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## RAHIM KHAN CHALABIANLOO ROLE IN SUPPRESSION OF TRIBE ARASBARAN CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION IN IRAN

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**Abstract:** *Constitutional revolution in Iran had many acclivities and declivities. Although constitution order was signed in the summer of 1903 by Mozaffaredin King, constitution was not executed and stopped during Mohammadali King's monarchy. Tabriz citizens and pioneer revolutionists Sattarkhan and Bagherkhan rebelled against this verdict. The king called Rahimkhan Chalabianloo, the chief of Chalabianloo and Tribe Arasbaran, to suppress rebellions. He came to Tabriz and murdered Tabriz citizens but couldn't do anything and defeated and escaped to Russia. He returned to Iran later and stayed in Hasratan in Ahar Town and was murdered by constitutionalists in Tabriz Arg in 1908.*

**Keywords:** *Rahim Khan, Chalabianloo, Tribe Arasbaran, Tabriz, Constitution*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Constitution Revolution in Iran, impressed by those days' revolution in other countries, broad minds' trips to other countries for education, and religious leaders' disagreements with the dictatorship of one king occurred in 1903 during Mozaffareddin King monarchy. But the parliament was not successful and efficient; so, this caused dissatisfaction inside the country. After his death and start of Mohammadali King's monarchy, the parliament was cancelled and Tabriz citizens with leadership of Sattarkhan and Bagherkhan started armed revolution against Ghaghara Regiment. The king used the people like Rahimkhan Chalabianloo, Zargham Shoja Marandi and Eynoddole to suppress people; but, since in contemporary history of Iran there aren't detailed notes in this field, the author has tried to investigate the role of Rahimkhan Chalabianloo in suppressing Tabriz revolution.

### **Rahimkhan Chalabianloo**

Rahim Chalabianloo was the son of Hajalikhan from leaders of north Azerbaijan migrants in Arasbaran and an advocate of Mohammadali King. He directed a group of Azerbaijan guards in 1833 and got the title of Nosrat Commander from Mohammadali King. He was also an old robber who had the mission of bothering prisoners when Mohammadali King was the crown prince.

Rahimkhan was the head of Shahsovan Tribe and Mohammadali King had given the title of Nosratolmolk to him. He was a mean and wrecked man and a severe opponent of constitutionalists who went to Tehran to rob or kill the people and make riots.

Other sources introduce him in different and sometimes contradictory ways: "he was titled Nosratosoltan and Nosrat Commandor and became the head of his tribe after his father's death. He was a fanatic man".

He was a brave and respectful man who was consulted by the people if needed. The olds and tribe heads of Khalkhal, Sarab, Ardebil, Meshkin, Moghan, and Gharadagh signed a paper alongside Koran and select Rahimkhan as their chief commander. According to Mokhberossaltane, the content of contract was as follows:

In the name of God in November 3 of 1909, due to religious and social duties and for removing the problems coming from rebellions and spreading Shiite religion in Iran, we, the heads of 5 tribes, agree to devote our money and lives for helping Commander Nosrat and



obey him. If any of us disobeys this rule, he can be murdered and distorted and may the god extinct him<sup>1</sup>.

### **Rahimkhan and constitutionalists**

Amid constitution revolution, the trend changed and some hesitated in their primary believes. Some advocated constitutionalists while some opposed them and embargoed their movement which led to discredit and accusation toward them. Rahimkhan was among the first of opponents whose bad reputation returns to the report that was represented by Mohammadgholi Khan Aghbolaghi in 1907 who was an employee of Rahimkhan before. After some events, he resented from Rahimkhan went to Tabriz and joined constitutionalists. He had a mission from Tabriz State Board and in return gave the report of Biokkhan performance who was the son of Rahimkhan. From that date, complaints from Rahimkhan started by the board which led to the complaints and defenses from Rahimkhan that will be discussed in the following section:

From Tabriz to Tehran and Azerbaijan delegations, May of 1907 Biokkhan has killed 200 people in Gharajedagh Village and there is full of murdered innocent women and children. Don't you want to do anything?

Savar another son of Rahimkhan has plundered villages around Tabriz .When do you want to show some reactions? Properties and lives of Muslims are in danger. If the government doesn't issue the verdict of punishment for Rahimkhan's son, what will happen next?<sup>2</sup>

### **Imprisonment of Rahimkhan**

When above mentioned telegraph reached, the parliament started some pressure on the king. Rahimkhan was arrested and the relation between him and board darkened.

Mokhberossaltane who was prison head in that time reported that "Rahimkhan was imprisoned in Justice House. King who wanted his freedom gave a verdict for his release. Rahimkhan went to Azerbaijan after release<sup>3</sup>. About Rahimkhan defense in this case it was written that: Rahimkhan who was in Tehran was arrested but people asked for his punishment in Justice House. So, the king vindicated to imprison him<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> . Hedayat, M. (1965). Mokhberossaltane, memories and dangers, Tehran, p. 198

<sup>2</sup> . Bibordi, H. (1962). Tehran, Ebnesina., p. 125.

<sup>3</sup> .Hedayat, M. (1965). Mokhberossaltane, memories and dangers, Tehran, p. 165.

<sup>4</sup> . Hedayat, M. (1965). Mokhberossaltane, memories and dangers, Tehran, p. 165.



After the news of Rahimkhan's crime reached Tehran, people closed their shops and revolted around parliament and gave mottos against king. Finally the king agreed to imprison Rahimkhan and his son to condole Azerbaijan people<sup>5</sup>.

Rahimkhan announced himself free of these accusations and related them to his opponents. Then Haj Emamjome Khoi and Mokhberossaltane took Rahimkhan to the parliament and complimented him. Rahimkhan swore to follow constitutions and went to Tabriz to cooperate with Azerbaijan Board in June of 1908. He was welcomed there and gave a report of his mission to the board. Then, Mohammadali King sent him to fight constitutionalists. Since Tabriz resistance lasted too much, Mohammadali King ordered Rahimkhan to help government forces; but, Rahimkhan sent his son Biokkhan with 700 soldiers. On July 1908, Biokkhan entered Sahebdivan Garden where Bagherkhan was fighting. After defeat, he attacked Baghmishe on the way of Ahar which was the center of constitutionalists fight. He was encouraged by Islamie Mollahs to fight rebellions<sup>6</sup>.

Since Biokkhan didn't provide much success, 1200 soldiers and 2 tanks with other equipments were given to Rahimkhan to go to Tabriz. He repeated the following words during movement to Tabriz:" with king's help, I will leave alive neither Bagherkhan nor Satarkhan"<sup>7</sup>. He then attacked the area in which Bagherkhan was fighting and stopped entering food to that area. After winning the war, Rahimkhan moved to north gardens. Then, on July 26 in 1908, a camp with Sahamoddole leadership came to help Rahimkhan and attacked Tabriz so many times that defeated them. Next, on August 13, the governorship of Tabriz was given to Eynoddole. Tabriz citizens didn't accept him so he negotiated with them. State Board answered that if your government is constitutional, we don't formalize you. For 4 months, Eynoddole, Rahimkhan and Shoji Nezam attacked Tabriz and defeated<sup>8</sup>.

### **Eynoddole in Tabriz**

Abdolmajid Eynoddole was the son of Ahmad Azeddole and son-in-law of Mozaffareddin King and a prince. He was merciless, selfish and powerful and imagined people like sheep that should be directed by wooden sticks<sup>9</sup>. He got the position of prime ministry in the monarchy of Mozaffareddin King. After king death, he left government posts and went to

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5. Malekzade, M.(2004). The history of Constitution revolution in Iran, Vol. 1, 2, and 5, 1st Ed, Tehran Sokhan Press, p. 448

6. Bibordi, H. (1962). Tehran, Ebnesima., p. 129.

7. Afshar. S, I. (2003). An introduction to knowing Iranian tribes and campers, 1st Ed, Tehran, Samenolaemme, p. 134

8. Tehrani, M. (2001). Observations and social/political analysis of constitutional revolution in Iran. Tehran, Entesharat ,p. 756

9. Malekzade, M.(2004). The history of Constitution revolution in Iran, Vol. 1, 2, and 5, 1st Ed, Tehran Sokhan Press,p. 219.



