

tendentious Turkish media show them representing a serious threat to Turkish territorial integrity. In an earlier interview in the Turkish paper *Aksiyon* (January 29, 2007), Salim Cöhce openly spoke of this danger. He believes that there are 80-100,000 hidden Armenians throughout Turkey, and that they are deliberately being reminded of their Armenian identity and urged to return to or uphold that identity. According to Cöhce, there is a movement among long-standing or recent Armenian migrants in Istanbul to seek re-registration, that is, to revise their papers that indicate their present residence and obtain registration in the towns and villages of eastern Turkey whence they originated. This movement, Cöhce states, follows a secret plan, sponsored and orchestrated by Diaspora Armenians and encouraged by the U.S. and European governments, to reestablish Armenian communities in eastern Turkey and then later to claim these territories for a Greater Armenia.<sup>12</sup> It should be noted that Hrant Dink, the Turkish-Armenian activist assassinated by a Turkish ultranationalist on January 19, 2007, was involved in seeking out hidden Armenians in Turkey.

No matter how unfounded these assumptions are, their repercussions create public opinion in Turkey and affect the

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<sup>12</sup> For the Armenian translation of this interview, see Melkonian, "Hrand Dinki spanutiune," *Hanrapetakan* 2 (2007). In this interview, given in the immediate aftermath of Hrant Dink's assassination, Cöhce disseminates suspicion about the danger coming from hidden Armenians in Turkey, and in a way justifies the murder of Hrant Dink. This argument would serve as the basis of his views expressed in the later interview, in the aftermath of the Malatya assassinations.