

be able to envisage the persistence or the disruption of historical memory and the degree of intensity of that memory impressing upon the Turkish-Armenian identity.

With the recent resurgence of the drive for recognition of the Armenian Genocide in world forums and state legislatures, the international media have begun to show interest in the situation of the Armenians in Istanbul. This interest soared after the assassination of Hrant Dink on January 19, 2007, by Turkish ultranationalists.¹⁵ This Turkish-Armenian intellectual activist, writer, journalist, and editor-in-chief of *Agos*, the Istanbul-based Turkish-Armenian newspaper, dared to speak about Turkish-Armenian issues and was known for encouraging Turkified Armenians or

Ragıp Zarakolu and his late wife Ayşe Nur. In spite of continuous threats and persecution against the two founders, the firebombing of their office, the imprisonment of Ayşe Nur, etc., Belge keeps translating into English and publishing books on topics such as the Armenian Genocide for the Turkish public to read. In fact, the first book on this topic published by Belge was Yves Ternon's *History of a Genocide* (1993). The book was banned and confiscated in Turkey.

¹⁵ The term "ultranationalist" in Turkey covers a wide range of possible explanations, from Kemalists who favor Westernization by way of forced reforms, to fascists inclined toward religious fanaticism, depending on the angle and the time frame. The faction that was accused of responsibility for this murder, whether by carrying out the act or supporting it, consisted of those who are Muslims first and then Turks. It should be noted at this juncture that, according to a statement by Fethiye Çetin, attorney for Dink's family, quoted in a special report in the Istanbul *Turkish Daily News* (January 19, 2008) on the occasion of the first anniversary of Hrant Dink's murder, one year after the assassination took place and the trial of the culprits began, there has been no progress in the case, despite the fact that the evidence is clear.