

New Book by NAASR Board Member Rubina Peroomian

NAASR Board Member for Southern California Dr. Rubina Peroomian's new study, *And Those Who Continued Living in Turkey After 1915*, has been published by the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan.

In her earlier book *Literary Responses to Catastrophe: A Comparison of the Armenian and the Jewish Experience* (1993), she analyzed Armenian and Jewish literary works written in response to the horrors of genocide. Peroomian's new work focuses on the representation of

Armenians who continued living in Turkey after the Armenian Genocide. In the introduction, she writes, "I shift my focus to trace the effects of that past traumatic experience on the formation and metamorphosis of the identity of generations of Armenian survivors who continued living in Turkey."

With the recent political developments in the world, the wall of silence that had separated these Armenians from the outside world has been breached. The events of 1915 and the plight of the Armenian survivors in Turkey, be they Christian, Islamized, or hidden, have been depicted in literature produced in Turkey. Artistic expressions echo the continuing trauma in the life of these "rejects of the sword," as these Armenians are sometimes called in Turkey.

The stories that Turkish writers such as Kemal Yalcin have unearthed and the daring memoirs of Turkish citizens such as Fethiye Cetin with an Armenian in their ancestry, as well as obscured references to these same stories and events in Turkish-Armenian literature, have unveiled the full picture of survival, of lost family members, and of forced conversions and the dehumanization and sexual torture of men and women. A multifaceted image of what is broadly generalized as Turkish-Armenian thus emerges.

Dr. Peroomian's pioneering study is available from the NAASR Bookstore.

