



THE END OF HUNGER IN TURKESTAN ASSR AND ITS TRACES (1921 – 1924)

***Rakhmatov Murod Gaybullayevich**

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ABSTRACT

This article shows the termination of consequences of hunger in Turkestan ASSR and its traces. Article has special value as it was written on the basis of archival documents, materials of the press and memoirs.

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INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of 1920, the grain monopoly policy was slightly ameliorated in Turkestan. The monopoly in the form of food distribution was decided to be held only in the areas where the transferred populations were living, and the tax on civilian housing was established in the Muslims' dwellings. However, this differentiated approach to food production was not long-lasting. Under the pressure of Turkestan Commission's members (Турккомиссия) V. Kuybishev and F. Goloschekin, a decision was made to introduce food distribution throughout the Turkestan Republic in August 1920 and aimed taking cereal crops by 40 to 50% quantity from farmers and taking stock of cattle from migrants. In return, livestock farmers received 2 arshin tissue (manufacture) [1]. The poor also suffered from this situation along with the wealthy farmers. For instance, in the Koson district of Namangan region, the poor bought 10-15 pounds of grain from the market compulsorily and delivered it to the state. However, they did not receive either voucher or money from the authorities [2]. The food distribution turned to obvious stealing of population properties and aggravated social tension. By the end of 1920, there were organized 42 districts among only

workers, which was occupied collecting of food and included 3,000 people [3]. Before that condition, making of food districts was started as a huge volume starting on February of 1920. "Fair and limitless trusted to the revolution" workers and poor farmers were allocated and used for these purposes. However, because of the fact that many foodstuffs were involved in solving their nutrition problem, abuses, stealing, and bullying have become common situation in these districts. By the end of 1920, the number of battalions in the foodstuffs exceeded 3000 and 4,000, but finished only in September 1921. The behavior of the foodstuffs caused a great dissatisfaction among the population. Only in Samarkand, 17 smuggling gangsters who detained the property of local residents were judged and arrested. This situation was observed in many other places [4]. In 1920-1921 [5], the foodstuffs districts in the Turkestan ASSR extracted 9,708,703 poods of grain, 6,358,144 pounds of fodder, 1,606,210 poods of meat and other products from the local population [6]. Food stuffs were sent to Russia. At the meeting of the Food Commission of the Turkestan ASSR, which was held on July 18, 1921, Malyutin made a lecture by Lenin's command to "send 250,000 pounds of food to the center within ten days" [7]. A few days before Lenin's order came, a decision was made to supply 20 wagons of grain, 2 wagons of rice, dried fruits (16 wagons to Samarkand and Poltoratskhornizons) and several wagons from the Aral Sea to Orenburg, Turkestan

***Corresponding author:** Rakhmatov Murod Gaybullayevich
Uzbekistan

ASSR. Notwithstanding, these orders were further strengthened by the command of Lenin. 70 wagons in the Yettisuv region, 50 wagons in Syrdarya region, 30 wagons in Samarkand region and 6 wagons of fish were taken out of the population and sent to Central Russia through Orenburg. The gendarmierie chief of the Bolshevik Party and the head of the Soviet government in Russia have also taken over food shortcomings in the short run [8]. Thus, as a result of grain monopoly and food supplies in Turkestan, the local population was able to: a) 4 500 000 poods from 1918 to 1919 through forced and commodity turnover (in fact, nothing was provided to the farmers); b) from 1919 to 1920, 5,250,000 pounds were traded through commodity monopoly and trade turnover; c) 9,700,000 poods instead of 22,500,000 pounds per day from 1920 to 1921; d) during the years 1921 to 1922, 4,000,000 pounds of grain was withdrawn instead of 12,500,000 poods of food [9]. The excessive arbitrariness of the food-collecting squads was even worried at the Bolsheviks. The People's Commissariat for Workers of Turkestan ASSR examined one of the major crimes of the Public Commissariat for Food and Agriculture in September 1921, and shown serious mistakes. The results of the inspection were reflected in the following report: "The Food Commissariat was supposed to carry out a food policy that included the preparation and distribution of grain in Turkestan. But supplementation went slowly. The assigned tasks remained on the paper. Card system failed. The Food Commission left the country unable to manage its sphere for a long time. For the lack of guidance from the Commissioner and inadequate instructions, the food-collecting detachments worked inaccurately and badly. They not only destroyed the work, but also denied the soviet power by manifesting the worst forms of colonialism. At the Commissioner's office, the culpability of the cereals was aggravated by immorality and disobedience. The reasons for this tragic situation are as follows: first, many people are unworthy of their place, secondly, disregard for the Muslim population and their fear, and thirdly, the bad attitude of the Muslim population to foodstuffs, and so on" [10].

