the armed formations dislocated in the region under its control, i.e. the militarist organ was created before the “War Council” facilitated by Moscow in January 2, 1992. It is noteworthy to mention that the second-in-command persons in V. Ardzinba Main Military Camp were an Apsuan colonel Arshba and Armenian colonel L. Gogozhian. The 9 members of the Camp consisted of Abkhazs, Russians and Armenians (*this was before the war, i.e., when Abkhazia was a part of Georgia de facto and de jure – transl.*).

Starting from 1917, until today, the aggressive separatism was always supported by energetic and unjust “neutrality” of Armenians, who in fact acted against Georgia.

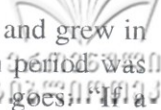
And again, our neighbour Armenian always tries to tell us somehow: In USA (in New York), a journalist Anatoli Fedorov wrote in Russian-language newspaper *Novoe Russkoe Slovo* (New Russian Word): “Shadow of Russia Lies on the Georgian Hills”.

Soon, in the next issue of the same newspaper, some V. Shakhbazyan (Armenian by nationality) tried to spread next disinformation about Georgia:

“Abkhazia was never a part of georgia. Its population consisted mainly from Abkhazs, Megrels, Greeks and Armenians (the latest – refugees from Turkey in 1906). During ethnic cleansing, numerous people of these nationalities were killed and expelled. Georgians took their place.

Neither Jews, nor Armenians, or Baltiks and Abkhaz can get away from the memory of their history. Totalitarianism left deep scars in the souls of people and it is paid by ethnic conflicts. Abkhazia, Adzharia, South Osetia were never parts of Georgia. They were included in its borders during Stalin Governance.”(in Russian)

No, it would not be odd, if I said that there is no truth in these words. The purpose it is quite transparent – “we know everything, but for those who know little about Georgian history, all this creates



quite steady stereotype”. Then he goes on – “I was born and grew in Georgia and I know that Georgian chauvinism in Stalin period was much heavier than the Russian one. Indeed, as saying goes: If a landlord is bad, a redneck made lord is hundred times worse”. Let us see, what kind of suffering he has sentenced to himself: “In Moscow, I never drank Georgian wines sold in there...”

I really want such raving to be some exception, but the time shows that this is our neighbour people’s real attitude. After all, the question needs to be placed – Why? Why such betrayal when we are at the edge of annihilation?!

Armenian society was an active supporter of the separatists, who abolished Constitution of 1978 by name of Abkhazian Supreme Council and restored the constitution of 1925 in July 23, 1992. At the same time, the preparations for genocide and ethnic cleansing of Georgians were stealthily going on in full speed. In these preparations, Armenian volunteers were especially vigorous. Here I want to mention that people needs to abandon thinking that V. Ardzinba is innocent in inspiration of this war. This is not so. Both E. Shevardnadze and V. Ardzinba were supporters of the same imperial forces. They were the two boots of the same body to smash the national government. In August 14, 1994, when a part of Georgian citizens asked him (Ardzinba) to defend the population and the Georgians among them, he outlawed the Georgians and, in fact, made them targets for confused by propaganda congeners.

The members of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan were very willing and exited. The Battalion was created in February 9, 1993 (order №55). Their cruelty towards Georgians was outstanding and going beyond all boundaries. In September 27, 1993 and in the following days, when they killed women and children in their houses and backyards with unspeakable enjoyment, they shouted – **“This was yours, but now it is ours! Abkhazia is a Minor Armenia, the western part of the Great Armenia!”**

In Sokhumi, a group of Armenians caroused in Ksenia Tskvitaia’s house with the food the old lady treated them. After they were done, they shot to death Ksenia Tskvitaia (the hostess), Zurab Kemularia, Darejan Turkia, Otar Gegechkori, Valodia Kalandia with his wife, Lado Benidze and the whole his family, Beridze family,



Sarden Kalandia family, brothers Kalandias and others **just for fun!**
(Recollection by an eyewitness Togo Chelidze).

I mentioned above that, I taught Armenian language to Armenian children. Unfortunately, most of them became guides for intruders. They gathered information for them and helped in devastation of Georgian villages. They did it with obvious excitement. In village Akhalsheni, his own student killed Sasha Tskhvaradze and his family members. I don't know how they felt, when in 1992-93 we shared our bread and warmth with them and they provided the enemy with information. In general, naivety of Georgians in this war was just astounding.

