# 16 March 1964 The Banishment of the Greek Community of İstanbul through Deportations and Expatriation





# Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans February 2014

# The Greek Community of Istanbul and the Lausanne Treaty

The present legal status of the Greek Community of Istanbul was established by the international Lausanne Treaty, signed on July 24, 1923, and in particular by the Annex of this Treaty on the Exchange of Populations between Greece and Turkey established on January 31, 1923. According to the second article of this Convention:

"The following persons shall not be included in the [Population Exchange]:

a) The Greek inhabitants of Constantinople,

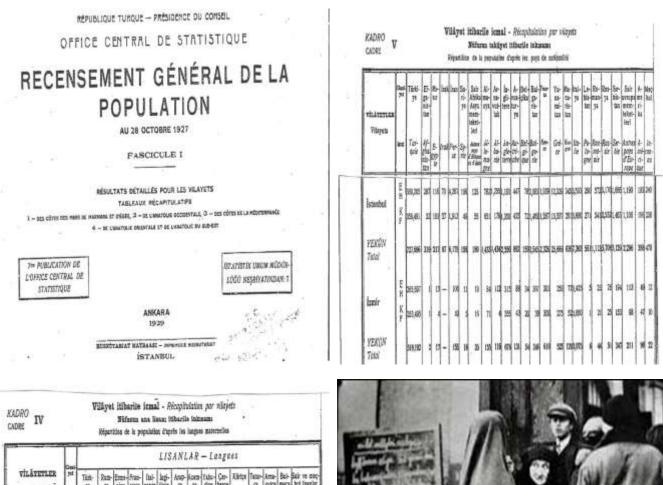
b) The Moslem inhabitants of Western Thrace.

All Greeks who were already established before the 30th of October1918, within the areas under the Prefecture of the City of Constantinople, as defined by the law of 1912, shall be considered as Greek inhabitants of Constantinople."





According to the 1927 official census conducted in Turkey, the total Greek-speaking population was 119.822, including the inhabitants of the islands of Imbros and Tenedos. Within this population, the number of citizens of Greece exempted of the Population Exchange was 25.666.



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## The Convention between Greece and Turkey of 1930 on the Residence, Commerce and Navigation

The citizens of the two agreed states they will provide to the citizens of the other state : "...subject to the laws of the state, they will enjoy the same rights as the local citizens or if there is a special privileged status for foreign nationality citizens, they will enjoy the best rights recognized for them", "..independent of the reason of their travel and without any restriction they will have the right to enter, stay as much as they want and to leave whenever they want the other state (Art.1)".



# The status of the exempted of the population exchange *établis* Greek population

According to the international Lausanne Treaty, which has been signed by ten states, the Greek-Orthodox population of Istanbul has been exempted from the population exchange, independently of its citizenship status. According to this Treaty, all the members of the Greek-Orthodox Community – either citizens of Turkey or Greece – provided they were established in the Prefecture of Istanbul before October 30, 1918 obtained the status of *établis* (a term borrowed from French). This fact is proved undisputedly by looking into the results of the first census conducted by the Republic of Turkey in 1927. The Agreement of 1930 between Turkey and Greece on *Establishment, Commerce and Navigation* is entirely irrelevant concerning the status of the *établis* Greek citizens of Istanbul. Only about 100 persons came to Turkey from Greece after 1930.



#### POPULATION EXHANGE TREATY BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE (http://www.mfa.gov.tr)

# Article 2. The following persons shall not be included in the exchange a)The Greek inhabitants of Constantinople.

#### b)The Moslem inhabitants of Western Thrace.

**All Greeks** who were already established before the 30th October, 1918, within the areas under the Prefecture of the City of Constantinople, as defined by the law of 1912, shall be considered as Greek inhabitants of Constantinople.

**Moslems established** in the region to the east of the frontier line laid down in 1918 by the Treaty of Bucharest shall be considered as Moslem inhabitants of Western Thrace.

