

The Declaration Of Dr. J. W. Lim

As a physician and in private meetings with the other doctors of Torreón, I offered and my professional services were accepted at the RED CROSS there to care for the wounded in the skirmish expected during the capture of Torreón by the insurgent forces, and to also treat the sick among the general public.

On Saturday, May 13th, at eleven in the morning, the attack on Torreón by the insurgent forces began. Together with several doctors, I began to provide my services at the Sanatorium of Dr. J. Salomé Garza Aldape, a member of the RED CROSS, working all day.

On Monday the fifteenth of the same month, after the plaza had been taken, at six in the morning, I went again to Dr. Garza Aldape's Sanatorium and found it closed. I then went to Dr. José María Rodríguez's Sanatorium, also a member of the RED CROSS, working with him with the sick and wounded until eight-thirty in the morning. When the wounded were finished being treated, I went out to the door of the building to check on the revolution's movements and in case there were more wounded in the street. I then saw a group of revolutionaries at Don Julián Lack's store, firing many bullets into the wind and shouting. This same group arrived at the French shoe store, one block from Lack's store, with the same commotion and continuing along Avenida Juárez, and I saw no more.

About twenty minutes later, I saw many townspeople and Maderistas, bringing with them many items of clothing and groceries—things from around where I was. I immediately asked a man from the town where he had gotten the clothes, and he replied that a Maderista had given them to him from a Chinese store. I also saw many townspeople passing by with clothing and groceries from the looting that was taking place in several commercial establishments, especially those of the Chinese.

Immediately, a man (whose name I don't remember) who worked for the RED CROSS arrived in a carriage and told me that there were many Chinese dead in the street and many wounded, but he didn't know the cause. I then told him we should go and collect the wounded, and to that end, we took two stretchers with him in the carriage. When we arrived at the corner of the main square in front of the Chinese Bank, I saw many of these dead people lying on the sidewalk and in the street.

At this moment, many Maderistas who saw me began to shout for me to be killed, and at that moment, the individual who was with me in the carriage got out and fled, leaving me alone. Despite wearing the RED CROSS insignia on my left arm and still wearing my long coat that doctors wear when giving medical aid (because I had been treating the wounded), I was not respected. The Maderistas began demanding that I get out of the carriage so they could kill me. Other Maderistas on horseback began to defend me. In this state, we walked until we reached the corner of the Hotel Central, where several Maderistas insisted on killing me by pointing their weapons at me, and others tried to defend me, until finally, several private individuals saved me from the death that they saw was surely approaching.

At that moment, a Maderista arrived, got me out of the carriage, and, shielding me, took me to the ringleader, Agustín Castro. This man then sent me to the neighboring city of

Gómez Palacio, Durango, to be charged and an investigation conducted. Despite the orders of a Maderista on horseback, I told this man that he couldn't send me where he ordered me because I was working at the hospital and was a member of the RED CROSS. He ignored me. At that moment, several Maderistas arrived, leading a group of eleven Chinese, all barefoot, in poor condition, and badly beaten on the head and body. Mr. Castro then ordered that all of us, along with me, be taken to Gómez Palacio, Durango. As we headed on our way to this city, we received many insults from the people, all kinds of words, and many tried to beat us.

Once on the road and outside Torreón, a Maderista on horseback caught up with us, telling my drivers that, by higher order, the RED CROSS, and me in particular as its member, was to be respected. For this very reason, my drivers ordered a carriage and sent me back to Torreón in the company of the Maderista bearing the order that I be respected, while the other Chinese continued on the road to Gómez Palacio.

Once on my way to Torreón, several friends of mine came to meet me from this point, telling me that it wasn't advisable to go there because it was dangerous and that it was better for me to return to Gómez Palacio. This was corroborated by the arrival at that moment of a Maderista force under the command of its leader. They told me that it was a good idea for me to return to Gómez Palacio and take refuge in the RED CROSS Hospital while things calmed down in Torreón. I did so, returning to that place, where I would remain until the next day.

That same day, May 16th, at around three in the afternoon, I went to Gómez Palacio's headquarters with the insurgent commander, Juan Ramírez, to explain to him that he should release the eleven Chinese brought from Torreón and others who were also imprisoned in that barracks, because they had no cause or crime to be detained and suffering deprivation and mistreatment. He replied that there were six of them who had taken up arms against the Maderistas. However, acceding to my wishes, he ordered them to be released from prison, and when questioned in my presence about this, they categorically denied it. Mr. Ramírez then ordered them to be returned to prison and ordered me to go and advise six of them to confess to having taken up arms and that he would do nothing to any of them. And once we were all inside the prison, I anxiously asked them if they had indeed taken up arms against the Maderista forces, and they all replied, with horror on their faces and tears streaming down their faces, that it was not true, and that I should relieve them of the poor treatment they were unjustly receiving. For this reason, I again addressed Chief Ramírez and asked him: "Who says that these Chinese fired on the Maderista forces?" I was pleased that an individual (whose name I do not remember) whom he immediately ordered to be brought to him to show him the fifteen Chinese prisoners, so that he could say who they were and if he knew those who had fired, that that individual when he came replied that he could not say nor did he know them, since he was fighting that night at the Central Railway station. This individual had heard someone who knew me say that some Chinese had fired on the Maderistas. For this reason, Mr. Ramírez told me that he would release the Chinese, provided that, under my bail, I would, by means of a document signed by me, guarantee to present them when needed to carry out the relevant investigations; and after I signed the bail, he released the aforementioned Chinese for me.

