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16 June 2026

Excellency,

I am writing in response to the statements made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the Security Council open debates on the “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” held between 20-21 May 2026 and “Upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and strengthening the UN-centered international system” held on 28 May 2026. As Greek Cypriot representatives have long been exploiting the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side at international platforms to blatantly distort historical and legal facts about Cyprus, I am compelled to respond in writing in order to set the record straight.

At the outset, with reference to the misleading statements of the Greek Cypriot representative allow me to underline, once again, that there is no single authority in Cyprus capable of representing both the Turkish Cypriot people and the Greek Cypriot people or the entire island. In this respect, the peculiar and unresolved nature of the Cyprus issue does not confer upon either side the right or legitimacy to claim or exercise authority over the other, nor does it entitle either party to claim the unilateral right to represent the island as a whole. Unfortunately, in our absence, the Greek Cypriot side continues to act as if it is the sole voice and representative of the island, when in fact there exist two separate States and two separate peoples in Cyprus. Thus, statements made by Greek Cypriot representatives under their purported title as the representatives of the so-called “Republic of Cyprus” are detached from the realities and are legally null and void as far as the Turkish Cypriot people are concerned.

As for the unfounded references made by Greek Cypriot representative to Türkiye’s legitimate intervention carried out under the Treaty of Guarantee, as well as to the subsequent presence of the Turkish troops on the island as “illegal foreign military invasion and ongoing occupation”, it should be noted that none of the UN Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe Türkiye’s legitimate and justified presence on the island carried out in accordance with the 1959

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

**cc: H.E. Mrs. Leonor Zalabata Torres**  
**President of the Security Council**  
**New York**

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International Treaties on Cyprus as “invasion,” or its subsequent presence as an “occupation”.

As is well known, the Cyprus issue commenced not in 1974, but in 1963 when the Greek Cypriot co-founder of the 1960 Partnership Republic of Cyprus tried to impose its political will on the Turkish Cypriot co-founder by force of arms and illegally converted the bi-national Republic into a purely Greek Cypriot entity by expelling its Turkish Cypriot partner from all state organs. This was followed by eleven years of Turkish Cypriot suffering at the hands of the Greek Cypriot militia, which culminated into the coup organized by the military junta in Athens and its Greek Cypriot collaborators, aiming for the annexation of the entire island to Greece (*Enosis*) and the total annihilation of the Turkish Cypriot people in line with the notorious *Akritas Plan*.

In the wake of the aforementioned eleven-year period of Turkish Cypriot suffering, and in the face of the coup, in 1974, Guarantor Türkiye was obliged to intervene, in accordance with her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee. In fact, the Greek Cypriot side is also well aware that the intervention of Guarantor Türkiye brought peace to the island 52 years ago by putting an end not only to the violence inflicted against the Turkish Cypriot people, but also to the violence committed by the Greek Cypriot militia against its own people.

It is important to note that the claim regarding “displacement” is part of archaic Greek Cypriot propaganda that conveniently omits the fact that this issue dates back to 1963, when Turkish Cypriot people throughout the island were forced to flee their homes out of fear for their lives and were forced to live in enclaves comprising a mere 3% of the island between 1963-1974. It should be underlined that, though many Turkish Cypriot people as well as Greek Cypriot people were also displaced in 1974 as a result of the Greek/Greek Cypriot coup and its aftermath, the question of displaced persons was comprehensively settled through the Voluntary Exchange of Populations Agreement reached between the two sides at the third round of talks held in Vienna in 1975.

As per the issue of missing persons, the Greek Cypriot side, abusing the seats they are not entitled to in international institutions, misinforms the international community and distorts realities depicting the matter as if it started in 1974 and as if it only affects the Greek Cypriots. The reality, however, is that the issue of missing persons has affected Turkish Cypriots since 1963. The losses of Turkish Cypriots consist not only of forcibly disappeared civilians, but also of civilians killed between 1963-1974 by EOKA, the Greek Cypriot terrorist organization which had the aim of fighting for *Enosis*, encompassing the total annihilation of the Turkish Cypriot people.

