

CYPRUS

still occupied
still divided
1974-2016





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CYPRUS STILL OCCUPIED, STILL DIVIDED

In July 1974, Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus in violation of the UN Charter and the fundamental principles of international law. Beyond the immense human suffering and the great material losses, the dire consequences of the invasion and subsequent forcible division and military occupation by Turkey are still felt today, given that:

- 36.2% of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Cyprus is still under illegal military occupation by Turkey, with the presence of thousands of heavily armed Turkish troops rendering the occupied area of Cyprus, proportionally, one of the most militarised regions in the world.
- 200,000 Greek Cypriots, over a third of the total population, who were forcibly expelled from the occupied northern part of the Republic of Cyprus, where they constituted about 70% of the population, are still deprived of the right to return to their homes and properties.
- About 1,020 persons, civilians and soldiers, are still missing, while the Turkish side refuses to cooperate fully in ascertaining their fate.
- Less than 420 Greek Cypriots and Maronites, out of 20,000 at the end of August 1974, remain enclaved in their villages, which are still occupied, living under conditions of oppression and deprivation.

- The demographic structure and balance of Cyprus has been altered due to the illegal mass transfer of settlers from Turkey to the occupied areas, as well as the emigration of thousands of Turkish Cypriots from the island after the Turkish invasion. Turkish Cypriots are now vastly outnumbered by troops and settlers from Turkey, thus constituting the minority in the occupied areas.
- The usurpation of Greek Cypriot properties continues through the illegal construction on Greek Cypriot land and the illegal sale of property owned by Greek Cypriots, who were forcibly expelled from their homes after the Turkish invasion.
- Priceless religious and archaeological treasures – part of the world’s cultural heritage – are still in danger, while many churches, monuments, cemeteries and archaeological sites have been destroyed, desecrated or vandalised.

A series of UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, as well as resolutions adopted by numerous other international organisations, reflect the universal condemnation of Turkey’s invasion and all subsequent acts of aggression against Cyprus. The resolutions demand, amongst other, the withdrawal of foreign troops, the return of refugees to their homes in safety and the ascertainment of the fate of the missing persons. Moreover, they call for the respect of the human rights of all Cypriots as well as for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus. More recently, the European Court of Human Rights, in its judgment against Turkey on

12 May 2014, has found the government of Turkey responsible for gross and systematic violations of human rights in Cyprus.

Successive rounds of UN-sponsored talks between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to resolve the Cyprus problem did not yield a positive result due to the negative stance of the Turkish side, which holds the key to a solution to the Cyprus problem. The Greek Cypriot side, on the other hand, remains steadfast on positions of principle, proceeds to the negotiating table in good faith and with targeted proposals, seeking to rid Cyprus from Turkish troops and to reunify the country and its people in a modern, functional European state.

President Anastasiades is focusing his efforts on reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, firmly based on the United Nations Security Council Resolutions, the High Level Agreements and the Joint Declaration of 11 February 2014. Such a settlement will be fully in line with the EU law, values and principles, and will see the evolution of the Republic of Cyprus to a system of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation, with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship. Under these circumstances the rights and interests of all Cypriots will be safeguarded, while Cyprus will be a modern European country that can be an asset to its European, regional and transatlantic partners. In essence, the EU constitutes the best safeguard and guarantee for reunited Cyprus and its people.



Since May 2015, negotiations have unfolded in an overall improved and more positive climate, and common understanding has been reached on an important number of issues. However, there are still several outstanding differences, while substantive discussions on decisive matters have not been yet held.

President Anastasiades believes that a settlement is possible, if all interested parties engage with seriousness, discussing and submitting constructive proposals on all pending issues, while refraining from actions that could jeopardise the good climate. Turkey's contribution in tangible terms in this ongoing process is crucially important, as it continues to exercise control in the occupied areas of the Republic Cyprus through the illegal stationing of tens of thousands of troops,

the continuing influx of settlers from mainland Turkey, and the severe economic dependency of the occupied areas.

Turkey, a candidate country for EU accession, is expected to grasp the opportunity offered by the current positive climate in Cyprus, abandon her intransigent position and contribute constructively to the process, by taking into consideration the real interests of all Cypriots. To this end Turkey must urgently terminate the occupation and the presence of settlers in Cyprus, safeguard the unity of Cyprus and contribute to the restoration and respect of human rights for all Cypriots.

“We aspire to achieve a fair and viable comprehensive settlement that will reunite our country and its people in a modern, functional European state, safeguarding the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all Cypriots.

We are adamant that the best guarantee for reunited Cyprus and all its people is the EU; a solution that is fully in line with EU law, values and principles.

Cyprus can become a homeland of peaceful co-existence and prosperous collaboration between all of its citizens, to the benefit of the younger generations, as well as a shining example of the ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic cooperation.”

Nicos Anastasiades
President of the Republic of Cyprus

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