Mashhad. During Rahimkhan fight with Tabriz people, he was selected as Tabriz governor to evacuate the city from rebellions. Rahimkhan was trying to suppress the rebellions before his coming. So he attacked Tabriz every day and fought till night but couldn't do anything. Thus, he waited for Eynoddole. Eynoddole sent 3 delegates to Sattarkhan to finish the fights and accompanied Ardebil governor to Tabriz. In 1866, they reached Saidabad, 60 km to Tabriz. Sepahdar joined them there and they all went to Sahib Divan Garden. 3 delegates of Eynoddole negotiated with Sattarkhan and Bagherkhan. But Sattarkhan and Bagherkhan criticized Mohammadali king's actions and canceling parliament. They also asked for the punishment of Shoji Nezam, Zargham, and Rahimkhan from Eynoddole or they will not formalize him<sup>10</sup>. Those negotiations continued until the time shooting bullets from city started and the city immersed in blood on August 25. Eynoddole worsened the attacks by government forces. Ultimatum of Eynoddole to constitutionalists, attacks of September 13, and the murder of women and children showed his weakness against fighters<sup>11</sup>.

Then Eynoddole attacked and bombarded Ajishahr Bridge. Rahimkhan also bombarded Eslambool Gate and killed the nephew of Sattarkhan<sup>12</sup>

. Before sunset government forces retreated and came back to Eynoddole. These attacks continued for 4 months and they didn't progress at all. Many telegraphs were sent to king to stop the war but he ignored them. So, Najaf religious leaders wrote letters to different states and asked people to help Tabriz fighters and not to pay tax to the king<sup>13</sup>.

The victory of constitutionalists in Tabriz was spread across the world and encouraged other fighters in Iran, frightening the king and his advocates. Constitutionalists sent a message to the king and asked him to open national council parliament<sup>14</sup>.

### **Rahimkhan in Alvar War**

After the entrance of Eynoddole to Tabriz, Rahimkhan was ordered to occupy Marand – Jolfa path. He arrested Hajmirza Bolori, the head of constitutionalists in Marand and sent him to Ahar. He settled in Alvar<sup>15</sup> around Tabriz and defeated some constitutionalists among whom there was Sattarkhan and killed some of them<sup>16</sup>.

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10.. Nasehi, E. (2000). Constitution revolution in Tabriz, Salar Press,p.45-46.

11. Davoodi, M. (1978). Eynoddole and constitutional regiment, Tehran, Sepehr Press,p.178.

12. Malekzade, M.(2004). The history of Constitution revolution in Iran, Vol, 1, 2, and 5, 1st Ed, Tehran Sokhan Press, p.974

13. Tehrani, M. (2001). Observations and social/political analysis of constitutional revolution in Iran. Tehran, Entesharat ,p. 756

14. Navai, Abdolhosein. (1948). Iranian governments (from Constitution revolution till ultimatum). 1st Ed. Tehtran, Babak Press, p.78

15. Name of a village around Tabriz which is a part of Tabriz now.

16. Bibordi, H. (1962). Tehran, Ebnesina,, p. 131.



Tabriz constitutionalists provided their food and weapons through Jolfa-Marand path and closing it by Rahimkhan was a hard beat to them. Sattarkhan had asked Bolori and Faraj Agha to attack Rahimkhan as soon as the war started but as said before they were already arrested by Rahimkhan. Rahimkhan was fighting and hoped to close return path to the fighters but their resistance and patience disappointed him<sup>17</sup>.

Sattarkhan kept his calm and didn't let his myrmidons frustrate and continued fighting till sunset. Some of fighters who got informed help him and saved them from surrender<sup>18</sup>.

### **Rahimkhan and Anakhatoon War**

Shojaoddole was thinking of a severe attack to Anakhatoon<sup>19</sup> to make fighters surrender. He didn't mention it to Rahimkhan and before sunrise attacked the city on April 14 in 1909<sup>20</sup>. By the help of Sattarkhan, Anakhatoon War didn't last more than 5 hours and finished with fighters victory. Some government forces were killed and Shojaoddole was blamed by Rahimkhan for such carelessness<sup>21</sup>.

