

CultureTalk Ahiska Turks Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Religion Holding a Community Together

English translation:

This people's severe cruelty,¹ the severe suffering they caused was not enough to make this community abandon their religion, customs and traditions. Umm... these.... This community, umm...I mean... as years went by, the more they caused pain the more firmly they [this community] held on to their [its] customs and traditions, the more firmly they held on to their religion. Umm. They started to practice religion, maybe even more firmly, maybe even more fervently than in the Middle East, than in Uzbekistan umm.... People... Their, I mean, their cruelty could not dismay, intimidate; it did not make them change their religion, of course. *Alhamdulillah*² up until this day, umm... we hold onto our religion firmly. We are living as our religion requires us to; we are fulfilling our customs and traditions as much as we can; we did not lose our language. However, whichever umm... republic, which ever state we went to, we worked hard to learn their language; we respected that society's language; we respected their religion ... I mean, us, the Islamic religion, Muslims, we respect all religions' prophets and respect their religion. We have continued to live by holding on tightly to our religion and still respecting others' religion, customs and traditions everywhere we went.

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¹ The speaker is referring to the Russians.

² *Alhamdulillah* is an Arabic statement which means "praise to God".