

DEPORTATION OF AZERBAIJANIS FROM ARMENIA (1948-1953)

PART 2

Documents show that for Azerbaijani migrants, separation from their native land, where their grandfathers and great-grandfathers lived and were buried, meant a real tragedy. A top secret report by

the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Armenian SSR Major General Grigoryan on 3 May 1948 "On the mood among the Azerbaijani population of Armenia in connection with their upcoming resettlement to the Azerbaijan



Azerbaijani population in the Armenian SSR in 1916-1970

SSR" said: "We documented numerous statements by Azerbaijanis about their unwillingness to move to the new places of residence and visits by some of them to cemeteries where they cried over the graves of their relatives and prayed not to be moved." (1, File No 54, pp.155-162) There were individual appeals too. Some of them were quite bold in their content and proved once again that the resettlement process was not carried out on a voluntary basis. At the same time, it is surprising how ordinary citizens, amid political repression gaining momentum in the Soviet Union again after the war, found the courage to express their public protest against the outright tyranny of the authorities who played with the fate of tens of thousands of people. Thus, Javahir Kazim gizi Nazarova said in a letter to I. Stalin on 11 April 1948: "Our village has existed for 130 years. During the 130 years, my grandparents and great-grandparents were born, lived and died here. On 7 April 1948, our entire village was told that we, all Azerbaijanis, should move to the Azerbaijan SSR. Despite the fact that resettlement is mandatory, not a single resident of our village, including myself, want to move. I do not know what this order is based on. I only understand that it is contrary to our Constitution - the fundamental law of the USSR. So I think Soviet law must protect and defend my rights, which are clearly defined by our constitution" (1, File No 42, pp.131-132). Another letter to the "father of nations" was written by a participant of the Great Patriotic War, Ali Mammad Saidov, on 12 April 1948: "This resettlement is clearly contrary to our Constitution and all laws. Who has the right to violate our basic law - the Constitution? If this migration is voluntary, we do not want to move, if it is forcible, it is another matter." (1, File No 42, pp.132-133) On 23 April 1948, residents of the village of Nuvadi in Megri District appealed to Stalin. By the 18 February 1929 decision of the Transcaucasian Central Executive Committee, this village was separated from the Zangilan area of Jabrayil District of the Azerbaijan SSR and transferred to the Armenian SSR (2, File 2502, op.2, 26, l.98 (vol.)). The Azerbaijani population now had to leave the village. Therefore, the authors of the appeal requested not to move them, but to transfer the village to Zangilan District of the Azerbaijan SSR as it was before (1, File No 52, pp.153-154).

The first settlers begin arriving in the Kura-Aras lowland from the Armenian SSR in June 1948. According to the Ministry of State Farms of the Azerbaijan SSR, on 19 June 1948, 44 Azerbaijani families arrived on the first trains and settled at the state farms of Zhdanov