The Greek Cypriot representative’s call for the UN Security Council to strengthen its future provisions regarding missing persons and to enhance the international response to this humanitarian issue stands in clear contrast to the Greek Cypriot side’s continued failure to take the necessary steps within its own responsibility, including providing the relevant archival information and cooperation with the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP) for the Turkish Cypriot 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. In this regard, it must also be remembered that all of the Turkish Cypriot missing are civilians, such as the 126 unarmed infants, children, women and elders, ranging in age from 16 days to 95 years old, who were massacred by

the Greek Cypriot militia in the villages of Muratağa, Athılar and Sandallar, and buried in mass graves in August 1974. In contrast, the majority of Greek Cypriot missing persons are armed combatants. Despite these facts, the Greek Cypriot side seeks to politicize the humanitarian issue of missing persons on the island and intentionally omits any reference to Turkish Cypriot missing persons in an attempt to absolve themselves of responsibility.

In order to support the work of the CMP, as the Turkish Cypriot side, we have established an Archive Committee in 2016 to examine the relevant archives for the information requested by the CMP regarding the location of missing persons. In this connection, the Turkish Cypriot Member's Office was given access to aerial photos from 1974. In addition, the Turkish Cypriot side continues to facilitate access to potential burial sites, including those located within military areas, where access is granted upon the request of the CMP based on its own work plan. 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. It should also be noted that both the TRNC and Türkiye continue to support the CMP financially since 2006.

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 review 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. Moreover, to this day, the Greek Cypriot side has failed to reciprocate in terms of facilitating access to all military areas as well as to the archives of the Greek Cypriot police, who were involved firsthand in the mass atrocities against the Turkish Cypriot people, particularly during 1963-1964. Likewise, although Greek Cypriot Member is alleged to have access to the 1974 archives of the Greek Cypriot National Guard, no information has been provided to the Committee to date. Therefore, the call of the Greek Cypriot side to the UN regarding missing persons is nothing but insincere. It is also worth noting that Greece did not provide the CMP with any archival information despite CMP's call upon all the countries which maintained military personnel on the island between 1963-1964 and 1974.

Lastly, if the Greek Cypriot side is sincere in its professed concern about the protection of humanitarian and UN personnel, then it can simply start by investigating the threats against UN peacekeepers and personnel of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees by the Greek Cypriot police who, as highlighted in Your Excellency's report (S/2025/6, Para 24), exhibited aggressive behavior toward UNFICYP personnel during their forced pushbacks of asylum seekers into the buffer zone. It is concerning that "no confirmation has been received of the promised investigations" (S/2025/447, Para 23) into these crimes against peacekeepers by the Greek Cypriot side.

It is also particularly telling that Greek Cypriot representatives continue to make repeated references to the United Nations Charter while conveniently refraining from acknowledging the ethnic cleansing campaign carried out against the Turkish Cypriot people between 1963 and 1974, in which elements of the Greek Cypriot militia were involved, or the inhumane restrictions stemming from deliberate political choices, restrictive measures and unilateral actions inflicted by the Greek

Cypriot leadership, which directly affect the Turkish Cypriot people in all walks of life. All of these practices are not only inconsistent with the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter but also hinder efforts aimed at fostering meaningful engagement between the two sides as well as between the Turkish Cypriot people and the international community.

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.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated, under agenda item 40, as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

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



**Murat Soysal**  
**Representative**  
**Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus**



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June 16, 2026

U.S. Department of Justice/NSD  
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Re: Office of the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus  
Registration No. 2619  
Filing of Copy of Document Disseminated June 16, 2026.

Dear Madam/Sir:

Enclosed for filing please find the following disseminated document:

- 1. Dissemination Date: June 16, 2026.** A four (4) page letter dated June 16, 2026 from H.E. Mr. Murat Soysal, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in New York to H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations and H.E. Mrs. Leonor Zalabata Torres, the President of the Security Council for the month of June 2026, for its circulation to all members of the Security Council and General Assembly as an official UN document.

Sincerely yours,

Murat Soysal  
Representative