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**Security Council
Eightieth year**

**Letter dated 10 June 2025 from the Permanent Representative of
Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 10 June 2025, addressed to you by Mehmet Dâna, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmet Yıldız
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 June 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter addressed to you by Ersin Tatar, the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its enclosure could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehmet Dâna
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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Enclosure

I am writing to request your kind intervention regarding a deeply concerning development involving a series of arrests initiated by the Greek Cypriot leadership. These arrests have targeted both Turkish Cypriots and foreign nationals engaged with properties abandoned by Greek Cypriots in the north following the events of 1974.

The situation has escalated alarmingly as the Greek Cypriot Administration pursues an intimidation campaign, reviving and enforcing a dormant domestic law dating back to 1959, amended in 2006 and re-amended in February 2025. This policy, reactivated in 2024, aims to criminalize individuals involved in lawful property transactions under the jurisdiction of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Its effect has been to frighten not only Turkish Cypriots but also other foreign nationals.

The first arrest occurred in December 2023, when a Turkish Cypriot lawyer was apprehended in Italy through an International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Red Notice issued at the request of the Greek Cypriot Administration. This was followed by the arrest of a Turkish businessman, Simon Mistriel Aykut, in South Cyprus in June 2024. Over a year later, he remains in custody, awaiting trial. Between September 2024 and March 2025, five additional individuals of various nationalities were arrested.

These individuals include not only property developers but also estate agents, lawyers and promoters. The law's scope is so broad that virtually anyone associated with these properties could face prosecution. Disturbingly, recent reports in the Greek Cypriot press suggest that even judges and civil servants involved in such cases may be targeted. The situation reached a new level of concern with the sentencing of two of those arrested, both Hungarian nationals, to prison terms of up to two and a half years after nearly a year in pretrial detention.

It is important to recall that, in 2005, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus established the Immovable Property Commission under the guidance of the European Court of Human Rights. This mechanism allows Greek Cypriots to seek redress for their property claims in the north. The European Court of Human Rights has deemed the Commission an accessible and effective domestic remedy. The alternative, as the Court has stated, is to await a comprehensive political settlement.

I would further like to underline that, as part of this broader policy, the Greek Cypriot side is usurping its internationally recognized status and its membership in international policing cooperation bodies such as INTERPOL to place Turkish Cypriots and other nationals on wanted lists, treating them as criminals for engaging in legal transactions under Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus law.

For example, in April 2025, a Turkish Cypriot businessperson was denied entry into the United Arab Emirates due to an INTERPOL notice. Each day, I receive calls from my citizens who fear arrest abroad, including university students targeted through family connections.

As you may recall, I raised these grave concerns during our bilateral meeting in New York in September 2024 and again in Geneva in March 2025. I also addressed the matter during our meetings with the Greek Cypriot leader, both at the informal dinner hosted by you in October 2024 in New York and during consecutive leaders' meetings held on the island. However, the Greek Cypriot leader insists that this is a "judicial process" beyond his control.

The "new atmosphere" that you announced following our Geneva meeting is now under serious threat. The atmosphere on the island could best be described as tense and fearful. Many Turkish Cypriots avoid crossing to the south or travelling

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abroad, worried about the possibility of arrest and detention. Some have even likened the current environment to a state of undeclared war, recalling the traumatic memories of the 1963–1974 period. What once felt like the distant past now feels much nearer, as looking towards the future becomes increasingly difficult. This fear and anxiety threaten to push us farther away from each other and from building trust.

My people are anxious and under pressure and feel increasingly threatened. Many demand retaliation, a course that I have thus far resisted. Under these circumstances, the considerable time and effort that you have so far devoted to Cyprus risk being undermined. However, I appeal now to your able leadership to act decisively to halt these ongoing violations of human rights by the Greek Cypriot Administration, before the situation deteriorates further and reaches a point of no return.

(Signed) Ersin Tatar
President

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