THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE DIYARBAKIR'S ARMENIANS SPEAK

PREPARED BY: FERDA BALANCAR

WITH A FOREWORD BY ALİ BAYRAMOĞLU AND AN EPILOGUE BY ARZU ÖZTÜRKMEN

CONTENTS

Foreword, Ali Bayramoğlu, 1

"Your bones are sinful even if you convert to Islam", 7

"The departure of the Armenians took Diyarbakır's soul away", 25

"I learned about Armenian history in Los Angeles", 41

"My grandfather used to say "Let no one know that we are 'remnants of the sword'", 53

"They made him convert from his religion to Islam, and then wrote 'convert' on his identity card", 73

"You might forgive them if they apologize, but you can never forget", 85

"I am a Muslim, and an Armenian, if you don't believe me, look at history!", 93

"Our Islamicized relatives know 1915 better than we do", 111

"If someone feels Armenian then he is Armenian", 123

"We do not want it to be forgotten that Armenians lived in Diyarbakır", 133

"I am as much Kurdish as I am Armenian, and I am as much Armenian as I am Kurdish", 143

"If I were to visit Turkey I would like to begin in Diyarbakır", 161

"Our lullabies were in both Armenian and in Kurdish", 173

"Although I am a Muslim, I feel like an Armenian", 183

"Armenians did not give us a warm welcome, neither in Istanbul, nor in Canada", 193

"My mother used to call my father 'a remnant of the sword, a Muscovite", 209

Epilogue, Arzu Öztürkmen, 221 Index, 230