

military academies and employment in the public sector.³ With a deep consciousness of the importance of history in the construct of Turkish identity, the “Coordination Board Fighting Against So-called Genocide Claims,” a section of Turkey’s national Ministry of Education, stresses the importance of voicing in all spheres of education and “in the organization of educational, cultural and social activities,” the fact that

Turks respected and showed tolerance to religions and cultures of the minorities.... In the history of Turks, in their state tradition and culture, there has been no racism or hatred causing genocide and assimilation like it was in the western world.... It is necessary for the colleagues to show reactions with the scientists and media that do not act on an unbiased basis vis-à-vis genocide claims.

The document quoted above goes on to state that “Armenia has destroyed Turkish cultural products; Turkish population was exiled from Armenia and annihilated.”⁴ The Armenian news agency *Noyan Tapan* reported on November 16, 2007, that the Chukurova Center of Culture and Art staged a play called “Yell: The Tale of the So-called Armenian Genocide,” in a prison in Adana. According to this report, the Center’s representative announced the intention to repeat the performance in a number of villages in Turkey.

³ Ibid., p. 7.

⁴ This confidential official circular, signed by Provincial Educational Director Ömer Güney and dated March 7, 2007, was posted to the armworkshop listserv (armworkshop@umich.edu) on April 25, 2007.