

the existence of a minority problem in the country. In fact, Baskın Oran, Professor of International Relations at Ankara University, was indicted for including controversial and subversive issues in the human rights report he was assigned to prepare and submit to the Prime Ministry Office.<sup>17</sup> Instead of adopting the report, the government put Oran and the president of the Advisory Council on Human Rights on trial. The public prosecutor asked that they be sentenced to a maximum of five years for “insulting state institutions” and “inciting people to hatred and enmity” through the report. Oran was accused of giving “a new definition and application of minority other than the one accepted by Lausanne” which, according to the public prosecutor, “would lead to chaos. This will also bring about a result which would jeopardize the unitary structure of the state, integrity of the country, and indivisible integrity of the nation.”

To be exact, Oran was accused of reporting that the Lausanne Law on minorities was not being implemented and that it should be. He was also accused of using the term “Türkiyeli” (people of/from Turkey, citizen of Turkey, a term that connotes racial belonging) rather than the term “Türk” as a “supra-identity” without racial or religious connotation.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> Baskın Oran was appointed by the Prime Minister to the Advisory Council on Human Rights (established on April 12, 2001, as a part of Turkey’s endeavor of accession to the European Union). The Advisory Council began functioning in various working groups. Oran headed the group for the Report on Minority and Cultural Rights. The document was prepared and submitted to the Advisory Council which approved it on October 1, 2004.

<sup>18</sup> Quotations are taken from a long “Counter Indictment” that Oran read out to refute the accusations in the “Minority Report” trial on