Food Commissioner of Fergana region P.S. Jukov prepared the document "On the Activity of the Fergana Regional Food Committee" [11] in Kokand on July 11, 1921, this document was sent to the People's Commissar of the Turkestan Republic, the number of hungry people in Fergana region, food problems, shortages and shortcomings in the field, as well as the arbitrariness of the foodstuffs. In February 1922, the commander of the Food Commissioner of the Fergana region was Krass, the chairman of the regional food council was Zaguzov, members of the board were Bichkov, Sukhanov, Levitin, Khojayev, assistant of the administration of Fergana group was Masalkin, his deputy was Sliozberg and secretary was Sarkisyants [12]. These bosses were created exclusively from Europeans (except Khojaev), which did not include native people. As it is known, this commission has solved the food problem in the Fergana region. In the end, finishing of the fighting against hunger consequences, the benefits of immigrants from Russia and European people was first and foremost, rather than native people. The document titled on "Activity of Fergana Region Food Committee from September 15 to October 1, 1922" [13] addresses the work carried out by Fergana Region Food Committee. Particularly, the work of the Food Commodity Preparation (food production) department is about 8 preparing units (such as Kokand, Konibodom, Namangan, Skobelev, Andijan, Jalal-Abad, Osh and Uzun).

The food tax rate in Fergana region was as follows in this document: Grain harvesting in Kokand was 56%, dried fruits collection - 65%, meat processing - 30%, respectively, in Namangan region - 21%, 1%, 15%, Margilan 25%, 1.5%, 25%, in Andijan, 17%, 11%, 17%, in Osh, 25%, 13, 8% [14]. The famine in the Soviet Russia, particularly in Volgograd, was exacerbated during this period. The Central Commission for the Blind Assistance (CG Pomgol) was created by the special decree of the Commonwealth of Independent States of June 18, 1921. Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States M.I. Kalinin was the chairman of this central commission. The Commission was given substantial and exceptional powers on the supply and distribution of food. The Anti-Personnel Aid Commissions were established under the Central Executive Committees of the Autonomous Republics of the RSFSR, the Guberniya, the uyezd and the Volost Executive Committees, the trade unions and large enterprises. Similar central commissions were also formed in the Turkestan ASSR and the Kazakh ASSR, which were in the Soviet Union. In the Turkestan ASSR, particularly in the Fergana and Samarkand regions, a great deal of work was done to end of hunger in 1922 and 1923. On October 16, 1922, the Central Commission for the Fighting against Hunger was transformed into the Central Commission for the Elimination of the Consequences of Famine [15] and its structure was seriously altered.

The Commission for the Liquidation of Hunger has been operating at this time. In this regard, the document entitled "The Final Report of the Committee for the Eradication of Hunger from Fergana Region from November 1, 1922 to October 1, 1923" [16], which is kept in the CSA funds of Uzbekistan, plays an important role. This significant document was prepared on October 20, 1923 in Kokand, and 26 sheets of paper were and 5 schedules added to this document. The document was prepared by the Fergana Commission to Combat Desertification and Destruction, under which the deputy chairman of the commission for the liquidation of the consequences of fraud in the Fergana region KalonKhojjaev, a member of the troika Khojibayev and secretary Mingazetdinov signed [17]. This document is based on the following data: "The emergence and growth of famine in Fergana", "Assistance to the hungry and disadvantaged population in Fergana from May 1922 to September 1923", "Nutrition of the hungry", "Sown area in 1922", "Sown area in Fergana region in 1923", "Cotton seeds issued in 1923 for cotton cultivation", "Reconstruction of large industrial enterprises and other organizations", "Craftsmen associations the number of craftsmanship traffickers" "and" "the Fergana valley of hunger strikes frozen in Fergana during the period 1922-1923, when the commission for the liquidation of the consequences of the war on hunger strike" contains a lot of information about the scale and horrors of the famine in the Fergana valley. The current document points out the terrible famine in the Fergana valley between 1917 and 1918 (Phase 1) and 1921 - 1922 (Phase 2), the process of ending hunger in June 1922 - October 1923. There are many sources in the archive, and we can fully understand the consequences of the famine in Fergana valley and its consequences. The following extract from this document points out the economic crisis of the Fergana Valley between 1922 and 1923, the repressive policy of the Soviet authorities and the Bolsheviks:

"The deaths in cities and feeding stations are very high, and hundreds of hunger deaths in some days have not been met by

the people involved, and many cemeteries have been packed in three months - May, June and July 1922 - so old servants they are not able to remember these things that happened before. At this time, those living in houses (flats) near the cemetery filled with corpses are unable to withstand the bad smell coming out of corrupted bodies. Due to hunger and malnutrition during the famine of 1921 to 1922, malaria, diarrhea, stomach, eye and other illnesses have spread, and malaria epidemic is widespread as a result of climatic conditions. In general, the Fergana people suffered from famine and malaria not only in rural areas but also in cities...

No medical intervention was provided not only for the rural population, but also for the inhabitants of the city during the period of famine and under difficult climatic conditions. In many districts and remote areas, as a result of the failure of the Commission for the Fighting against Hunger consequences, the entire population was destroyed, and the buildings they erected flattened down, and the reeds grew in place of the streets. This situation is related to many places in Kokand and Margilan. There are cases when a piece of bread is sold to economically good regions for their children. This situation happened not in 1922, but in 1923 in Ashoba district of Namangan region" [18]. This report clearly states: "In Fergana valley between 1917 and 1923, the number of deaths from hunger and various diseases by October is about 1 million people or even more" [19]. The Commission of Elimination of the Consequences of Famine was also involved in the re-laundering of hungry refugees from Russia's central provinces to Turkestan, particularly Tashkent, Fergana and Samarkand. The abovementioned report states that the exact amount of refugees from Volgograd is unknown. They arrived in Fergana only in the form of official transit, and many refugees themselves came here in different ways. Responsible secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkestan N. Turakulov and Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Turkestan Soviet Socialist Republics Q. Ataboyev signed a decree in 1923 and sent to all oblasts and uyezds in the republic, where 200,000 peasants, workers, their wives and children were deported to the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, and were resettled in Syrdarya, Samarkand, and partially inhabited areas of Turkmen territory [20]. Although this document does not specify the Fergana region, which has been left out of a great famine, we have been talking about the hungry people who were evacuated to Fergana. Local authorities in the provinces and the soviet organizations have been urging the immediate placement of acme in Russia, providing them with housing, food and clothing and it shown in circular [21].

According to the Fergana Region Relocation Department, 8 812 hungry people came from Fergana from the center, in particular from Volgograd in Fergana from 1921 to 1922 (during 6 months). From May 1922 to August 1923, only 3,255 of them were returned to their homelands through the re-evacuation department. According to the document, the rest (stayed other people) left without the intervention of the re-evacuation department [22]. As a telegram of Melnikov, The Chairman of Samarkand region on finishing the consequences of famine, which was send from Samarkand on January 26, 1923, showed that the children from the Kyrgyz Republic (actually Kazakhstan) had been trying to pay for the train in Orenburg because they had relatives in Orenburg [23]. However, due to the lack of funds from the regional commission, these children were actually sent to the central

commission in Tashkent [24]. The central committee did not have much money at its disposal. This condition can also be justified by the following archive document. According to the estimates of the Central Asian Commission for the Elimination of Consequences of Famine, in July 1923, about 50 people were provided with food every day. Feeding them out, sending them to Samara with special staff, the cost of the 14-day shift of these personnel amounted to 42,765 rubles and 42 coin. The document was signed on July 2, 1923, by the head of the Turkestan carrier point of the People's Commissariat for Health of the RSFSR Nikich and the accountant Denisov [25]. The report on the work of the commission on fighting the consequences of famine in the Samarkand region, in the third quarter of 1923, shows that the consequences of fighting hunger, as well as the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homeland are being resolved in Jizzakh, Kattakurgan, Khujand and Samarkand regions. Gabidov's Samarkand Oblast Commission on Fighting against Hunger was commissioned by Fayzullin (He was Obkom (Revkom) Chairman), acting secretary was Mavlonbekov, Chairman of Oblast Trade Unions was Grigoryants, Responsible Secretary of the "Koshchi" Association was Hasanjonov, and Yalishiev, secretary of the commission. that during the period from 19th of May to 11th of July in 1923, "casual monthly aid", voluntary accumulation of funds from the population with hungry food and cheap kitchens were supplied [26].

Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee of Turkiston Communist party M. Epstein, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Turkestan Republic I. Khidiraliyev, chairman of the VSSPS Turkiston bureau A. Rosenblyum, Turkestan CEK (Central Executive Committee), The deputy Chairman of the Central Commission for Fighting outcomes of Famine A. Sushko was signed special order (circular) "On Strengthening the impoverished results of Fighting against Hunger" [27], on March 11, 1923 and sent to all the regions, regional trade unions and regional commissions for eliminating the consequences of famine in the Turkestan ASSR, particularly in Fergana region the famine is still continuing, in some parts of Samarkand and Fergana regions had not any harvest due to drought in some districts and said that the condition of rural industry was very serious in the Republic. It is said that public funds alone are not enough to fight hunger and its consequences, and that public support is needed to address this severe tragedy. Aid to the hungry should be regular and continuous, and it should focus on the complete abolition of the famine [28]. As a result of endless and great organizational work in the summer and autumn of 1923, the work to end hunger strikes was completed in late 1923. In 1923 and 1924, there were excellent harvest from cereals in Turkestan. This also plays a major role in ending hunger. According to the 136th decision of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Turkestan ASSR on September 13, 1923, the Commission for the Elimination of against Hunger in Turkestan and its local bodies are liquidated [29]. The special Charter [30] set out here specifies a special liquidation commission that deals with this task, which is to be performed by the commission in the Center and at the regional and local levels. As a document of Samarkand region The Commission on liquidation of the consequences of the fighting against hunger, dated October 9, 1923, states that the dismissal of employees of the liquidation commission immediately by the Chairman of the regional executive committee Fayzullin

(paying them 2 weeks of pension and 2 weeks' compensation) the decision to send 75% of the products collected during the perpetual wilderness to the disposal of the Fergana region at the discretion of the Commission for Liquidation [31]. Thus, the central commission for fighting the consequences of famine under the Central Committee of the Turkestan ASSR, which operated between 1922 and 1923, and its local offices have done a great job in eliminating the consequences of hunger in the republic, in particular in Fergana and Samarkand. However, despite the huge amount of work done by the commission, ten thousands of people were killed in this period, especially during the 1921-1922 floods in the Fergana valley. Various infectious diseases and climatic conditions have also led to the death of many people.

Meanwhile, several hundred thousand hungry (men, women, children) who came to Tashkent and other towns from Russia's central provinces and Kazakhstan sought to smuggle the heavy economic situation in Turkestan. The local people also have to take care of their living accommodations, food and clothing. Foodstuffs sent from Turkestan ASSR to Bukhara and Khorezm republics were largely spent on their provision. Starting in 1923, the process of sending refugees and displaced people to their homeland began. For example, in April-August of 1923, Samarkand Oblast's Commission for the Eradication of Hunger was sent to 3022 people [32]. When the Bolsheviks came to power in Turkestan, the country's economy was completely destroyed. They have been culpable in addressing the food problem, primarily by the interests of the European population, and have been culprits of the indigenous populations, in particular the local populations living in rural areas. The Food Commissariat, the Food Directorate of the region, and subsequently the Foods Committee of the provinces, in particular the food assemblies, served the interests of the Bolsheviks. The Food Commission did bad things. They did not just destroy the work, but also manifested the most disgusting forms of colonialism and set the people against Soviet rule. Food packages and their warriors were shot by local residents living in rural areas, mainly when peasant farmers resisted, and all of their grain was confiscated. The Soviet authorities established a grain monopoly policy in Turkestan with a terrorist attack. The severe economic situation in Turkestan has aggravated the onset of famine in the country. In the villages, deserted and poor peasants, city craftsmen and intellectuals, and hundreds of thousands of locals became victims of the terrible famine. The Bolsheviks used the foodstuffs such as vegetable oils, dried fish and wheat as fuel for the Soviet Union, but not for military purposes, to make more exact, foods and goods used to delivering carriages of train while nations died from famine.

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13. Uzbekistan CSA (Central State Archive), P- fund 31, list 1, work 520, pages-139-140.
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15. Samarkand RSA, (Regional State Archive) fund 22, list 1, work 6, page-22.
16. Uzbekistan CSA, P- fund 17, list 1, work 947, pages-198-221.
17. Uzbekistan CSA, P- fund 17, list 1, work 947, page-216.
18. Uzbekistan CSA, P- fund 17, list 1, work 947, page-201.
19. Uzbekistan CSA, P- fund 17, list 1, work 947, page-201.
20. Uzbekistan CSA, P- fund 17, list 1, work 725, page-30.
21. Uzbekistan CSA, P- fund 17, list 1, work 725, page-30.
22. Uzbekistan CSA, P- fund 17, list 1, work 947, pages-215-216.
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