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1 July 2024

Excellency,

I am writing in response to the event that took place at the United Nations Headquarters on 14 June 2024 which was organised by the Greek Cypriot side to mark ostensibly the 60th anniversary of UNFICYP's deployment to the island. The said unilateral event held within the UN premises and with UN participation has allowed the Greek Cypriot side to use this anniversary as an excuse to exploit the UN platform, once again, for political propaganda purposes and to blatantly distort legal and historical facts regarding Cyprus. Therefore, I am compelled to respond in writing in order to set the record straight.

In order to be able to fully comprehend and analyse the ramifications of UNFICYP's six decade-old presence on the island, one should first remember the very reason which necessitated its deployment to Cyprus in the first place. As is known, the Force was sent to the island against the backdrop of a collapsed partnership following the forceful hijacking by the Greek Cypriot side of the government of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus and the ensuing gross human rights violations perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people throughout the island. Its professed aim, therefore, was to help protect the Turkish Cypriot people from such heinous atrocities and enable them to preserve their equal and undeniable inherent rights on the island. It, however, did just the opposite. Not only these reprehensible crimes continued unabated, but UNFICYP's one-sided and biased policies against the Turkish Cypriot people also helped consolidate the Greek Cypriot usurpation of the partnership Republic. It is, therefore, not surprising that the Greek Cypriot side considers the continued existence of the Force on the island imperative and indispensable in preserving its unlawful title as the government of the entire island, as it was the deployment of UNFICYP and the policies it pursued thereafter that played a major role in the creation of this fallacy.

It is regrettable that the Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister was provided by the United Nations with the opportunity to utter baseless claims including allegations of so-called "invasion and occupation of the island by Türkiye", notwithstanding the fact that he is, no doubt, well aware that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus refer to Türkiye's legitimate intervention, which was carried out in line with her rights and obligations under 1959 Cyprus International Treaties, as "invasion" or her subsequent presence on the island as "occupation". In a manner adding insult to injury, such baseless allegations were made within the UN premises and in the presence of a UN official, who chose to remain silent.

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

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As for the anniversary in question, the Turkish Cypriot side is of the view that this is not a joyful occasion to celebrate, but a stark reminder that after six decades the Force is still on the island and a political agreement to the Cyprus issue remains as elusive as ever. This begs the question whether UNFICYP can still be considered as part of the solution or has become part of the problem. The said event, unfortunately, is not an isolated incident but yet another example of the biased treatment of the UN/UNFICYP of the Turkish Cypriot people. In fact, we have been raising our legitimate concerns, alas unsuccessfully, regarding the persistent and systematic biased treatment by UNFICYP of the Turkish Cypriot people for a very long time with the expectation that it can be rectified, paving the way for a more impartial and balanced relationship between the UNFICYP and the two equal sides in Cyprus. The dismissal by the United Nations of our legitimate concerns in this regard is deeply troubling and is not what is expected of such an esteemed organisation.

In view of the foregoing, it is long overdue for the United Nations organisation to decide whether, unwittingly or not, it will continue to allow itself to be exploited by the Greek Cypriot side as a convenient tool in consolidating the “unacceptable” and “unsustainable” status quo in the island and thus be an accomplice in the basic human rights violations perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people or after sixty years it would finally reflect on its failed policies in Cyprus and adopt a more impartial and realistic approach in line with the basic tenets of the United Nations Charter and its founding principles; such as human rights, human dignity and equality for all.

I would be grateful if the present letter is circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40 of its 78th Session, and of the Security Council.

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



Mehmet Dâna
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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