



OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS
821 UN PLAZA, 13TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017
Tel: (212) 687-2350
E-mail: newyork@mfa.gov.ct.tr

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Excellency,

I am writing in response to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot Representative at the thematic debate of the UN Security Council on Women, Peace and Security, which once again blatantly distorted facts pertaining to Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot side has 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. Therefore, I am compelled to respond in writing in order to set the record straight.

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.

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

cc: H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang
President of the General Assembly
of the United Nations
New York

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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. This large-scale violence and ensuing gross human rights violations, which also included conflict-related sexual violence, necessitated the UN Security Council to deploy UNFICYP in 1964 in order to stop the bloodshed and the atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people. 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.

Failing to acknowledge the above-mentioned violence perpetrated by the Greek Cypriot side against the Turkish Cypriot people between 1963 and 1974, and attempting to attribute events that never occurred to Türkiye, constitutes yet another example of the blatant distortion of facts pertaining to Cyprus. The legitimate and justified intervention of Guarantor Türkiye not only put an end to all sorts of violence against the Turkish Cypriot people, but also to the violence carried out by the Greek Cypriot militia against their own people. Greek Cypriot representatives are, in fact, well aware that Guarantor Türkiye brought peace to the island in 1974. 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 continuing unfounded accusations, the Greek Cypriot side should adopt a sincere approach for the solution of the Cyprus issue on the basis of the current realities of the island, which would, *inter alia*, respect the inherent rights of the Turkish Cypriots.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to also remind the Greek Cypriot administration that its counterpart is, and should be, the Turkish Cypriot administration of Türkiye.

I would be grateful if the present letter is circulated under agenda item 40 of its 79th Session, as an official document of the United States Security Council.

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

Murat Soysal
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus