Today's Martyrs – June 1916

Thursday June 1, 1916

June 1916, date unknown



Turkey: Baghche

Bishop Grigoris Balakian (aged 41, arrested in Constantinople on April 24, 1915, later deported to Cankiri and then Deir ez-Zor, on the way was told of the plans for the Armenian genocide; escaped from the death march in Islahiye on April 2, 1916, later that day passed a railroad construction site where hundreds of Armenian women and children in rags manually crushed stones for starvation rations, infants were denied milk while their mothers worked, hid in the home of Mrs. Soghomonian in Ayran despite risk of death to her family; left the Soghomonian home on April 7, 1916 and began employment with the railroad; **UPDATE**: witnesses the deportation of nearly all Armenian railroad workers, over 11,000 were later killed, the German and Austrian civilian workers on-site and in Constantinople attempted to stop the deportation but were overruled by the German military)

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