

# BEGGED TO BE BURIED ALIVE

Starving Armenians Ate Own Children, Witness Declares.

BOSTON, Aug. 18.—A statement describing the hardships suffered by Armenian refugees in Northern Arabia was made public today by Rev. Dr. James L. Barton, Chairman of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief. Dr. Barton said that the statement came from an eyewitness, not an American, and could be depended on as unexaggerated.

The eyewitness said that of 3,500 deported Armenians at Meskene a part had found employment, but the rest were begging.

"In every tent," he said, "there are sick and dying. Many hundreds of the sick are left without any tent and covering. I saw desperate ones throw themselves in grave trenches and beg the grave diggers to bury them. The Government does not give the hungry any bread."

He described one party of 600 which had been sent from place to place, without food. As nourishment, he said, they cooked grass, pressed the water out and made balls which they dried in the sun. In Hama he found the deported Armenians subsisting on locusts and dead dogs. Similar conditions were found in other places.

"In each deportation," the statement continues, "at least five to six perish through the wild mishandling of the accompanying gendarmarie. In Sepka a preacher from Aintab told me that parents have often killed their children. At the Government investigation it was shown that some people had eaten their children."

---

**The New York Times**

Published: August 19, 1916

Copyright © The New York Times