

to prove it. Reports, testimonies, memoirs, fiction, and oral history give ample evidence of the very frequent occurrence of sexual violence as a tool of Genocide that worked by not only killing but belittling, trivializing, dehumanizing female victims.<sup>13</sup> So far, in our investigation in the literature of the Armenian Genocide, our focus, emphasis, and attention have been on the rape of women by gendarmes or attacking Turkish and Kurdish bandits as cases of sexual violence. There are recorded incidents in which the perpetrators cut women's breasts or nipples and left them to bleed to death. We have seen eyewitness accounts describing the Turkish mob forcing young women to dance naked in a circle and then burning them alive by splashing kerosene on them and setting them on

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<sup>13</sup> Henry Morgenthau cites one of many examples: "When the victims had traveled a few hours from their starting place, the Kurds would sweep down from their mountain homes. Rushing up to the young girls, they would lift their veils and carry the pretty ones off to the hills." In the same passage, he also makes a note in regard to the caravans of deportees passing through a Muslim village: "Here the Turkish roughs would fall upon the women, leaving them sometimes dead from their experience or sometimes ravingly insane." See *Ambassador Morgenthau's Story*, p. 316. Morgenthau attests to the widespread practice of rape without using the word: "Behind was left a small army of girls who had been sold as slaves— frequently for a medjidie, or about eighty cents—and who, after serving the brutal purposes of their purchasers, were forced to lead lives of prostitution," p. 317.

William King records the massacres of Armenians during World War I in an especially interesting book, *Complete History of the World War*, (1922), pp. 168-9. As early as February 1915, massacres were occurring in the Ardahan and Alashkert regions. Turkish soldiers and local Kurds were killing Armenian villagers in retaliation for their defeat on the Russian front. King also mentions Armenian women being carried away to the mountains.