

Be an Armenian in Turkey” enumerates the prejudices, the discrimination, the fearfulness, caution and timidity that overshadow an Armenian’s everyday life in Turkey. And yet, to be an Armenian in Turkey is “to proudly sing the Independence March every morning and shout ‘Happy to be a Turk’ in a Turkey where you don’t have a say....” Nevertheless, “When you are told to ‘leave if you don’t like it,’ it is to say, ‘And yet, this is my country as well’.”<sup>16</sup>

Such a deep attachment to one’s country of origin, if not homeland, in spite of the ongoing prejudice in society, is inexplicable. Hrant Dink lost his life believing in his innocence and confident that he would never “denigrate Turkishness,” neither by his words nor by his deeds. He could not envision himself and his family living in another country besides Turkey, as he eloquently put it in his last article, published in *Agos* on January 10, 2007:

If we were forced to leave one day, however... We were going to set out just as in 1915... Like our ancestors... Without knowing where we were going... Walking the roads they walked through... Feeling the ordeal, experiencing the pain.... With such a reproach we were going to leave our homeland. And we would go where our feet took us, but not our hearts.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> For the English translation of this article, see the *Armenian Weekly* (June 16, 2007).

<sup>17</sup> Hrant Dink’s article, originally published in Turkish, was translated into English and titled “The Pigeon-like Unease of My Inner Spirit” by Fatma Müge Göçek and posted on the Internet on January 20, 2007, the day after his assassination.