### **Rahimkhan's trespassing in Ahar and his escape to Russia**

In the early May of 1909, Russian army entered Tabriz and internal wars stopped<sup>22</sup>. At that time, Rahimkhan who was residing in Ahar, trespassed Ghradagh Village and it's around areas<sup>23</sup>. It was clear that Rahimkhan and his soldiers were fighting for money not for their belief. They left their friends during defeat and were dissatisfied with their commander<sup>24</sup>. Ordooi government with the head of Bahador and Misopiremkan were supposed to suppress villains. They followed Rahimkhan camp and he escaped to Russia because he couldn't resist against them<sup>25</sup>.

Since Tabriz fighters couldn't defeat Rahimkhan, the government in Tehran sent an army with commandship of Bahador (who got famous as Asad Commander) and Misopiremkan, the active revolutionist. Their army defeated Rahimkhan forces in a hard

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17. Bibordi, H. (1962). Tehran, Ebnesina, p. 131.

18. Kasravi, A. 18 year history of Azerbaijan during constitution revolution, 14th Ed, Tehran, Amirkabir Press, p. 865

19. A place near Tabriz.

20. Nasehi, E. (2000). Constitution revolution in Tabriz, Salar Press, p.74.

21. Gholamie, M. (2001). Shojaddole and constitutional regiment, 1 st Ed, Ohadi Press, p. 201-202.

22. Bibordi, H. (1962). Tehran, Ebnesina, p. 131.

23. Bibordi, H. (1962). Tehran, Ebnesina, p. 131.

24. Raini, E. Commander Pirkamkan, Zarrin Press, p.310.

25. Tehrani, M. (2001). Observations and social/political analysis of constitutional revolution in Iran. Tehran, Entesharat, p. 752.



fight and Bahador Comandor was also wounded. Rahimkhan escaped to Russia but that government didn't accept him as a political refugee<sup>26</sup>.

Boloori and other constitutionalists who were imprisoned by Rahimkhan were released and went to Tabriz. They went to State Board and explained the latest events.

### **The end of Rahimkhan Chalabianloo**

After escaping to Russia, Rahimkhan resided in Gharabagh and Russians took him to Bacoo. Russian government had settled a hundred soldiers to welcome their trespasser colleague<sup>27</sup>. After spending some time in Caracas, he left there for his hometown (Hasratan). Mokhberossaltane sent a safe conduct to him and invited him to Tabriz. He took his family and came to Ahar<sup>28</sup>.

Baiverdi cited from his father that "we went to see Rahimkhan in Vaneabad. He said that he hadn't heard call of pray in Russia for some months and that is why he returned Iran. Come what may come<sup>29</sup>. In fact, Rahimkhan return was not for his regret for bad deeds but he came back for the invitation of Mokhberossaltane. He was under surveillance of Alaghapoo. When he got this point, he ordered disobeying him to his sons. So, Mokhberossaltane imprisoned him<sup>30</sup>.

Amid these, the relations among constitutionalists were disturbed and Mokhberossaltane went to Europe. So, the heads of State Board went to Rahimkhan and transferred him to Arg. They finally shot and killed him on September 11 in 1911<sup>31</sup>.

Baibordi said that one night Boloori and Mojahedi a famous fighter went to Rahimkhan prison and killed him and his men by dissecting their body in a brutal way<sup>32</sup>.

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26. Navai, Abdolhosein. (1948). Iranian governments (from Constitution revolution till ultimatum). 1st Ed. Tehtran, Babak Press,p.147

27.. Raini , E.Commander Piramkhan, Zarrin Press,p.177.

28. Hafezzade, M. (1989). Arasbaran in the passage of history, Tabriz, Vol. 2, Mahdazadi, p. 425.

29. Bibordi, H. (1962). Tehran, Ebnesina,, p. 125.

30. Kasravi, A. 18 year history of Azerbaijan during constitution revolution , 14th Ed, Tehran, Amirkabir Press,p. 155-163.

31. Bamdadi, M. (2000). Biography of Iranian men. Vol. 2, Tehran, Zavar,p. p.5-7.

32Bibordi, H. (1962). Tehran, Ebnesina., p. 135-136.



4. Tehrani, M. (2001). Observations and social/ political analysis of constitutional revolution in Iran. Tehran, Entesharat.
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