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U.S. Newspapers in 1922 Covered the Murder of Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Chrysostom in Shocking Detail



Dozens of American newspapers reported on the events that were unfolding in Smyrna in 1922 as Turkish troops set fire to the city and tens of thousands were murdered- including the brutal death of Metropolitan Chrysostom, the Greek Orthodox archbishop of Smyrna.

A syndicated, full page feature appeared in numerous U.S. newspapers, carrying graphic detail- and even an illustration- of the way in which the invading Turkish forces murdered the Greek Orthodox bishop.



The New York Times (New York, New York) · 18 Sep 1922, Mon · Page 3

See the full page story in PDF format here from The Washington Times, which carried the piece on October 29, 1922. The San Francisco Examiner, The Pittsburgh Press and a dozen other U.S. publications carried the same full-page feature, which included a description of the brutal torture that Metropolitan Chrysostom was subjected to.

How the Archbishop of Smyrna was Martyred

The Barbarous Turks Captured the Foremost Christian Ecclesiastic of Asia Minor and Had Him Torn to Pieces with Wild Horses on a Public Square in Smyrna



The City of Smyrna Burning While the Turks Placed and Burned the Christian Inhabitants

Small portrait of the Archbishop of Smyrna



St. Stephen, One of the Earliest Saints of the Church, Was Martyred by the Turks Nearly 1,800 Years Ago in the Town, Shown as Archbishop Chrysostom Was Martyred by the Turks the Other Day. From the Famous Painting by Thierry Steen, in the Church of St. Stephen, Rome.

Martyrdom of the Archbishop of Smyrna

The Archbishop of Smyrna, who has been a prominent figure in the Christian community of Asia Minor, was captured by the Turks and subjected to a brutal and public execution. The Archbishop, who was known for his piety and leadership, was taken to a public square in Smyrna, where he was tied to a cross by four wild horses. The horses were then set free, and the Archbishop was torn to pieces. The execution was witnessed by a large crowd of people, and the Archbishop's body was left on the ground. The Archbishop's martyrdom is a significant event in the history of the Christian Church in Asia Minor, and it is remembered by Christians around the world.

An excerpt from the newspaper story:

"The Turks began by tearing out the Archbishop's beard, which, like all Greek priests, he wore full and uncut. Then they tore his clothes off and subjected him to many dreadful tortures, such as tearing out his tongue and pulling out his finger and toe nails.

Finally, while there was still life in his quivering body, he was carried to the Iki-Chesme Square for the supreme agony. Four horses were secured. The Archbishop was placed on his back, and one by one horse was tied by a long rope to one of his feet, another horse to another foot, another horse to one of his hands and another to the other hand.

Four Turks mounted the four horses, one on each, and with their whips drove the animals in different directions. One Turk drove his horse to the north, the next drove to the west, the next to the south and the remaining one to the east.

The archbishop was slowly torn into four parts by the animals. The fanatical mob watched the proceeding with hideous pleasure, urged on by the horses and howled with rage and satisfaction.”

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