



National Federation of Cypriots in the UK

Εθνική Κυπριακή Ομοσπονδία Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου

Working for a Free, United Cyprus

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

15 November 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 300,000 Britons of Cypriot origin on a tragic anniversary for our community. On 15 November 1983, the illegal regime in the occupied areas of Cyprus violated international law through a 'Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI)'. The United Nations Security Council condemned this move, declared it "legally invalid" and called for it to be "withdrawn", through UN Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984). Furthermore, the Security Council called on all states not to recognise, facilitate or in any way assist the secessionist entity.

Thirty eight years later, the UDI and the breakaway occupation regime in the northern part of Cyprus remain unrecognised by all countries around the world other than Turkey. Indeed, the UK Government made its position on the illegal 'UDI' very clear in 1983. At the time, the then Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said the following to the President of Turkey:

"As a guarantor power under the treaty of guarantee the British government deplor [sic] this action on the part of the Turkish Cypriot authorities. It is clearly incompatible with the 1960 treaty of guarantee. It can only complicate the already difficult task of reaching a settlement in Cyprus acceptable to the people of both communities and the activities of the United Nations Secretary General to achieve such a result."

"I should like to urge you, as President of one of the signatory states of the Treaty of Guarantee to do your utmost to secure the reversal of this action by the Turkish Cypriots and, meanwhile, not support the declaration which they have already made."

Despite international condemnation, the Republic of Turkey and the illegal occupation regime in Cyprus continue to provocatively celebrate this tragic event as they do on July 20th, the day of the illegal Turkish invasion, and use it as propaganda to advance their stated aim of permanently partitioning Cyprus. November 15th continues to be a dark and sorrowful day for Cypriots who want to see a free, united Cyprus.

President: Christos Karaolis · Email: christos.karaolis@cypriotfederation.org.uk

Vice Presidents: Bambos Charalambous, Michael Ellinas, Andreas Papaevripides · General Secretary: Michael KASHIS · Treasurer: Ninos Koumettou · Executive Secretary: Andreas Karaolis
Members of the Executive Committee: Constantine Alexandrou, Susie Constantinides, Andreas Gregoriou, Yiannis Koumettou, Menicos Kouvaros, Marios Minaides, Christos Tuton, Michael Yiakoumi
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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The illegal 'UDI' only confirmed Turkey's true ambition from the very start, for illegally invading and occupying Cyprus in 1974, namely, to permanently divide the island. Partition has now become the stated policy of the Government of Turkey and Mr Tatar, with President Erdogan repeatedly calling for a "two-state solution". This position is unacceptable and clearly violates the 1960 Treaties of Establishment and Guarantee, of which the UK is a co-signatory and Guarantor Power. It also undermines the long-standing agreed UN basis for negotiations towards a solution of the Cyprus issue as a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality, as defined by the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, with a single sovereignty, single citizenship and single international personality.

Turkey, as the occupying power, holds the key to the reunification of Cyprus. Regrettably, rather than engage constructively and positively towards a solution to the Cyprus issue, President Erdogan and Mr Tatar continue to increase tensions with Cyprus and other neighbours in the Eastern Mediterranean through provocative and illegal actions. Last month, Turkey continued its regular and repeated violations of the Republic of Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by sending three warships to block a licensed research vessel. Furthermore, there have been deeply troubling reports that Turkey is building a military drone base in occupied Lefkoniko, a military base on the Karpas peninsula, as well as a naval base, increasing its presence in what is already the most heavily militarised area in Europe, the occupied area of Cyprus. These actions come just months after the illegal 'opening' of part of the fenced off area of Varosi, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions 550 (1983), 789 (1992) and 2587 (2021) and the UN Security Council Presidential Statements dated 09 October 2020 and 23 July 2021. The actions not only undermine the climate of trust required to restart negotiations, they also pose a serious threat to regional stability which is a major strategic interest of the United Kingdom.

Moreover, successive Turkish governments have refused to let Cypriot people decide their own fate and have continued their policy of forced demographic changes in the occupied areas. The systematic transfer of Turkish nationals to the areas under occupation by Turkey, now means that the indigenous Turkish Cypriot community is outnumbered, close to 3:1 and tragically runs the risk of disappearing completely within a generation. Turkish Cypriots need a reunified Cyprus that serves the interests of all Cypriots, rather than a divided island where they are subject to, and fearful of, increasingly authoritarian policies and control directly from Ankara, as witnessed by the demonstrations on the streets of occupied Cyprus attended by tens of thousands.

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Turkey's actions are completely unacceptable and must be condemned in the strongest terms by the UK Government. As our Prime Minister, we urge you to play a proactive and constructive role on Cyprus to ensure that future generations of Cypriots grow up in a reunified country, safe from foreign occupation and division. Partition is unacceptable to the Cypriots, and, as repeatedly stated by successive Governments, to the United Kingdom. The only solution is a reunified Cyprus, as a bi-zonal bi-communal federation, that is based on the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and High-Level Agreements.

Yours sincerely,

Christos Karaolis
President, National Federation of Cypriots in the UK

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