

Oppose H.Res.1199 – “Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and occupation of Northern Cyprus.”

Background

- H.Res. 1199 is a one-sided resolution with inflammatory and misleading language, which only risks complicating the issue.
- The Cyprus issue is an ongoing dispute between the Greek Cypriot community and the Turkish Cypriot community.
- The Cyprus conflict did not start in 1974.
- The period of 1958-1974 has been marked by intercommunal struggles, particularly the challenges and fear faced by the Turkish Cypriots.
- There is a reason why the UN troops were stationed on the island in 1964. It was for the specific purpose of stopping the aggression against the Turkish Cypriots.
- The conflict's roots stem from ethnic Greek nationalist ideology, Greek-Cypriot sentiment, the Megali Idea and Enosis which means union with Greece. This aspiration has not changed over the past six decades, and still constructs the backbone of Greek Cypriot policy; both President Makarios during 1960s and President Christodoulides in 2023 and most recently 2024 still make the same style speeches and pose in front of a “ΕΛΛΑΣ ΚΥΠΡΟΣ ΕΝΩΣΙΣ” sign, meaning “GREECE CYPRUS UNION”.
- It is exactly this aspiration which led to the destruction of the 1960 partnership Republic within the 3rd year of its establishment.
- Turkish intervention in 1974 also did not materialize overnight. A Greek junta-sponsored Cypriot coup d'état took place aiming to get rid of Turkish Cypriots once and for all and achieving the union with Greece. The other two guarantor powers being reluctant to intervene, ultimately led to the unilateral Turkish intervention in Cyprus in accordance with its right as stated in the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee.
- The aim of the coup was the union (enosis) of Cyprus with Greece.
- Following decades of struggle, and the natural need to govern themselves the Turkish Cypriot leadership formed its own administrative system which later culminated into the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983 always maintaining the vision for a negotiated settlement which would entail the equal political status of the two sides and including this vision in the declaration itself.
- After 60 years of negotiations and Greek Cypriot rejection to share equal power with the Turkish Cypriots through various proposals, there continues to be broad international isolation imposed upon the Northern Cyprus de facto state.

Successful passage of such one-sided resolutions would:

- Lead to perceptions of bias, potentially damaging the U.S.'s role as a neutral stakeholder in the Cyprus issue.
- Undermine the delicate mission of the United Nations Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Cyprus, Maria Angela Holguin Cuellar which is to make an assessment of the situation on the island.

Oppose H.Res.1199 – “Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and occupation of Northern Cyprus.”