There are enough evidences proving that in the Northwest part of Georgia (Abkhazia), while about 2 000 of Armenian citizens took arms in his hands, significant part of the others spied on us and at the same time was in good neighbourly relationships with Georgians. Nevertheless, when I think of this treachery, I remember also the followers of the will of Great Ovanes Tumanyan – the Armenians, who maintained their dignity to the end but I can't let myself to keep silence about unspeakable perfidy, which Armenian public figures did not give any estimation to yet. Saying nothing by them will become an additional burden to the order of coexistence of our people.

I believe it is was not an accident that Krunk, an Armenian society of bitter enemies of Georgians was created as a knife in the back on the Georgian territory, in Abkhazia right after brutal break up of patriotic-liberation movement in Tbilisi by Kremlin in April 9, 1989. What's more disgusting, **hundreds of Armenians from Spitaki entered this society. Those were the refugees, who lost their houses due to 1988 Spitaki earthquake helped Georgians, accepted by the country as the fellow citizens!**

Armenians, who were settled in Northern-west Georgia (Abkhazia) since the beginning of XX century to denationalize the Black Sea-Side of Georgia, always been the holders of the Russian political course and their negative approach to the independence of Georgia was noticeable starting from 1917-21 right after Sovietization of Georgia. G. Cholokyan, S. Minasyan, A. Gurunyan, G. Atarbekov, A. Keshyan, K. Melkonyan and others, so called



revolutioners, but just the gangers in truth, were outstanding figures in this way.

I want to remind to my neighbour Armenians: When the great Andronik, together with the blessed Ovanes Tumanyan, met the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, Evgeni Gegechkori in 1919, they honestly talked about the 1918's reckless military scheme of Armenians, like the pure human beings. The great Andronik then said: our nations have to remember, if the Armenian nation will be burried in one morning, the enemy will try to do the same with the Georgian nation and if somebody will try to burry the Georgian in the morning, be aware as the Armenians turn will come in the evening...

There is nothing to say against, this is a great wisdom to remember.

We have to learn from the consequences of Abkhazian war, which cannot be the source of happiness for the Armenian state. There is no one-sided good neighbourhood relationship. This is mutual respect, which is the only way to the peaceful Caucasus.

This is the only thing I dream of.

Sergi Sajaia

A member of the Writers and Cultural Union of Georgia,

**A member of the Presidium of Abkhazian Academy of
Science**



Expert: the Georgian Authorities Carry On Active Anti-Armenian Propaganda Based on Lie and Falsifications

(printed in 15:1425.12.2006)

Document: <http://www.regnum.ru/news/760465.html>

The Georgian officials carry on Active Anti-Armenian Propaganda Based on Lie and Falsifications –declared Eduard Abramyan (*Armenian by nationality – transl.*), an expert of analytical center Mitk at the meeting concerning the *Georgian Politics and Regional Safety* organized by the center.

According to the information of IIA REGIUM, Abramyan claims that after disintegration of the Soviet Union, Armenian-Georgian relationships have transferred to another phase of development having nothing common with the mutual past of the two people and becoming more and more complicated. Specifically, he noticed that time by time they assert different claims to each other, which has nothing to do with the truth and serve just propaganda issues. In particular, Eduard Abramyan brought up the claims of the Georgian side concerning participation of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan in military actions against Georgia in Abkhazia during 1992-1993 war. In this connection, he (Eduard Abramyan) says that there are numerous falsifications in Georgian historiography about Bagramyan Battalion aimed to accuse Armenian soldiers in participation of planned in advance deportation and genocide of the Georgian residents of the region. Considering these so-called “scientific” works, Eduard Abramyan pointed out the works by Armenologist Bondo Arveladze, where the author not even presenting any concrete facts raises numerous groundless accusations. For instance, he accuses Bagramyan Battalion in massive violation of Georgian civilian residents, but can say nothing except that “probably there must be some documents proving the brutality and crimes committed by the Bagramyan Battalion”. Particular resentment of Abramyan was caused by the fact that having no reasons for it, Arveladze accuses not only Armenian

population of Abkhazia, but the officials of Armenian Republic as well and demands apologies for so-called "Georgian Genocide". By Abramyan opinion, all this indicates just to the fact that Arveladze just carries out the political order. The resentment aroused by a historian Nodar Natadze is nothing less. He claims in his printed papers, that knows several refugees, who were abused by Armenians. "At this, mister Natadze having no documentation for his claims, can not even name the villages where these so called witnesses are from" – says Abramian. (in Russian)

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Mr. Abramyan!