## The 1932 Law on Professions in Turkey and forced expatriation of the Greek-citizen members of the Greek minority

Despite the friendly relations between Turkey and Greece, in June 1932, a new Law no. 2007 prohibited foreign citizens in Turkey from the exercise of 20 professions. This resulted in the forced expatriation of 13.000 members of the Greek-Orthodox minority holding Greek citizenship. The remaining 12.000 Greek citizens were deported in 1964.

Professions prohibited to foreign citizens according to Law 2007/1932 of the Republic of Turkey:

Ambulant vendor, photographer, musician, barber, printer, real estate agent, producer of clothes-hats-shoes, stockexchange broker, salesperson of state-monopoly products, tourist guide or translator, worker in the iron, wood and construction industries, transportation services, permanent or temporary occupation in the sanitary-electricity-heating trades, communication services, stevedores on land, car drivers and helpers, in general hired workers, commercial activities, guards in apartments-galleries-businesses, male or female employees in hotels-pensions-baths-coffee housesrestaurants-entertainment centers and bars (waiters and helpers) singers and casino dealers.

### The mobilization of minority men aged 18 to 45 to Work Camps (1941-42)

In May 1941, just after the Nazi and fascist forces occupied Greece and Yugoslavia, the government of Turkey issued a secret decree mobilizing the 40.000 non-Muslim minority men aged 18 to 45. These persons were enrolled to work in labor battalions under extremely adverse conditions for road, airfield and building construction; they were not permitted to visit Istanbul. This event is referred to as "the 20 classes"; the exact motivation of this persecution is not known. However, the fact that the persons enrolled were demobilized with the turn of the tide of the War (in November 1942), and the rumors heard at that time about their non-return, leave the motivation open to interpretation; similar events have taken place in other regions of Europe. The older men were sent to Eastern Thrace while the younger to various places inland in Anatolia.



#### May 1941-December 1942 The mobilization of 18-45 old non-Muslim minority men to Labor Battalions (Amele Taburları)





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# Capital or Welfare Tax 1942-1944

The Parliament of the Republic of Turkey, pretexting to fight the black market conditions created by the War in the neighboring countries, voted a law on November 11, 1942 imposing an extraordinary tax called Varlık Vergisi (Wealth tax). The Law, on paper, was to be equally applied to all citizens. However, its selective implementation was intended to economically ruin the non-Muslim minorities. Faik Ökte, the Tax Collector of Istanbul who was responsible for the application of the Law, probably feeling remorse, published a book entitled The Wealth Tax Disaster where he discloses the details of the implementation of the Law against the minorities. The tax to be paid was determined by the local head of the Republican Peoples' Party, the only legal party in the country. There was no right to appeal and the tax was due within ten days. In case of no-payment, the entire fortune of the taxpayer was publicly auctioned. If the funds raised were not sufficient to cover the tax, the taxpayer was arrested and sent to work in camps in eastern Turkey (where extreme weather conditions prevail) for 100 piasters a day. The number of exiled reached 2500 persons, mostly seniors. 25 of the exiled died in the camps, while many of those who returned to Istanbul with shaken health lost their lives in the months after their return. Having ruined the non-Muslim minorities, the Law was abolished in August 1944.







ApKALEDE VARLIK VERGISI MÜKELLEFLERİ ÇALIŞIYORLAR: Mühendin – Aferin Bohoraşi, taşılam güzel tarıdın etmişein. Bohor – Ellestra şaşa, İstantulala intiftyulmi.

### Welfare Tax





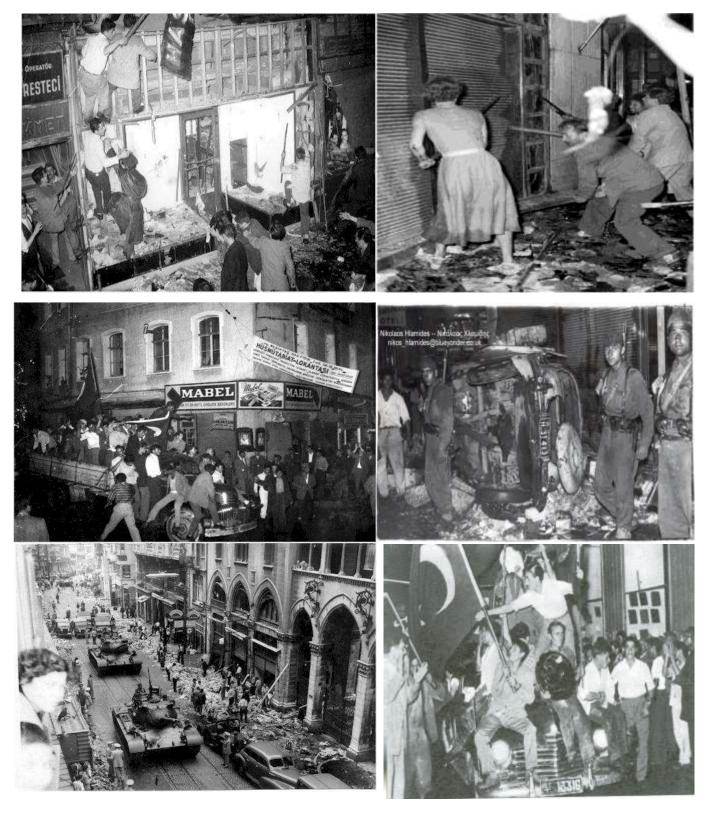


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# The Pogrom of 6-7 September 1955

Based on recent archival research work conducted mainly in Turkey, it has been proven that the massive attacks against primarily the Greek but also the Armenian and Jewish communities in Istanbul and Izmir targeting their sacred buildings, schools, institutions, work places, houses, cemeteries, etc., very much resembling the 1938 Crystal Night in Nazi Germany, was orchestrated by the Special Warfare Service of the Turkish Army General Staff. A report prepared by the Parliamentary Committee on Military Takeovers of the Turkish Parliament published in November 2012 mentions the events of 6-7 September 1955 as the first step towards anti-democratic moves by the Army after 1945. While the material loss has been extremely high, the moral dimension of the event was also huge. Despite this, the September events had a relatively small effect on the expatriation of the Greek community; only about 10% went into self-exile.

#### Istanbul 6-7 September 1955 The Massive Scale of Pogrom Against the Greek-Orthodox Community of Constantinople





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# The preparation of the Exiling-Deportation Program

The recent publication of the proceedings of the Yassiada trial – island regarding the September 1955 events – that took place after the 27 May 1960 overthrow of the Adnan Menderes Government, has disclosed that the deportation of the établis Greek citizens was planned as early as 1957. In the unique secret session that was during the held trial, Army General Refik Tulga testified that



The Yassiada Trials 1960-61



General Refik Tulga

the President of the Republic Celal Bayar told him that they were planning to take hard measures, especially against the 30.000 Greek citizens residing in Istanbul and possessing properties as well as the Patriarchate. "We will kick them out and will take hard measures against them." The same year 1957, there has been a raid during the assembly of the governing board of the Hellenic Union in Constantinople: the members of the governing board were arrested, detained and deported in a few days without any accusation while the Union was closed. In January of 1964 provocative letters were mailed anonymously to Greek houses in Istanbul trying to link the recipients to the Cyprus crisis. After strong protests by the Greek Embassy in Ankara, the mailings stopped. It should be mentioned that the letters were not written in the Greek style used in Istanbul. The contents of the letters were:

Compatriots,

The criminal actions committed by Turks in Cyprus are the climax of the repeated provocations perpetrated by Turkey against our country.

The thoughts of the Greeks are again directed towards our beloved Cyprus.

Turkey is trying to occupy the Greek island by annihilating the Greek Cypriots.

However the dark plans of the Turks will be overturned. Hellenism, in Cyprus and here, acting united like a single body is ready to carry out its duty towards the motherland. It has been recently confirmed from most reliable sources that the great powers are on our side.

Compatriots,

Our nation is living through very critical moments.

