

scene showed the plight of an Armenian family, however, it was an echo of the economic situation in Turkey in general. Haygazun Galustian was braver in another poem from the series “Khaghaghutiun” (Peace), in which, once again, in simple imagery he demonstrates the calamity that befell the nation before he was born:

My mother had two brothers
she had father
she had mother
they had sisters and brothers
they were all married
they all had children

From them neither this nor that remained
they all — they all
died before I was born

My father like my mother
what he had, father, mother, brother
cousins — a whole clan
died before I was born
when I opened my eyes, my mother was left alone
your father was drafted in the army they said⁸

Notice the calculated word choice. They all “died,” not were murdered or death-marched.

Hagop Mintzuri, the renowned Turkish-Armenian writer, struck a different note in his work. Mintzuri was one of the very few who defied the silence prevailing in Turkish-Armenian literature about the suffering of the nation and the trauma of the recent past, nonetheless in a cautious and covert

⁸ Kalfayan, *Bolsahay nor banasteghtsutiune* (1998), pp. 77–8.