

Discrimination continues to this day. Armenians in Asia Minor, in the interior of Turkey, are not allowed to have Armenian schools, speak their language, or practice their religion; their churches are ruined; they are harassed and persecuted to the point of being compelled to leave their homes and migrate out of the country or go to Istanbul, where the government has a direct hand in their life and fate. Interestingly, in order to rescue the last Armenians scattered in Asia Minor, Istanbul Armenians make a yearly campaign of recruiting young children and bringing them to Istanbul for an Armenian education. This is the only way to safeguard these children's Armenianness. But here too the government creates all kinds of obstacles to prohibit their entrance into Armenian schools. A recent initiative has also been launched to encourage those with an Armenian line in their ancestry to come forward and search for their Armenian relatives in Turkey and abroad. The initiative, called "Looking For My Relative," is actually an offshoot of similar steps taken by Hrant Dink from the first issues of *Agos* until his assassination.¹⁸ The initiative continues. As a consequence, hundreds of Turkish men and women have found the courage to come forward, tell the story of their Armenian mother, father, or grandparent, and ask for help to find their Armenian relatives.

However, things are indeed difficult in Istanbul too, as the government does not allow new construction, or even repairs

¹⁸ The "Looking For My Relative" project began with a trial period in Galata, Istanbul, in 2006, and continues to expand its reach. See <http://www.akrabamiariyorum.com>.