Keeping your composure, be ready to contribute to our great national cause – THE UNION OF CYRPUS WITH MOTHERLAND GREECE.

In terms of history and tradition Cyprus has always been Greek.

LONG LIVE OUR CYPRUS

CYPRUS IS GREEK COMMITTEE CONSTANTINOPLE SECTION

#### EYMLATPIOTAL,

Αί έγκληματικαί ένέργειαι των Γούρκων είς την Κόπρον άποτελούν τό άποκορύφωμα των άλλεπαλλήλων προκλήσεων της Τουρκίας κατά της Πατρίδος μας.

Η σχέφις των Έλλήνων είναι καί πάλιν έστραμμένη πρός τήν φιλτάτην μας Κύπρου.

Διά της φυσικής έξοντώσεως των "Πλλήνων Κυπρίων ή Τουρκία επιδιώκει την κατάκτησιν της έλληνικής μεγαλονήσου.

. Τά σκοτεινά διμως σχέδια των τούρκων τελεικώς θ'άνατραπούν. 'Ο' Ελληνισμός είς τήν 'Ελλάδα, τήν Κύπρον καί 230, ήνωμένος ώς είς Ενθρωπος, είναι Στοιμος νά πράξη τό πρός τήν πατρίδα του καθήκαν. 'Ως έκων άου έπιθεβαιώθη όκ των πλέον δπευθόνων πηγών, ή φποστήριξις των μεγάλων συμμάχων είναι μέ τό μέρος μας.

DIMEATPIOTAL.

26 έθνος μας διέρχεται κρισίμους στιγμάς.

Διατηρήστε ψυχραιμίαν, ξτοιμοι νά προσφέρητε τήν συμβολήν σας είς τήν έπίλυσιν του μεγάλου μας έθνικου προβλήματος-ΕΝΩΣΙς ΤΗΣ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ ΜΕ ΤΗΝ ΜΗΤΕΡΑ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ.

'Ιστορικώς καί έκ παραδόσεως ή Κύπρος δηπρξε πάντοτε έλληνική.

ZHTO H KYNPOS MAS.

#### MITTPOIN

"H KYHPOE EINAI RAAMNIKH" TMEMA KONSTANTINOYHOABOE.

# Preparation of the exile and deportation policy

The Tax authorities, starting in 1963, prohibited the Greeks of Istanbul holding the *établis* status to pay their taxes in installments and asked for prepayment of the 1964 taxes. In addition, the procedure for granting the special residence permit by the Greek consular authorities to the Greek citizens, residents of Istanbul since 1923, that was valid since 1930, was modified: these residents were required now to get a Greek Passport and were treated as usual foreigners. Both these measures, implemented while the relations between Greece had Turkey and been normalized following the agreement on the Cyprus issue 1960, show that in а preparation for deportations was underway.

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## The months January-February 1964

The severe inter communal clashes that started in Cyprus around Christmas of 1963, had an immediate impact on the atmosphere in Istanbul against the Greek-Orthodox Community, despite the fact that this Community had nothing to do with the events in Cyprus. The press started a massive attack of the Greek Community and its Institutions (schools and welfare foundations) and especially the Ecumenical Patriarchate, revealing the existence of a political plan against the Minority. At the same time, the law on restrictions to the exercise of 20 professions by foreign nationals – with the exception of business owners – that had been in force since 1932, was now strictly implemented; indeed, following the military takeover of May 27, 1960, the Ministry of the Interior ruling no. 41127/6837-112331 requested its implementation without any exception. On November 7, 1962, the ruling 28-4869 of the Prime Minister İsmet İnönu, established a special "MINORITIES SUBCOMMISSION" at the level of the Prime Ministry; the members of this Commission were exclusively drawn from the security forces, secret services and General Army Staff. This commission was the supreme authority for all minorities issues, was placed above all the other legislative, judicial and executive authorities and has operated as the central coordinating body for all the suppressive and repressive measures against the non-Muslim minorities till its replacement in 2004 by a commission having a political composition.