After reading this book, it becomes absolutely clear who the falsifier of the facts is, who is trying to confuse the readers and who fulfils the political orders.

Genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Georgians accomplished by the Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan is documentary proved. So, like the old Georgian proverb: I believe your swear, but the facts surprise me!.. You should know that there is no anti-Armenian propaganda held in Georgia at all. Though there are several Armenian scientists working hard to develop anti-Georgian history in Armenia, here are some of them: Samvel Karapetyan, Al. Kananyan, Suren Ayvazyan and others. Mr. Abramyan! It would be better if you took care of those people who hate Georgians and safe the historical brotherhood of Georgian and Armenian people this way.

Shame No Gayane Can Escape of!



As the saying goes, attack is the best way of self-defense. We can conclude the golden rule from this phrase: One has to put his own blame on someone who is going to go public with it.

I was convinced in this again when I read the letter, written by Gayane Bostanjiani, the editor of the Armenian-Russian language magazine *Norashen* (issue N5, 2006). My colleague makes an aggressive attack on the Georgian journalists' claiming them to be the falsifiers of the "Armenian topics".


I swear to god that I would not even pay attention to the article if not the fact that surprised me despite of knowing that Armenian media is full of anti-Georgian aggression lately. To be more specific, the lady-editor of the *Norashen* magazine justified the fact of creation of the Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan and even more, "grounded" her justification.

Here is the quote, regarding the reason for creation of the military formation, from Mrs. Gayane's article: "Battalion after Bagramyan has been formatted by the fathers and brothers of the people whose wives, sisters and mothers were killed by the marauders participating in the Abkhazian War. It should be said that there were Abkhazians, Kabardians, Russians, Chechens united into the battalion from the peaceful population of Abkhazia".

After announcing of this "truth", the editor skipped to the next issue, instead of feeling shame for the bloody trail left by the formation. I believe every honest Armenian will feel that shame for quite long, though.

Anyway, let us give up the moral-ethical issues and discuss the justification given by the *Norashen* editor by the facts. It is very important that I am not going to nullify those justifications with the facts given by Georgian sources. No, I will use true and impartial, Abkhazian sources.

Thus, not murder of wife, sister or mother drew Lyonya Markaryan to the idea to create the first Armenian armed detachment few months before starting of War. He was just "fighting for someone else's homeland, which gave a shelter to Armenians and became Armenians homeland".



Khojaa tries his best to justify the fact that Armenians drew themselves into the war and he witnesses the words of a militant, called Amazasp Abyan (Gagra region, Salma village): "Local Svans and Megrelians did not hurry to robe us, as they were robbing the City of Gagra. They thought, they would always have a chance to robe their own villages. They used to say, they would always have a time to robe their "native" Armenians".

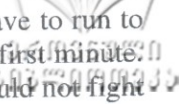
I.e. Amazasp could not name even a single fact of murder and rape of the Armenian neighbours by Georgians. As for -- what the Georgians were "thinking" about Armenians robbery into the future, a big pardon to Amazasp but, is just a "lyric" and is not good to use as an accusation.

Now, let's listen to the organizer and one and only leader of the Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan during the whole war, Vagarshak Kisyan: "In occupied, Gagra region's Armenian villages the underground groups were formatted by the patriots of Abkhazia. This fact was the ground for creation of the Armenian military formations soon after liberation of the Gagra region. There were two hundreds (Rota) in Mekhadir and Salma villages; platoon (Vzvod) in Baranovaki village and a platoon in Khashupsa village. The other part of the Battalion was filled from the other villages". At the meeting of Bzipi village, the decision was made: "to defend the soil, where they live and which gave a shelter to their ancestors when they needed..."

Again, there is not named a single fact of insulting and murdering of their wives, sisters and mothers, which could give a good reason the men for fury and revenge. No, Armenians living in Abkhazia just took the weapon to "defend their native Abkhazia, which gave a shelter to their ancestors, from the occupant Georgians".