On May 17th of this year, at nine in the morning, I went to Mr. Emilio Madero, Chief of the Zone, to request guarantees for the entire Chinese Colony that had escaped the

massacre. The aforementioned Mr. Madero immediately gave them to me, ordering the insurgent leader Don Sabino Flores and some of his soldiers to escort me. Mr. Madero himself informed all the Maderista forces in Torreón through emissaries sent for this purpose that the guarantees granted by law be provided to all foreign residents of the town and its smaller villages, estates, or lands under the town's jurisdiction, especially the Chinese colony. However, despite these guarantees, and after I had traveled through part of Torreón in search of my living compatriots, abuses such as the following were still committed, which my escort did not witness.

Once I had visited all the houses, businesses, country estates, and in general all the Chinese residences, with true sorrow, sorrow that cannot be put into words, I found true desolation among my compatriots. Those I found alive, on Madero's orders, were taken prisoner to one of the barracks by those who accompanied me. They gathered a considerable number of prisoners, and after holding them for three days without food or water, they were released. I certify that several individuals, such as José María Arzave, Manuel Rodríguez, Aureliano Heredia, and others I do not remember, had their lives in danger with the Maderistas for defending several Chinese from death. These men managed to save some of them, as did Professor José C. Cadena.

I also state that Mr. Cristino Hernández, a merchant, who learned that the Chinese prisoners, numbering approximately one hundred and eighty, were being held without food or drink, Mr. Hernández himself obtained permission from the guards and brought them bread and coffee, cigars and water. Mr. Hernández himself also learned, from statements made to him by the Chinese prisoners, that one night around twelve o'clock, several Maderistas raided them inside the prison, and after brutally beating some of them, they took all the money each of them had on their bodies, collecting a fair amount. Facts that surprised me upon learning them, causing a painful impression, since I saw that we were at the mercy of the most complete looting and disorder, which fortunately ended for the prisoners with the order of our release, having taken all my countrymen to the Chinese Bank to protect them from further attacks, after the bloody sufferings that I have partially recounted.

Likewise, once all the Chinese were free, as I mentioned earlier, all the foreign residents helped to protect the Chinese who suffered from robbery and the wrath of the people and the Maderistas.

I also state as a special fact that after having searched all the gardens and properties of the aforementioned Chinese, and not having found any of them because a large number had been killed, and all their possessions had been looted and destroyed, I went to my country house, where a sister of mine had been left in my care, with three children, one fourteen years old, and two little ones. Not having found her, I searched desperately, since my country house, as well as my gardens, furniture, animals, and other possessions, had been looted and completely destroyed.

The aforementioned sister and her children took refuge in the house of an American named Hampton, where I went. After questioning him, he told me with tears in his eyes that a group of Maderistas of about fifty men had arrived at my country house on the morning of May 15th, and after harassing her horribly, they tried to kill her and her family, going so far as to point their weapons at her eldest daughter, demanding that she tell them if she would marry them. After being thrown out of my country house with her children, the destruction

and robbery began, but my sister managed to escape to the house of the American I have mentioned.

I also certify that several individuals lost their lives, being cowardly murdered by the Maderistas, for defending the lives of some Chinese, who were killed defenselessly and with incredible cruelty. Some were shot, others stabbed, others beaten, and, finally, the most horrifying, they were tied with ropes and dismembered by dragging them behind horses. Among those killed while defending the Chinese were Mr. Escobar, an employee of Licenciado David Garza Farías, and a neighbor from my country house who had several grown children, including a young woman named Herminia, who miraculously escaped being raped by the Maderistas.

Finally, my sister's husband, TEN YEN TEA, told me about the cowardly way they killed seven of the ten boys they took from the house where they were, including the one who was heading to the Hotel Salvador. Before they reached this building where Don Emilio Madero was, they shot them from behind.

And finally, on the night of May 15th, several Chinese people fled Torreón to escape death, one headed for Jimulco, two for Matamoros Laguna, four for Santo Niño, and one for Jaral, without food, barefoot, and suffering all kinds of hardships.

Other Chinese who tried to save their lives hid in private homes in the town, and some were cowardly reported by the women of those houses and murdered in the middle of the street by the Maderistas, with the approval of those who had reported them.

This is my statement, and the truth of the events that occurred in Torreón, Coahuila, on the memorable dates of May 13th, 14th, and 15th of this year.

Mexico City, August 8, 1911.