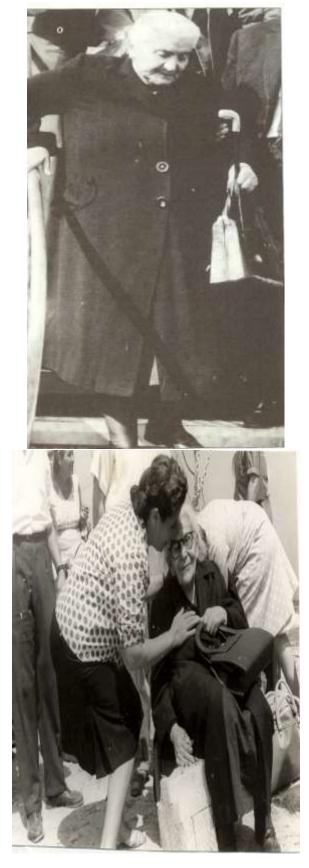
# 16 March 1964

The Prime Minister of Turkey İsmet İnönü on March 16, 1964 declared the unilateral abolishment of the Convention on Establishment, Commerce and Navigation that had been signed in 1930; the declaration was published in the Official Journal. Immediately, the Tax Authorities of Istanbul took under close surveillance the members of the Greek-Orthodox community holding Greek citizenship and started the fiscal liquidation of their commercial activities in Turkey. The deportations started with the publication in the press of the lists of deportees with gradually increasing numbers – in the hundreds – of persons being accused of having committed harmful actions against the Turkish state. The usual deportation procedure started with an evening visit of the police in civilian clothes at the residences of the victims who were invited to present themselves the next day to the 4th Directorate of the Istanbul Police Department. At the Police Directorate, they were, under duress, ordered to sign a paper without being allowed to read it, in which they were "confessing" that they had carried out spying actions against Turkey in favor of Greece; under strict surveillance they were treated as ordinary criminals and ordered to leave Turkey in a few days. They were allowed to carry with them only 20 kilograms of personal items and 20 Dollars. Through this procedure, 1072 persons were deported. The publication of the lists continued until September 16, 1964; after this date, the remaining Greek citizens were obliged to leave Turkey when their residence permits expired. The Greek citizens belonging to the Catholic and Protestant Churches were exempted of deportation which shows that the prime target was the Greek-Orthodox community. However, 300 Jews holding Greek citizenship were also subjected to deportation.

# The Deported Greeks of Istanbul because of the harmful actions against the State of Turkey.



















All the properties of the deportees were "frozen" following a ruling of the Council of Ministers in November 1964 via Secret Decree 6/3801, according to which no legal actions such as transfer or inheritance could be carried out for these properties. The transfer of property following a divorce from a Turkish citizen was also prohibited. The monthly withdrawal of a minimal allowance was granted to the spouses of the deportees. The courts, based on this Secret Decree, disallowed the inheritance rights of the deportees who had no access to the decree. This continued until 1987, date at which the Secret Decree was withdrawn when Turkey started to approach the European Union. As during the 25 years of existence of the Secret Decree the annual inflation rate in Turkey was neighboring 100%, all the bank accounts of the Deportees were annihilated.

Gimli Kararaansel'nin tam resul motal Karar Sayısı : 6/3801

DARAJERANE

Yunan hikimetinin Türk vääändaglarini Tunanistan'da sarara ujrat nuluusa gepitli tedhir va mumalafarina kargilik olmak üsara. 1- Yunan uyruklu gahislarin Türkiyedeki guyri mankullari üsarind milkiyet va milhiyetten guyri ayni hablara ilighin ve bu sonuçla doğurabilacek siloinle temliki tasarruflarının durduruhusat. 2- a) Yunan uyruklu kişilarin Sürkiya'daki gayri mankullarından doğun har nevi bedel,hasılat,irat ve sairlerin istismasıs bloke edilmedi.

