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Excellency,

In view of the continued exploitation by Greek Cypriot representatives of the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side at international platforms, I feel obliged to write in response to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the Security Council meeting on “*the protection of civilians in armed conflict*” during which the legal and historical facts about Cyprus were once again blatantly distorted.

The ongoing human tragedy in Gaza reminds us once again of the grim reality that it is civilians that bear the brunt of armed conflicts. The Turkish Cypriot people are well aware of the consequences of aggression on civilian populations as they themselves were subjected to an ethnic cleansing campaign (*the Akritas Plan*) at the hands of Greek/Greek Cypriot armed elements between 1963 and 1974 with the ultimate aim of achieving the annexation of the island to Greece (*Enosis*). In fact, it was this large-scale violence and ensuing gross human rights violations that necessitated the UN Security Council to deploy UNFICYP to the island in 1964 in order to stop the bloodshed and atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people.

With regard to the comment made by the Greek Cypriot representative about “displacement” of people in relation to Cyprus, he conveniently chooses to ignore the fact that this issue dates back to 1963, when the Turkish Cypriot people throughout the island had to flee their homes for the fear of their lives in the face of the Greek Cypriot onslaught which lasted for eleven years. Furthermore, even though many Turkish Cypriot people as well as Greek Cypriot people were displaced in 1974 as a result of the Greek/Greek Cypriot coup d’état and its aftermath, the question of displaced persons was settled through the Voluntary Exchange of Populations Agreement reached between the two sides in Cyprus at the third round of talks held in Vienna in 1975. The Agreement was implemented under the supervision of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and both the Agreement as well as its implementation are well-recorded in the relevant UN documents (S/11789 of 5 August 1975, S/11789/Add.1 of 10 September 1975). With regard to her remarks in relation to the issue of missing persons, I would like to reiterate that it is an issue that affects both Turkish Cypriot people and Greek Cypriot people alike. As the Turkish Cypriot side, we are doing our utmost for the humanitarian issues by constructively engaging in and contributing to the work of the Committee on Missing Persons.

H.E. Mr. Joonkoon Hwang
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations and
President of the Security Council for the month of June 2024
New York

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(CMP) so that the CMP can successfully deliver on its mandate. Despite this humanitarian stance of the Turkish Cypriot side, the sole aim of the Greek Cypriot side, *alas*, is to politicize this humanitarian issue for political propaganda purposes before international platforms, including the UN, rather than to engage positively with the Turkish Cypriot side in the work of the Committee.

The Greek Cypriot representative, who attempts to portray the Greek Cypriot side as the champion of individual and collective human rights and fundamental freedoms, conveniently ignores the gravest human rights violation on the island, namely the unjust and inhuman isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people at the instigation of the Greek Cypriot administration. These all-encompassing restrictions range from denying the Turkish Cypriot people the right to representation in the international arena, even in cultural, academic and sports events; to preventing and restricting their travel abroad and their communication with the outside world; to curtailing trade relations with other countries. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the unjust isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people is the most important element poisoning the relations between the two sides and their peoples, thus undermining the prospects of a negotiated agreement on the island.

I would also like to underline once again that none of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish presence on the island, which is in line with the 1959 International Cyprus Treaties, as "occupation". As is known, Guarantor Türkiye had to intervene after eleven years of Turkish Cypriot suffering at the hands of the Greek Cypriot militia which culminated into the coup attempt organized by the military junta in Athens and its Greek Cypriot collaborators, aiming to achieve *Enosis* and the total annihilation of Turkish Cypriot people. In view of the foregoing, as well as the current human sufferings inflicted by recent conflicts worldwide, it is without any doubt that the Guarantee system in Cyprus is more relevant and necessary than ever.

In view of the above, it is clear that the misleading remarks of the Greek Cypriot representative are not corroborated by legal and historical facts pertaining to the island. In a similar vein, we call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue its hostile rhetoric and choose the path of reconciliation and peaceful co-existence with the Turkish Cypriot people by utilizing our proposal aimed at finding a freely negotiated and mutually acceptable agreement in Cyprus based on the sovereign equality and equal international status of the two States on the island.

I would be grateful if the present letter is circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

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

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Mehmet Dâna
Representative

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus