

# HORRIBLE MASSACRE IN SOUTHERN PERSIA

## Religious Reformers Butchered by Mob in Yezd.

Governor Has One Babi Blown from  
the Cannon's Mouth and An-  
other's Throat Cut.

LONDON TIMES—NEW YORK TIMES  
Special Cablegram.

LONDON, July 30.—The Times publishes information from a trustworthy source of most serious disturbances in the city and Province of Yezd, Southern Persia, in the latter part of June. The disturbances culminated after a fortnight in a popular outbreak against the Babis, religious reformers whose aspirations have always been viewed with great suspicion by the ruling classes. The position of the foreign residents was at times critical when the mob was searching for Babis.

Throughout June 27 and 28 every Babi falling into the hands of the rabble was butchered, and the mutilated bodies were drawn through the town, followed by exultant crowds. Houses were searched and plundered. The women were beaten, and one or two were killed.

The high priest then enjoined the populace to bring all the Babis before him or the Governor. The latter refused at first to yield to the threats of the mob, but when his palace was fired he gave way, and had one Babi blown from the cannon's mouth and another's throat cut and his body dragged through the town.

Order was, it is reported, finally restored, but the province is very disturbed. At the time of the massacre no one could leave the town with safety. All Babis attempting to fly were either killed or obliged to return and hide in ruins or ditches.

In an editorial article The Times says it is as difficult to estimate the real causes of the bloody outburst of fanaticism in Yezd as to gauge those underlying the very similar movement at Kishineff. In both cases the victims, members of an unpopular religious faith, were accused, in the main unjustly, of political agitation hostile to the Government. In both cases the Government made no active attempt to save the objects of popular hatred from the fury of the rabble. In both cases subordinates of the Government aided and abetted the rioters.

The Times says the massacre of Babis is as popular in Persia as the massacre of Jews in Russia. The simple Machiavellianism of Oriental administrators may suggest, in the one case as in the other, that such a deed ought to be regarded with an indulgent eye, as it serves to divert the mind of the people from dwelling on the shortcomings of the ruler.

*The New York Times*

Published: July 30, 1903

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