

English translation:

- Our... Abkhaz community, wherever they lived, they always lived with a yearning for their homeland. They never forgot their homeland; they always fought for their country. I mean, at the time, umm... there was...a society, a society for the homeland, that this society was always, umm... working to take the Abkhaz Turks back to their country. But, umm, always, during the times of the Soviet Union, false and empty promises were always made, such as, “you will see your country; you will go back,” but this never came true. As a member of, umm... the Abkhaz community, I too yearned to go where my mother and father and my ancestors lived, and live in my homeland. But we never had the chance to do this. Umm ... besides, even to go to Abkhaz soil and to visit we needed the KGB’s separate documentation and permission; this was required for one to go there and come back.

- So you mean Turkish people did not have any way to go back to their home country and, umm... visit their ancestors, and see how it is there? [The question is being asked in Russian.]

- Never. There could never be such a thing. They never received that right. Because the KGB was, umm... in charge. The KGB’s direct documentation and permission was required; its paperwork and permit was required to go to there and cross the borders and visit the Abkhaz lands, the lands of their mothers and fathers, and the land of their ancestors. They could not even visit their ancestors’ graves; a permission was required even for this community’s very small percentage maybe, umm... five or may be two percent could receive the chance to go back and visit within this 70 year-long period. Many people could not go; not many people could reach it. With a yearning... our grandfathers and grandmothers, our elderly, died with a yearning for the homeland.

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