

Siberian government's violence against people during civil war

Armed groups of the Siberian governments during civil war were the principal opponent not only Red army, but also were widely used for repressions against civilians and guerrilla movement in the back of White Guards. All territory of the Provisional Siberian government was partitioned into two parts front and back. The first was controlled based on the charter about field control of troops, the second - based on old imperial laws.

For streamlining of involvement of military in punitive actions some normative documents are accepted by the "Omsk" governments. So commanding military districts the right to declare this or that terrain on the martial law was granted. Based on it the similar regime not only in front regions, but also in zones of insurgent movements was introduced. The resolution of Council of ministers of February 1, 1919 approved by the Supreme governor, the admiral A.V. Kolchak commanding armies in Siberia and in the Far East granted the right, to punish guilty up to the death penalty "for support of the general safety".

Local military authority actively participated in support of an order in the subordinated territories. On February 6, 1919 the chief of the 2nd separate Siberian Steppe casing declared the order of a staff of the Supreme Commander. In it, for universal convergence on theater of military action the following resolution of Council of ministers of February 1, 1919 was reported: "In a wartime in a battlefield when any crimes or offenses excessively increase, to the commander-in-chief of army, the chief of a staff of the Supreme Commander, the commander of separate army, it is allowed to strengthen temporarily severity of punishment. For support of the general safety the colonel of the 2nd Steppe Siberian Department A. Karayev issues the order, where was written: "I noted mass violation by the population of valid instructions of ranks of police.

Obviously, the population, evading from execution of these instructions, expects full impunity or to be reconciled with that not considerable and inevitable slowness of trial, punishment which is necessary in such cases under the existing laws. For elimination of this inadmissible phenomenon I declare that the people who evaded from execution of legal requirements of ranks of police will be exposed administratively to monetary collecting, to 3 thousand rubles or to imprisonment for a period of up to 3 months by me" [3].

Some generals understood illegality of what they did, and tried to justify somehow not only in front of contemporaries. For example, the major general A.Grishin-Almazov in one of his orders wrote following: "Each military chief shall remember that on war arena all methods that lead to the aim are equally good and lawful, and that winner won't be judged by patriots, contemporaries and descendants".

Local authorities tried to involve military not only to the solution of question of political safety or fight against antisocial manifestations, but also they ask soldier for help to solve labor conflicts. By detailed reviewing of instructions and orders not concreteness of statements, absence of exhaustive orders attracts attention. Normative document did not explain what crimes got under a capital punishment – the death penalty. From their text it was impossible to understand who they meant by saying “faulty and unreliable element” and what information can be classified as “sowing alarm in minds”. Arrest according to people’s indication on suspension of anti-governmental propaganda was very doubtful legal action.

The similar legal defect of documents did possible their free interpretation. Military often abused the power, from the population numerous complaints to searches, confiscation of different property and arrests without permission and allowance of the officials on that right and without observance of elementary rules of the formal character as that presentations of warrants, compilations of protocols, etc. [5].

However, for a variety of reasons the Omsk authorities did not aim to bridle actions of force departments. Thus, population who lived on that territory fully experienced the cruel power of authority during the civil war.

G. Abdrahmanova

Literature:

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