

state of mind of the ordinary Turk and his/her perception of Armenians and the Armenian issue.

Islamized Armenians do not speak their own language. This important element of their ethnic identity was lost due to the government's continued anti-minority policies. The loss of their mother tongue is a common trait in all Armenian survivors, Islamized or Christian, scattered in the interior of Turkey. They are not permitted to learn or speak Armenian. As a teacher of Turkish language in Germany having gone through a teacher training program, Kemal Yalçın is able to see the difference: "In Germany, there is no national education. There is only education. We often stress that in multiethnic, multilingual Germany, to learn one's mother tongue is one of the fundamental principles of human rights" (p. 22). This basic human right is denied to Armenians in the interior of Turkey. Indeed, hearing Armenian spoken in public is a rare occurrence, one that inspired Rupen Mashoyan to write a short story describing a scene of children playing in the street. Armenian words caught his attention, and he stood watching. In their game of hide-and-seek, the Armenian children were using their mother tongue to fool the non-Armenian boy. "And our glorious [an adjective ordinarily used to refer to the Armenian language] was experiencing the satisfaction of being victorious at least in this manner," concludes Mashoyan.¹³

¹³ Mashoyan, "Metsaskanchin haghthanake" (Victory of the glorious), in *Yev aysbes abretsank* (1998), p. 56.