

92).¹ That expression is a testimony to the common people's wish that no Armenian should have been left alive. And these *gâvurs* are now determined to claim their true identity. How many *gâvurs*, Muslim or Christian, how many hidden Armenians are there in Turkey, and how big a threat are they to the Turkish claim of a Turkey that is homogeneous in terms of ethnicity and religion? It is very difficult to speculate. Different studies give different figures, from a few hundred thousand to a few million. For the fragmented Armenian nation, these numbers could prove to be crucial. But notwithstanding the number of these Armenians, if they are experiencing an ethnic revival and searching for their roots, their venture needs serious support.

The Turkish government's anti-Armenian stance shows no inclination to change. On the contrary, this stance is buttressed by elaborate educational and cultural policies.² The discrimination continues. In fact, for instance, "belonging to the Turkish race" is still a requirement for admission to

¹ The equivalent phrase used in the translation of Mehmed Uzun's "Pomegranate Flowers" is "rejects of the sword." In Armenian literature, the phrase is always *surits pakhsats* (escapee of the sword).

² Threats against Armenians and non-Muslim minorities are on the rise. Armenian schools, churches, and businesses are constantly receiving threats, and complaints to the police and requests for protection have borne no results. When the Armenian Patriarch of Istanbul sent a letter to the Governor of Istanbul asking for protection, the response was that the governorship could not afford the cost of such protection. For a detailed account of violations of minority rights in Turkey and the governmental policies supporting this discriminatory and repressive conduct, see Minority Rights Group International, *A Quest for Equality* (2007).