Time Machine (1915): News accounts of the Armenian genocide

By New York Times, adapted by Newsela staff on 08.30.17

Deportations of Armenians. The man in the front is a "gendarme," a member of the security organization of the Ottoman Empire. Photo from the book "Ravished Armenia: The Story of Aurora Mardiganian, the Christian Girl who Lived Through the Great Massacres," by Aurora Mardiganian. Published by Kingfield Press in 1918.

Editor’s Note: Before World War I, about 2 million Armenians lived in Turkey. At the time, Turkey was part of the Ottoman Empire.

By 1923, about 1.5 million Armenians were dead. Others had been forced to leave. They were deported to neighboring countries such as Syria, Greece and Egypt.

By the time World War I started in 1914, the Ottoman Empire was falling apart. Many people had become very poor. The Armenians were thought to be rich. This made many people angry at them.

Also, the Ottoman government did not trust Armenians. Most people in the empire were Muslim. The Armenians were Christian.

The government feared Armenians might side with Russia during the war. Russia was still a Christian nation then.

People Are Suffering

ONE MILLION ARMENIANS KILLED

The American Committee for Armenian Relief hopes to stop the killings in the Ottoman Empire. Yesterday, it put out a statement.

Samuel T. Dutton is the committee's secretary.

Two million Armenians lived in Turkey a year ago, Dutton said. Of these, "at least one million have been killed." Others have been forced to leave the country.

More people are dying every day, Dutton said.

Yesterday's statement includes a letter from a Christian missionary. He had visited a train station at Kachin Han. About 100 Armenians had gathered there. They were all hoping to reach safety.
The missionary found the Armenians doing badly. They had been waiting for three days. Most had eaten all the food they had. They looked tired and thin and weak.

**No Room On The Train**

The train arrived while he was there, the missionary wrote. The crowd of Armenians tried to board it. They were roughly pushed back by the police.

The crowd was forced to return to where they had been waiting. Most had to sleep on the ground in the cold.

"Half a mile from the station I found two old women," the missionary wrote. They were "crawling off on hands and knees." By then the women were "too weak to walk."

A driver had promised to take the women to a nearby village. Instead, he had dropped them in a field.

There is no hope for the scared people he saw at Kachin Han, the missionary wrote. All will soon be dead.