Численность азербайджанского населения в Армянской ССР в 1916-1970-м годах

Уезды до 1920г.	Уезды в 1920-30гг. Арм.ССР	Районы	Числ-ть азерб-го насел-я (по годам)				
			1916	1926	1931	1959	1970
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Иревань	Ереван	Арташат			8601	210	300
		Веди			10524	5559	7153
		Котайк			948	204	198
		Ереван			6656	3382	2721
		Всего:	86867	24039	26729	9355	10372
Эчмиадзин	Эчмиадзин	Эчмиадзин			5393	20	30
		Аштарак			921	1 7 1	1 1 1
		Октемберян			1181	316	196
		Абаран			139	57	12
		Зангибасар			-	9850	13576
		Всего:	41365	8247	7634	10414	13925
Нор-Баязет	Нор-Баяз	Ахта, Севан			1859	1789	2089
		Нор-Баязет			982	24	66
		Мартуни			346	43	16
		Басаркечар			17036	17632	25781
		Всего:	50754	14065	20493	19675	27952
Шарур-Şəgür-	Дерелез	Ехегиадзор			4052	3967	5192
Дерелез		Азизбеков			5061	2550	4082
		Всего:	58476	5941	9113	6517	9274
Александрополь	Ленинакан	Амасия	15600		8824	9261	15002
		Гугарк	9191		6273	5259	8257
		Спитак	-		-	2796	4036
		Всего:	24791	7816	15097	17316	27295
Тер-рия	Елизаветол	Кафан			5713	11146	13522
Longazur							
Елизавет-польской губернии		Герус			452	801	1184
		Сиснан			4008	6212	7526
		Мегри	11185	1201	2334	3351	3852
		Всего	52612	5634	12507	21510	26084
Тер-рия Казахского уезда	Дилижан	Иджеван			-	2120	3022
		Дилижан			8881	475	314
		Красносельск			-	9283	13352
		Всего	8181	8181	-	11878	16688
Тер-рия Грузии	Лори-Памбак	Калнинно			-	4985	7786
		Туманян			3118	1855	2458
		Степанаван			3146	973	1482
		Ноемберян			-	3087	4450
		Всего	10616	10616	6314	10900	16176
		Прочие районы				183	423
		По Арм.ССР	333662	84539	106768	107748	148189

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District. On 29 July 1948, an authorized representative of the Council of Ministers reported from the Goranboy station that an echelon of 59 wagons, 101 households and 382 people with home equipment and livestock arrived on 28 July 1948. Documents testify that echelons coming from the Armenian SSR stood at railway stations for days and only pressure from above forced those responsible for receiving migrants on the ground to unload these trains. For example, in a telegram dated 10 October 1949, the chairman of the Zardab District Executive Committee, Kazimov, reported to the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR that two echelons of Azerbaijanis, which arrived from Armenia, stood at the Hajigabul station for more than one day. According to another telegram received in 1950 from Garadonlu, migrants did not vacate 11 wagons for three days. In April 1951, carrying migrants 18 wagons which arrived in Agjabadi District were not unloaded for five days (1, File No 52, pp.188-189, File No 75, p. 207, File No 145, p.331, File No 167, p.378, File No 228, p.522).

The state archives of film and photo documents

Хронология захвата исконно азербайджанских земель Западного Азербайджана в течение 160 лет

Уезды Иреванск. Терри-ханства и соответствующие им районы	Иреванск. Терри-ханства районов	Тер-армян сел в 1928г	Тер-рии, захваченные армянами в 1828-1988г.г.(в га)				Всего За 160лет
			1828-1900	1918-1920	1921-1986	1988-1989	
Ахта и Севан	132400	-	46484	79173	5713	1030	132400
Нор-Баязет	63700	-	25232	36868	1600	-	63700
Маргуни	118500	-	110835	6081	1584	-	118500
Басаркечар	115000	-	9946	2944	1110	101100	115000
Всего в уездеН-Баязет	429600	-	192497	125066	10007	102130	429600
Котайк	84400	7548	23119	50488	3245	-	76852
Арташат	50700	-	10874	37376	2450	-	50700
Веди	149900	-	11562	8888	126500	2950	149900
Всего в Ирев уезде	285000	7548	45555	96752	132195	2950	277452
Аштарак	92600	17634	13581	58543	2842	-	74966
Абаран	91600	210	86217	4750	423	-	91390
Талин	128800	1311	13653	113836	-	-	127489
Октемберян	67300	10186	7936	46768	2410	-	57114
Эчмиадзин	37900	8268	7582	20880	1170	-	29632
Зангибасар	17000	1358	2317	1674	251	11400	15642
Всего в Эчмиадз.уезде	435200	38967	131286	246451	7096	11400	396233
Азизбеков	117300	-	16098	89094	5706	6402	117300
Ехегнадзор	113400	-	23202	75926	5712	8560	113400
Всего в уездеДерелезск.	230700	-	39300	165020	11418	14962	230700
Всего в этих районах	1380500	46515	408638	633289	160716	131442	1333985
Захвачен-ые тер-рии	100	3,37	29,60	45,87	11,64	9,52	100

