

The President of the Security Council presents her compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their information, a copy of a **letter dated 10 June 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye** to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, and its enclosure.

This letter and its enclosure will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2025/369.

10 June 2025

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Permanent Mission of Türkiye
to the United Nations
Ambassador

NEW YORK

2025/14136816/40129968

10 June 2025

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 June 2025, addressed to you by Mr. Mehmet Dâna, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

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

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



Ahmet Yıldız
Permanent Representative

Encl.: As stated.

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

c.c.
H.E. Mrs. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett
President of the Security Council
United Nations
New York

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6 June 2025

Excellency,

I am writing in response to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the UN Security Council meeting on the implementation of resolution 2474 (2019) regarding persons reported missing in armed conflict held on 15 May 2025, which once again blatantly distorted facts pertaining to Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot side has long been exploiting the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side at international platforms in order to mislead the international community and to divert attention from its sole responsibility for the creation as well as the continuation of the Cyprus issue.

A case in point is our request to attend the aforementioned meeting, which was not facilitated notwithstanding the fact that the issue of missing persons in Cyprus is a matter affecting both Turkish Cypriot people and Greek Cypriot people. As is known, the Turkish Cypriot people unfortunately had to endure widespread atrocities between the fateful years of 1963-1974. 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. No doubt, any discussion on the issue of missing persons in Cyprus in the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side, as one of the two parties to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP), which operates under the auspices of the UN, cannot portray the whole picture regarding the matter in an objective and factual manner.

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

cc: H.E. Mrs. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett
Permanent Representative of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
to the United Nations and President of the Security Council
for the month of June 2025
New York

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By exploiting the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side, Greek Cypriot representatives have long been misinforming the international community by portraying the Cyprus issue as one of “invasion” and “occupation”. As a matter of fact, none of the UN Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention in the island, carried out in line with the 1959 International Cyprus Treaties, as “invasion” or its subsequent presence on the island 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 at the annexation of the entire island to Greece (*Enosis*) and the total annihilation of Turkish Cypriot people. In view of past experiences and current human sufferings inflicted by recent conflicts worldwide, it is without any doubt that the Guarantee system in Cyprus is now more relevant and necessary than ever.

Furthermore, it should be underlined that the Cyprus issue commenced in 1963, not in 1974, when the Greek Cypriot side forcibly usurped the title of the partnership Republic of Cyprus and expelled the Turkish Cypriot partner from all state organs. During the years from 1963 to 1974, a period that the Greek Cypriot representative has conveniently chosen to ignore, the Greek Cypriot militia, aided and encouraged by Greece, took part in an ethnic cleansing campaign against the Turkish Cypriot people, known as the *Akritas Plan*, with the ultimate aim of achieving *Enosis*. Notwithstanding the plethora of UN documents attesting to these crimes against humanity, the fact that there is no single reference to them in the said statement is testimony to the fact that these remarks are not fact-based, but another episode of the well-known Greek Cypriot propaganda machinery.

With regard to the statements made in relation to the issue of missing persons, I would like to reiterate that the Turkish Cypriot side is doing its utmost on this humanitarian issue, which affects both Turkish Cypriot people and Greek Cypriot people alike, by contributing to the work of the CMP so that it can successfully deliver on its mandate. It should also be underlined in this regard that the majority of the Turkish Cypriot missing persons are civilians, whereas the majority of the Greek Cypriot missing persons are military personnel. Despite the humanitarian stance of the Turkish Cypriot side regarding the matter, 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 in the work of the CMP.

With a view to supporting the work of the CMP, the Turkish Cypriot side has established an Archive Committee in 2016, which is composed of military authorities, police authorities, experts from the Ministry of Health and National Archives as well as other relevant units of the Government, to examine the relevant archives for the information requested by the CMP regarding the location of missing persons. In this connection, access was given to the Turkish Cypriot Member's Office to check aerial photos from 1974. The Turkish Cypriot side has also established an investigation unit under the TRNC Presidency to examine all relevant archives in order to gather information requested by the CMP regarding the potential locations of missing persons, as well as the Missing Persons Unit (MPU) which conducts criminal investigations into the cases of the

identified Greek Cypriot missing persons under the supervision of the constitutionally independent TRNC Attorney-General's Office. Furthermore, upon finding evidence of potential burial places, the Turkish Cypriot side accommodates the access of the CMP to any area throughout the TRNC, be it by interrupting the construction of a major road or giving access to military areas that the CMP asks for according to its work plan. So far, 99 excavations were carried out in the military areas located in the TRNC and an additional 3 excavations were carried out in the buffer zone with the consent of the military authorities of the TRNC, whereas only 2 excavations were carried out in the military areas within the Greek Cypriot administration. It should be also noted that both the TRNC and Türkiye continue to support the CMP financially.

Busy with spreading disinformation about the Turkish Cypriot side and Türkiye, the Greek Cypriot side is yet to give any response to the call of the CMP to search its military or police reports, logbooks, medical reports or any other document that may include information about potential burial sites or remains belonging to missing persons. None of the criminal investigations conducted into the deaths of Turkish Cypriot missing persons resulted in the identification of the perpetrators or the prosecution of those identified. Moreover, to this day, the Greek Cypriot side has failed to reciprocate in terms of facilitating access to all military areas as well as the archives of the Greek Cypriot police who were involved firsthand in the mass atrocities against the Turkish Cypriot people, particularly during 1963-1964.

While it is important to do our utmost to bring to a closure, to the extent possible, the emotional repercussions of past sufferings, it is also crucial that we do not lose sight of the basic human rights violations that we still face today. In this context, I would like to draw your kind attention to 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 sporting 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.

Against this background, it is clear that the misleading remarks of the Greek Cypriot representative are not corroborated by legal and historical facts pertaining to the island. Thus, instead of levelling unfounded accusations, which only create an environment of mistrust and hostility between the two peoples of the island, the Greek Cypriot side should make more effort to create an atmosphere conducive to cooperation between the two sides in Cyprus, as also called upon in Your Excellency's Report of 3 January 2025 (S/2025/6).

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to also remind the Greek Cypriot administration that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Türkiye.

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I would be grateful if the present letter is circulated, under agenda item 40 of its 79th Session, as an official document of the General Assembly 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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