Khojaa quotes the article, written by Vladimer Tsvijba, published in Hamsheni news-paper in 1998, N9 (15), where one can find more "full" ideological ground of the Armenians who started fight against Georgia.

"When the Georgian landing was set out in Gagra, Vagarshak guessed that it was some serious issue, not just the borders to defend. The youth gathered to decide whether they should fight against the occupants or not? Whether should they give up and wait until the

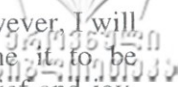


whole Abkhazia would be occupied? Or, should they have to run to Russia? The last two questions were denied right in the first minute. Now the problem was how to get the weapon, as they could not fight with the fowling-pieces against the fire-arms". The small team of the trusties was created and they started the weapon gathering. "Bravest" Karen Shishmanyán killed two policemen, resting in the house and got two guns and one mine. One of the Vagarshak brothers, Ashot took 3 liters of Chacha (Georgian vodka) and "green" (weed) and brought to the house where 6 guardsmen were living. When they got drunk and fell asleep, Ashot killed them and brought new batch of weapon to his team".

Anyway, this is who the Abkhazian author and Battalion members tell the story of creation of the Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan little detachments which grew in the whole Battalion at last. As we can clearly see, the reasons of creating of the Battalion appear quite different than Mrs. Gayane assures us. And the real reason of it is a usual treason, domination of the treacherous character which is proved by the timid way of "obtaining" the weapon (killing the sleeping people and etc.). And, at last, astonishing, illogical and senseless conclusion: "Thus, we, Armenians were left with no other way to keep our neutrality".

As for the statement: "there were Abkhazians, Kabardians, Russians, Chechens united into the battalion from the peaceful population of Abkhazia", I am partly agree to precious Mr. Bostanjyan. Yes, there were few amount of the militants of the other nationalities united into the Battalion, but not from "the peaceful population of Abkhazia", they were the killers from the Northern Caucasus. With the statement quoted before, the author wants to give a note that not only Bagramyans are responsible for the horrible deeds of the Battalion, but so are the Abkhazians, Kabardians, Russians and Chechens. However, she "forgets" that the major part of those "others" were still Armenians living in Armavir, Krasnodar etc.

Go to the Hero Square, read the memorial and you will find out that Armenians are at the second place after Georgians with their loss in the war – she says. We have already read it; we know that there are many Armenian names imprinted at that marble tiles, names of Armenians who heroically died at the field of war. We



know that, we honor them and we are proud of them. However, I will tell you more, dear Gayane – we don't even imagine it to be differently, as Georgians and Armenians shear lots of grief and joy. We have shed lot of the blood together and for each other.

That is exactly the reason for us to be so astonished and shocked because of the betrayal of the Armenians living in Abkhazia. Refugees, finding shelter a century ago here, are not the citizens of Georgia, but citizens of the little, today rebelling part of Georgia – Abkhazia, I guess. This kind of traitors will betray their “brother” Abkhazians exactly with the same joy as they have betrayed Georgians and Armenians fitting on Georgian side in this war, one day of course.

Dear Gayane, you were offended, saying that one of the Georgian newspapers made a joke about the beginning of the Armenians genocide. Yes, it is offending and insulting, but then why do you give yourself a right to ennoble the treacherous ground of creation of the murderers and robbers Battalion likewise on the papers of your serious journal?

If you read the documents, describing the murders, rapes, robbery and scuffle of the Georgian peaceful population, done by the members of Armenian Battalion named after Bagramyan with an unexplainable spite, I am sure you will be horrified. I am not saying that members of the Georgian military detachments, or some other uncertain groups had not done the evil. Of course, they did and if they escaped from men's court, they can not hide from the god's one. The Supreme power will judge and question everyone in the end.

Thus, dear editor, we see our bad and we ask you to do the same of yours. Please, do not follow some of your compatriots attempt to humiliate Georgian people and, consequently, not to honor their mean fellow citizens.

The great history of Armenian and Georgian people deserves better!

So, now I will finish my letter, respectfully yours and etc. and etc.


Aleko Aslanishvili
Sakartvelos Respublika newspaper,
N1 (5602), January 5, 2007.

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AND
ETHNIC CLEANSING OF GEORGIANS IN ABKHAZIA**

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