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Chronology of the capture of Azerbaijani lands in western Azerbaijan over 160 years

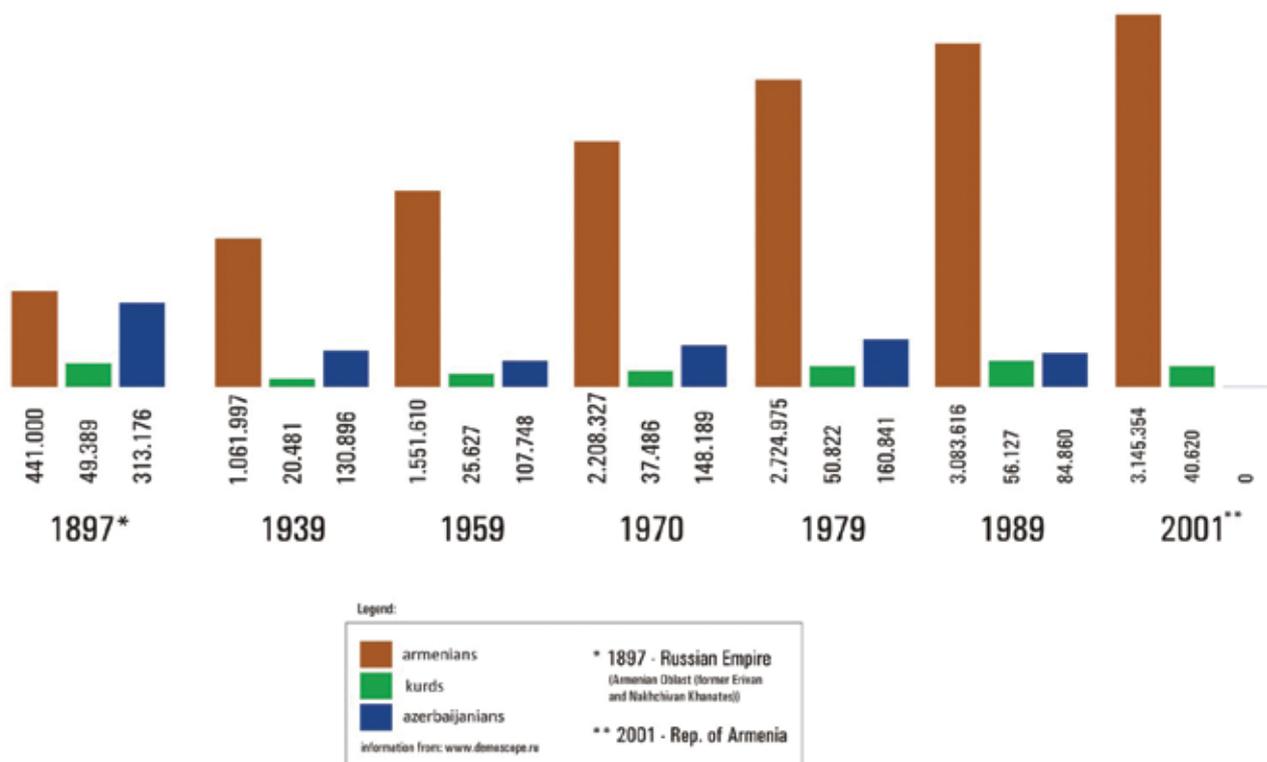
of the republic keep a film about the deportation of Azerbaijanis from Armenia. It shows a "red carpet welcome" for deported Azerbaijanis. Local people are "in anticipation" of the train with settlers from Armenia with bunches of flowers. Those deported from Armenia watch the "solemn" reception from small high windows and open doors of wagons. When the train stops, those meeting them rush to the wagons and hand bunches of flowers to settlers. A rally is held where "the genius leader and father of all peoples" Stalin is probably praised and glorified for "paternal care" about the Azerbaijani people. Cameras captured children, women and old people getting off wagons followed by cows and sheep. Medical teams examine the settlers and provide them with medical care. It is interesting that in their homeland, which is called Armenia nowadays, these migrants were also seen off solemnly. With the accompaniment of zurna (wind instrument), Azerbaijanis were evicted "on a voluntary basis" from their homes, where their ancestors had lived for centuries, and were even forced to dance and rejoice at it. For those seeing them off, it was a celebration in the truest sense of the word since the Armenian plan on "Armenia without Turks" was being implemented.

