



National Federation of Cypriots in the UK

Εθνική Κυπριακή Ομοσπονδία Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου

Working for a Free, United Cyprus

Rt Hon Boris Johnson
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

20 July 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Today, UK Cypriots mark 47 years since the illegal Turkish invasion and subsequent military occupation of the northern part of Cyprus – a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the European Union. Sadly, still no end to the injustices committed by Turkey on the island is in sight and the island remains forcefully divided. This tragic anniversary is a poignant one for the UK Cypriot diaspora, many of whom are refugees and are desperate to return to their homes and to see a free, united Cyprus. Our diaspora also includes individuals who are relatives of missing persons and are still waiting to hear about the fate of their loved ones.

We remain steadfast in our belief that a reunited Cyprus where all Cypriots could peacefully live and prosper together is both attainable and viable - a solution that is based on the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and High-Level Agreements. The reunification of the island would also further elevate the country as an international and regional hub. Unfortunately, efforts to reunify the island have not yet produced a successful outcome due to Turkey's continued efforts to exert its own influence on the island, obstructing the way to reunification. As you are aware, the UN Secretary General publicly stated that other proposals tabled by Turkey and the leader of its subordinate administration in Cyprus, Mr Tatar, namely for a "two state" solution, are contrary to UN Security Council resolutions and outside his mandate. The proposals were also rejected by the EU, within which a reunified Cyprus would continue to be a Member State.

Over the last six weeks, thousands of British voters have been emailing their MPs urging them to support six principles for a solution to the Cyprus issue, based on respect for Human Rights and International Law. With over 70% of MPs contacted by constituents, today I am urging you to support the same positions:

- A solution must be based on the internationally accepted and agreed model of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality and a single sovereignty, single international personality and single citizenship - as defined by relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the High-Level Agreements.
- Substantive negotiations on the Cyprus issue must resume from the point at which they were left off in Crans Montana in 2017, at which the UK participated as a guarantor power, represented by yourself, as the then Foreign Secretary
- A reunified Cyprus should be a functional state and a continuation of the Republic of Cyprus. This is the only way of protecting the sovereignty, international personality, territorial integrity and

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A complete list of member organisations and the names of all the current officers and members of the Secretariat of the Federation can be found on the Federation's website

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independence of the country, as well as the military and defence interests of the United Kingdom on the island

- Any actions or intentions that seek to create fait accomplis, the most pressing being the illegal re-opening of the Varosi beachfront, must be strongly opposed and prevented. You will be well aware of the intentions of President Erdogan to visit the occupied area on 20th July, having said that he will be making big announcements regarding the status of Varosi. You can appreciate the negative consequences that such actions would have on the efforts to find a Cyprus settlement.
- As Cyprus will continue being a member state of the European Union post solution, the EU must be allowed to play an active role in the negotiations to ensure that the solution is compatible with EU law and the *acquis*
- As a modern and free country, a reunified Cyprus does not require guarantor powers as part of its security framework. Only a reunified and truly independent Cyprus will deliver freedom, peace and security to all the island's people, contribute to peace and stability in the region and ensure that Cyprus will remain a reliable and stable partner for the UK in the future. This is how the UK's values and interests will best be served.

We welcome the Foreign Secretary's participation in the recent informal meeting on Cyprus in Geneva. We acknowledge also Her Majesty's Government's ("HMG") clear support for a solution in line with UN Security Council resolutions, as well as the readiness of HMG to support the ongoing efforts to restart formal negotiations. As a Guarantor Power, and an ally of Turkey, it is clear that HMG has a critical role to play in persuading Turkey to engage constructively in the next informal meeting and ensure that the Turkish side tables proposals that are within the agreed parameters of UN Security Council Resolutions.

Our community in the UK is becoming deeply concerned by President Erdogan's increasingly aggressive and authoritarian policies towards Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region. It is unfortunate that instead of working together towards a solution, Mr Tatar, with the active support of President Erdogan, have instead chosen to increase tensions and further poison the negotiating climate, including with illegally opening the beachfront of Varosi, illegal actions and aggressive posturing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as their unacceptable calls for a "two-state solution". Moreover, President Erdogan's reported visit to the occupied part of Cyprus, on this tragic anniversary, accompanied with his stated intention for a big announcement, is of particular concern. Their recent actions make it clear that we must not ignore the statements made by President Erdogan, members of his government and so-called officials of the illegal regime in the Turkish occupied part of Cyprus. The implementation of their threats regarding Varosi are a case in point. Turkey's illegal actions in Varosi, must be addressed with clear action and consequences from the international community, to ensure that they are reversed and Turkey ceases its violation of UN Security Council Resolutions.

The UK's relationship with Turkey is both close and multifaceted. As such, you have the power to make a lasting difference in relation to Cyprus and, on this tragic anniversary, I urge you to exercise this proactively and unequivocally. I look forward to hearing from you on this important issue, which is an open wound, not only for the Cypriots on the island, but for the vast Cypriot community in the UK as well as those who are friends of Cyprus across the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely,



Christos Karaolis

President, National Federation of Cypriots in the UK

Cc: Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs; Minister Wendy Morton MP; Rt. Hon. Sir Roger Gale MP; Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP; Mike Freer MP