b) Bu şahislerin şeşri menkyileri ile ilgili olarak şimdiye kadar sloke edilmiş ve nu kararmaneyle bloke edilenek paralarının (Sirkiye'de bulunan aloke para sahişlerinden boşkacı gelir kaynakları bulunmayanların ayda 1500 lirayı geçneyen geçis masrafları harıç) deblokajının durdurulması,

J- Kamu idarelerine ve tüzel kişilerine ait her türlü verşi,resin, harç ve diğer eleceklerin tekip ve tahsillerinde yukarıdaki bir ve iktori medde mükimlerinin uygulanmanısı,

4- Bu gayri nenkullerin hamulaq\_tivimosindon nu karurin ofrimof meddeenin uygulannansı,

5- Üçüncü madde hükmü mahfus kalmak ve ilana dayanan alacaklarınan tanaili nakkında açılan iora takipları ayrı olmak Gzere birinci maddade süzü geçin gayri mankullere har ne surette oluras alaun hacis konulanınası ve bunların cebri yoluyla satılananası. (Türkiyedeki gerçek ve tüsel kişilerce,yetkili mali merciler tarafından yapılacak inceleme monarında kubula şayan oldukları tempit edilen gayri menkuller üzerine müsenes alacaklarını tahsili dolayı-

niyle yapılabilevek inciz ve iora musseleleri hariç). 5- Yunan uyruklu kişilerin himsedar bulundukları gayri nenkullerin, himmedarlerin ittirakı dahi else, richan taknin ve ifras edilenemesi, şüyumm isaləsinin sıncak mahkeme kararı ile yapılabilmesi ve bedsiden syrilecek paranın itinci meddenin (a) fıkrası bikmine tabi tutulmenı, 7- Bu kararmeme Mikümlerinin Yanan saıllı olmayan yunan uyruklu kiçilere uygulanmaması,

8- Yunan uyrukluğunda bulunan kişilerin bu kararmane hübümlərinin yürürlüğe gırdıktan sonraki tabiiyat değiştirmələrinin namarı itiməre alınusmanı, 7- Yurarahaku humumlarun mahhaselerde muir adli ve idari meruiler tarurundan gös dadade uulundurulmusu ve uu hararmanu bülümlerine aykuru dügenek munumleler teepit olandağu Örtirde darumun derhal manatli Kaliye Dairecine mildirilmeni,

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#### **Economic boycott of the Greek businesses**

The archives of the Commerce Chamber of Istanbul show that. at the beginning of 1964, the 36.000 active members of the Chamber included 1000 Greek citizens: 18.000 businesses belonged to members of the Greek-Orthodox Community holding Turkish citizenship. Just after the of start the deportations, in April 1964. nationalist, university-student organizations (with both right and left leanings), without any from the interference Government, organized a wide economic spread boycott. Printed signs (see image next) were placed at the entrance of Greek shops where one could read: "... as the money spent in this shop produces bullets used against your Turkish brothers in Cyprus, do not buy here". This campaign was implemented in parallel with the slogan "Citizens, speak only Turkish and warn those not obeying".





# The Attitude of the Press





The great majority of the press in Turkey, far from producing objective news reports, became the carrier of a continuous and slanderous extreme defiance and hate propaganda against the Greek Community of Istanbul and institutions and primarily its against the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its clergymen, creating a climate of psychological violence. Systematically the human-rights violations against the Greek community were linked to the inter-communal tension and clashes in Cyprus and the differences between Greece and Turkey. The cases of very rare publications revealing humanrights, as well as constitutional violations and repressive against the Greek measures silenced Minority were immediately. In general, the press played the pioneering role the planed in oppressive against the Greek measures Community.