But nevertheless, it proved impossible to realize these plans in a timely manner. Already on 5 July 1948, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR, T. Guliyev, in a letter to the deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, V. M. Molotov, asked his consent for the settlement of some of the Azerbaijani population resettled to the Kura-Aras lowland in 1948 to other areas due to the lack of premises for them. He pointed out that the population resettled from mountain locations will find it hard to get used to the climatic conditions of the Kura-Aras lowland (1, File No 72, pp.197-200). There was no reaction. The results of the resettlement in 1948 showed that it was not easy to settle even 10,000 people in the Kura-Aras lowland. Most settlers were put up in barns for cattle, while some families huddled in small shacks or moved to other areas. In such circumstances, the plan to resettle 40,000 people in 1949 and provide them with accommodation and household plots was unrealistic. For this reason, in his report to the deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, G. Malenkov, on 13 December 1948, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR, T. Guliyev, summarized the results of 1948 resettlement and thought it was expedient to move no more than 12,000-15,000 people from the Armenian SSR to the Azerbaijan SSR in 1949 due to the absence of necessary conditions in the Kura-Aras lowland such as housing, planned land plots, water supply, sanitary-medical institutions and others, allow the partial resettlement of these migrants from the mountainous areas of the Armenian SSR to mountainous areas of the Azerbaijan SSR and provide them with privileges envisaged by the 23 December 1947 decree of the USSR Council of Ministers. It is interesting that the government of the Armenian SSR resolved the issue and it was planned to resettle 15,845 people to Azerbaijan in 1949 (1, File No 89, pp.224-226, File No 93, pp.232-235). However, according to the 27 August 1949 note of the head of the Resettlement Department under the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR, N. D. Allahverdiyev, to the chief of the Main Resettlement Department under the USSR Council of Ministers, S. D. Cheremushkin, in 7 months of 1949, only 500 households or 2,000 people were resettled from the Armenian SSR to the Kura-Aras lowland of the Azerbaijan SSR and 800 farms or 3,500 people were prepared for resettlement from the Armenian SSR in September. This slow pace of resettlement and the insignificant number of households relocated from the Armenian SSR are explained by the fact that out of

the 24 districts and 64 collective farms included in the resettlement plan in 1949, 20 districts or 57 collective farms were mountainous regions of Armenia. Despite the ongoing large-scale awareness and propaganda work among farmers on the ground, people, knowing about the voluntary nature of resettlement, did not express a desire to move to the Kura-Aras lowland of the Azerbaijan SSR for climatic reasons (1, File No 132, pp.313-316). But on 27 September 1949, S. Cheremushkin sent a telegram to T. Guliyev and instructed him to adhere strictly to the plans and deadlines set by the Council of Ministers of the USSR on 23 December 1947 and report the implementation of these decisions and measures taken to ensure compliance with the resettlement plan in a timely manner (1, File No 142, pp.328-329). Despite subsequent requests from the Azerbaijani leadership, no changes were made to the resettlement plan. As a result, in 1948-1949, 20,741 people (4,740 families) were actually resettled to the Kura-Aras lowland of the Azerbaijan SSR, i.e. 41.5 % of the plan (1, File No 212, p.469). However, the resettlement plan failed not only in 1948-1949, but also in 1950, when it was planned to resettle 50,000 Azerbaijanis. Therefore, on 6 September

