

government is doing a disservice to the country and contributing to the divisiveness in society and the fanaticism of the Muslim population. Seeing the prejudice and discrimination against minorities that still prevail in Turkey, these independent scholars are trying to urge the government to respect the laws of democracy for Turkey's sake, and treat the Turkish minorities as true and equal citizens of the country.

Hrant Dink's assassination has shaken these scholars' and independent thinkers' belief in how much they can do to change the mentalities in Turkish society and muster support for facing history, dealing with the past, and rewriting the history of the country's pre-Republican era. Significant in this regard is Ahmet Altan's article, "1915-2007," published in the web newspaper *Gazetem.net*. He writes,

Nothing much has changed it seems.
They were murdered in 1915 as well....
They are being murdered in 2007 too....
What was being said about that massacre at the beginning of the last century.
"They killed us, and we killed them back?"
What are we going to say about the murder of Hrant then?
That Hrant killed us, and we killed Hrant back?

Altan continues questioning those in Turkey who "wrote" the history of 1915 and notes that if they were to write the murder of Hrant, "The children of this country would have said fifty years later that 'Hrant had killed us, and we killed Hrant back'." Altan feels himself and thinkers like him to be a part of the nation and not the state, and urges the state to question the Ottoman state that came before it, and to demand