



**TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

17 August 2023

Excellency,

I have the honour to bring to your kind attention the recent decision taken by the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) to commence construction works regarding the Pile – Yiğitler road project. As of today, the project has been launched.

Regarding this timely decision, the TRNC has been expressing the need for the said project, which envisages expanding and enhancing the existing road, for the past 25 years. Many consultations have taken place with UNFICYP, both aimed at illustrating the pressing need to facilitate the lives of our people, as well as to highlight our responsibility towards this end. To our dismay, our good-faith attempts to meet this humanitarian need have consistently been overlooked by all interested sides. Now, given that the implementation of this project has reached an irreversible stage for the well-being of Turkish Cypriot people living in the village of Pile, I would like to take this opportunity to recall some general information regarding the scope and goal of this project, with the confidence that it will be duly taken into account by Your Offices.

In this framework, it is crucial to note that this purely humanitarian project has been prepared with the aim of enabling the Turkish Cypriot residents of Pile to easily and freely access their own lands as well as the TRNC for schooling and similar needs; to improve their day-to-day circumstances; and to alleviate them from their current dependency on the random will of the Sovereign British Base (SBA) authorities while travelling between the TRNC and Pile. It is my firm belief that this humanitarian need, as well as the pertinence of preserving a fair and equitable approach to both Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples of the island, is sufficient justification to begin the road works, particularly in light of the unique advantage afforded to the Greek Cypriot people living in Pile, who are not subject to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, New York Office, 821 United Nations Plaza, Floor 13, New York, NY, 10017, which is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This material is filed with the Department of Justice where the required registration statement is available for public inspection. Registration does not indicate approval of the contents of this material by the United States Government.

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

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Moreover, despite our repeated objections, the Greek Cypriot people continue to be allowed to take unilateral initiatives in the buffer zone, in persistent violation of the status quo. To name a few examples, in 1996, the Greek Cypriot people monopolized the Pile section of the road in question and constructed the Larnaca – Dikhelia – Ayia Napa road, which even passes through land with Turkish title-deeds. Furthermore, the Pile – Oroklini road also passes through the buffer zone. Not to mention, the university in Pile continues to operate, as does the open-air cinema built to the south of the Derinya crossing point. Please find a comprehensive list of the GCA's violations of the buffer zone, enclosed herewith.

I am compelled to draw particular attention to the humanitarian nature of this long-overdue initiative of our Government, which **does not entail any territorial or military motives, nor does it aim to alter the status quo of the buffer zone, wherein the authority of the UN is acknowledged.** Moreover, in addition to assuming every aspect of the construction of the road, we intend to take the necessary measures concerning use of the road, as its sole purpose is to ease the lives of Turkish Cypriot residents of Pile. It should be underscored that this project has fully taken into consideration due respect towards the equal and inherent rights of both sides of the island and the spirit of cooperation, as good neighbors who must be able to coexist side-by-side. Needless to say, the unique mandate of the United Nations, in general, and UNFICYP, in particular, to remain at an equal distance to both sides remains a crucial component to its dealing with the Turkish Cypriot people: one of the two equal co-owners of the Island.

I would like to emphasize that the Greek Cypriot administration is not in a position to dictate terms or have any say regarding territory of the TRNC. Hence, any steps regarding TRNC territory are not subject to the protestations of the Greek Cypriot side, nor do they have a bearing on the outcome. TRNC authorities are the only relevant authorities with jurisdiction, as well as a responsibility over the rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriot people.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Buffer Zone Violations of the Greek Cypriot Administration

- In 1996 Greek Cypriot side has constructed Larnaca- Dhikelia- Ayia Napa road. The road goes through Turkish Cypriot property situated in the buffer zone and the village of Pile.
- In 2004 Greek Cypriot side has constructed the Pile- Oroklini road. The road goes through the buffer zone.
- In 2003 a Flag of Greece has been drawn on a hill in Troulloi, a village situated in the buffer zone. The Flag has recently been renewed. The UN has tacitly agreed to this by remaining silent.
- In 2012 a huge university building has been constructed in Pile, which is being extended each year.
- Since 2019 Greek Cypriot Administration has constructed around 300 concrete military positions for heavy artilleries, some of which being situated in the buffer zone.
- In 2020 an open air cinema has been constructed in Derinya, in the buffer zone. The cinema is still in operation.
- Since 2021 Greek Cypriot side has been carrying out construction activities in the Çağlayan pitch (Gymnasium school), which situated in the buffer zone. The pitch has been gradually extended. Crowded demonstrations with Greek and Greek Cypriot flags are being carried out within the pitch.
- Since 2021 Greek Cypriot side has installed 12 km long Concentra wires along the buffer zone. %85 of the installed wires violate the buffer zone.
- In 2021 Greek Cypriot side has signed an agreement with Israel for the installation of a surveillance system along the buffer zone in order to monitor the buffer zone and the Turkish Cypriot side.
- In 2022 Greek Cypriot side has renovated a building in the village of Pile, setting up a kindergarten for Ukrainian children, without asking for the permission of the Turkish Cypriot authorities.
- Greek Cypriot side has installed several solar fields in the buffer zone with the authorization of UNFICYP.
- Greek Cypriot civilians organise demonstrations at the Dragos Squire, in the buffer zone. UNFICYP remains inactive towards the demonstrators violating the buffer zone.
- Dragos squire is being used as a civilian parking area. The traffic cones installed by the Turkish Cypriot authorities in order to prevent civilian parking are being regularly removed by UNFICYP personnel and the buffer zone is being constantly violated.
- UN 75 (observation post) is being used as a civilian parking slot.

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