1950, the USSR Council of Ministers adopted a new resolution "On resettlement to collective farms in the Kura-Aras lowland of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1951-1955". Under this resolution, during this period it was planned to resettle 15,000 families of collective farmers and other Azerbaijani population from the Armenian SSR (1, File No 210, p.464). Moscow, extending the terms of the resettlement campaign, sought to achieve the desired figure of 100,000 people established by previous resolutions of 23 December 1947 and 10 October 1948. According to the 17 September 1952 certificate of the chief of the Resettlement Department of Azerbaijan, N. D. Allahverdiyev, 38,767 people were resettled from the Armenian SSR to the Azerbaijan SSR in 1948-1952 (1, File No 273, pp.622 -623) instead of 100,000. Official documents explained this by the negligence of local officials, individual ministries and organizations and the slow pace of the construction of housing for settlers in new places. As a result, by 1 January 1951, half of the displaced families were not provided with housing. The prolonged adaptation was accompanied by a mass epidemic of malaria.

Comparison table of Armenian, Azerbaijani and Kurdish population of Armenia



**Динамика захвата азербайджанских сел на территории 5-ти уездов
Преванской губернии в 1828 -1986 г.г.**

Годы	Всего сел	Азерб-кие села	Села смешан-м нац. Составом	со Армянские села
1828	317	254	25	38
1873	529	333	40	186
1905	624	341	37	199
1931	632	133	104	356
1986	435	72	0	348

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Capture of Azerbaijani villages on the territory of five settlements of Erivan province in 1828-1986

Under these conditions, the reverse flow of the population into Armenia began. In a telegram to the deputy chief of the Resettlement Department under the USSR Council of Ministers, L. Dmitriyev, from the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR on 23 July 1951, it was stated that economic disorder causes migrants to leave the places where they have been settled (File No 246, p.554). As follows from S. Cheremushkin's letter to T. Guliyev of 14 March 1951, in 1950 alone 743 families of migrants, or 22.5 % of people resettled in a year moved out of the collective and state farms of the Azerbaijan SSR. The main reason for their return, Cheremushkin writes, was the poor economic conditions for migrants in the new place of residence, lack of housing and poor health care, which led to increased illness among migrants (1, File No 224, pp.518 -519). There are specific examples in the archives. For example, Amir Ismayilov, who was resettled in November 1950 from the Azad collective farm in the village of Rahimabad in Zangibasara District of the Armenian SSR to the V. Molotov collective farm in Agjabadi District of the Azerbaijan SSR, returned to his native village in early 1951. On 13 August of the same year, he sent the following telegram to Stalin in Moscow: "Our dear father Stalin! This is to inform you that we were resettled from the Armenian SSR to the Azerbaijan SSR in 1950. We have now moved back to Armenia because the climatic conditions do not allow us to live there, our children died there, and we ourselves are ill now. We are asking you, dear father, to allow us to live in the Armenian SSR again." (1, File No 250, p.565) The leadership of the Armenian SSR raised a fuss about the return of Azerbaijanis. In May-June 1951, the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR, the Resettlement Department and local executive committees one after another sent telegrams and letters to the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan

SSR and the Main Resettlement Department under the USSR Council of Ministers and began a major campaign due to the increasing number of returning migrants. On 24 May 1951, the head of the Resettlement Department of the Armenian SSR, S. Martirosyan, informed Moscow about the return of 360 families, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR, S. Karapetyan, informed the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR about the return of 276 families on 29 May of the same year, while the chairman of the Executive Committee of Akhtin District, Amirazyan, reported the return of 117 families to Akhtin District alone (1, File No 236, p.538, File No 237, p.540, File No 238, p.541). Due to the fuss raised in the Armenian SSR about migrants, the leadership of the Azerbaijan SSR demanded that the Republican Resettlement Department provide a note about returnees. On the orders of the Council of Ministers of the Republic, employees of the Resettlement Department of the Azerbaijan SSR headed by N. Allahverdiyev went to Armenia in June-July 1951 and clarified lists of returnees together with local district executive committees. It turns out that by 1 July 1951, not 376, but 217 households (872 people) had returned to the Armenian SSR. The note of the Resettlement Department submitted to the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan also indicated that the number of returnees in S. Karapetyan's telegram also included those who were in custody or in the army during the resettlement (1, File No 249, pp. 561-565). However, on 7 June 1951, the government of Azerbaijan adopted a special resolution providing for the implementation of practical measures to return settlers who illegally left areas of settlement and attach them to districts and collective farms of the Kura-Aras lowland (1, File No 242, pp.547-549). After Stalin's death in 1953 and the change of leadership in both republics, the flow of returnees to Armenia increased even more. In April 1954, a delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan headed by Deputy Minister M. Poladov travels to Azerbaijani-populated areas of the Armenian SSR to find out the reason for their return. In a note prepared for the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, he pointed out that the main reason for the return of displaced people was the lack of necessary conditions for life in the Kura-Aras lowland and unsuitable climatic conditions for Azerbaijanis resettled from the mountainous regions of Armenia. According to M. Poladov, by April 1954, 1,155 people returned to

their homes in the Armenian SSR (1, File No 311, p.691).

Facts suggest that in the period under review, it was impossible to resettle the planned number of Azerbaijani families from Armenia. As a result, according to the 13 October 1953 letter from the Minister of Agriculture of the Azerbaijan SSR to the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers of the Republic, 11,914 households were resettled (53,000 people) from the Armenian SSR to the Kura-Aras lowland in 1948-1953 (1, File No 303, pp.671 -673). However, it does not take into account the number of Azerbaijanis who illegally settled in other areas of the republic and returned back to Armenia. From the second half of the 1950s, there was a steady decline in the intensity of the resettlement of Azerbaijanis from Armenia. However, even when the resettlement campaign lost its glow, the gradual and slow exodus of Azerbaijanis, who experienced the inferiority of their status in Armenia in its entirety, became inevitable and gradually took the form of a constant

trend until the collapse of the USSR. This deportation can hardly be compared to the deportation of the Chechens, Ingush, Balkars, Karachays and other peoples to Kazakhstan and Central Asia, because in this case, it was a resettlement to a republic where they joined the titular ethnic group and had to live not in reservations called special settlements. And yet it was deportation as it was carried out against the will and wishes of the majority of migrants and interrupted the normal rhythm of life for tens of thousands of people, forcing them to adapt to new, uncomfortable circumstances, a hard way of life and working conditions. ❁

References

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Number of Azerbaijani settlements in the Armenian SSR in 1918-1986

Количество азербайджанонаселенных пунктов в Армянской ССР в 1918-1986 г.г.

Районы, созд-е на тер-рии уездов	1918-сi илдә		1931-сi илдә		1986-сi илдә	
	Всег о насел. пункт.	В т.ч. азерб населен-ных	Всег о насел. пункт	В т.ч. азерб населен-ных	Всего насел. пункт	В т.ч. азерб населен-ных
Иреван	213	118	210	96	103	4
Эчмиадзин	218	117	251	52	245	12
Дерелеяз	163	101	73	47	52	23
Нор-Баязет	135	62	121	52	94	33
Александрополь	165	15	173	12	152	10
В районах по Зангезурск. уезд	222	116	191	87	128	40
В районах по Казахск. уезду	84	23	84	20	60	20
В р-нах Лори-Памбак	102	21	102	21	97	17
Карская обл, Регион Агбаба	37	35	37	26	26	19
Всего на тер-рии. Арм.ССР	1339	608	1242	413	956	178