## Newspapers in Turkey





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### Oppressive measures against the Greek Institutions

In parallel with the deportations, an extensive program of repressive measures, decided by the special Minorities Sub-Commission, were put in force:

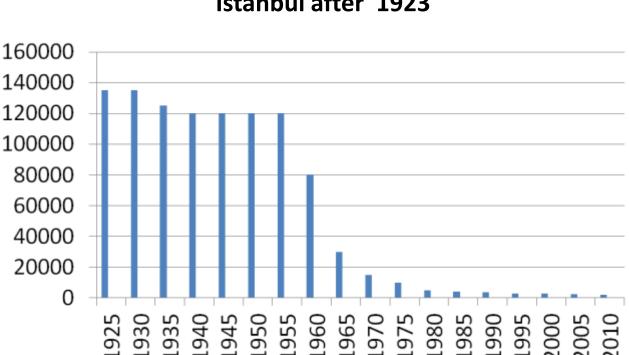
Turkish vice directors were appointed at the Greek schools who limited the competence of the Greek directors, and all signs recalling the Greek-orthodox identity and culture were removed (e.g., signs in Greek, even cross-shaped window frames). A large number of Greek teachers were fired without any reason and justification. In a meeting held at the Ministry of Education of Istanbul near the end of 1964, the Istanbul General Director of Education told the Greek teachers that his only reason for not implementing harsher measures against the minority schools was that this was not useful to the national interests of Turkey, creating an atmosphere of panic and anxiety.

Students with Ottoman Empire ancestors from the region of Epirus – the prefecture of Arnavit (vilayeti) – who were identified in their documents as "Arnavut-Orthodox" were expelled from the Greek schools; only those identified as "Rum (Greek)-Orthodox" were allowed to stay.

The Greek schools in the islands Imbros and Tenedos, populated by Greeks, were closed in September of 1964 and a plan of DISSOLUTION-EXTERMINATION of these communities was implemented including expropriation of their agriculture lands with no compensation, the creation of an open prison for criminal convicts which were free to move within the island, the importation of populations from Kurdish and Black Sea provinces and of refugees from Bulgaria, as well as assassinations.

#### The consequences of the Deportations to the Greek Community

Together with the 12.500 persons having Greek citizenship who were deported, as in most cases their children and wives were citizens of the Republic of Turkey, more than 30.000 members of the Greek-Orthodox Community were directly affected by the deportations. Moreover, because of the repressive measures started at the end of 1963, in twelve months time, the Greek population of Istanbul dropped from 80 000 to 30 000 members.





#### The Consequences of the Deportations

A report prepared in 1946 by the Republican People's Party (that ruled Turkey during the period 1923-1950 as a single party), for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the fall of Constantinople, stated as a goal "to celebrate in 1953 without the presence of Greeks." The massive pogrom of September 1955 that took place with two years' delay did not achieve this, but 11 years later, the task was achieved to a great extent.

- The government of İ. İnönü, exploiting a pending issue regarding the persons holding Greek citizenship – whose identity as *établis* was, however, well established, implemented a deportation policy and parallel, repressive measures, well planed in advance, that resulted in a drop of the Greek population of Istanbul from 90.000 to less than 30.000 in a 12 month period.

- The anti-minority policies planned and implemented by the special MINORITIES SUBCOMMISSION resulted in an exodus of the Greek-Orthodox, as well as of other non-Muslim minorities. These anti-minority policies are not only violations of all the articles of the Lausanne Treaty (1923) regarding the protection of minorities, but also of the European Convention of Human Rights of Rome (1950). The worse persecution measure against the minorities occurred in 1974, when the Higher Cassation Court of Turkey (Yargitay) issued a ruling stating that the real-estate properties registered in the name of non-Muslim foundations after 1936 should be confiscated by the State, based on the argument that the non-Muslim minorities despite being citizens of the Republic of Turkey were also "foreign citizens". This legal aberration of Yargitay was abolished by several decisions or the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. However, in spite of some reparations, there are still pending serious injustices against the non-Muslim minority foundations.



The Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans, the last three years, submitted specific proposals to the Government of the Republic of Turkey regarding remedy and reparations of the consequences of the massive human- and minority-rights violations of the Greek Community of Istanbul during the period of 1923-2004, based on Resolution 60/147 of the United Nations General Assembly. The realization of these proposals will be of high value to all citizens of Turkey.

