



The UN General Assembly and Security Council, as well as other international organizations have adopted a series of resolutions condemning Turkey's aggression against Cyprus. These resolutions demand the return of the displaced people to their homes in safety and the ascertainment of the fate of all missing persons. In addition, they call for the human rights of all Cypriots and for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus.

Moreover, the European Commission and the European Court of Human Rights have found the Government of Turkey guilty for gross and systematic violations of human rights in Cyprus. Any movements by Turkey to promote the de facto recognition of the illegal secessionist regime would be in direct violation of international law and UN Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 541(1983) and 550 (1984). Under international law, the regime established by Turkey in occupied Cyprus is illegal. The European Courts and the UN Security Council have affirmed the Turkish Cypriot regime has no legal status in the international community.

We the Mayor and the Municipal Council of the town of Kyrenia in exile

In honour of all the Kyrenians who were killed during the war or are still missing; on behalf of all the Kyrenians who were violently displaced from their homes and their beloved town of Kyrenia and our parents who died as refugees away from their ancestral homes,

request your strong support towards our efforts to:

- Restore our fundamental human rights and to be equally respected as European Citizens as per International laws and the European Acquis Communautaire
- Return back to our home town of Kyrenia and our homes and properties in safety, freedom, peace, security, free from Turkish troops, Turkish settlers and guarantors
- Respect, protect, and restore our religious, cultural and environmental heritage, which is an integral part of the European heritage



Please support us in our struggle for freedom and our return home to our historically and culturally unique city

The Mayor and the Municipal Council of Kyrenia



KYRENIA

**A SMALL TOWN IN CYPRUS
UNDER MILITARY OCCUPATION
BY TURKEY, SINCE 1974**

To this day, Kyrenia continues to be illegally occupied by Turkish Forces

A brief reference on the facts

- According to the 1964 Land Registry Office Records, Greek Cypriots owned approximately 78% of the privately-owned land in the areas which are currently under Turkish occupation, while persons belonging to the Turkish Cypriot community owned approximately 21%.
- The total population of the Kyrenia District before the Turkish invasion was estimated at 32,586 out of whom only 4,382 were Turkish Cypriots and the percentage of their immovable property was only 12%.
- On July 20, 1974 Turkey invaded the island of Cyprus and occupied 37% of the country's northern sovereign territory. 170,000 Greek Cypriots, who constituted 2/3 of the inhabitants of the currently occupied area, were forcibly and brutally uprooted and displaced from their homes.
- The inhabitants of the city and District of Kyrenia were the first to be uprooted, leaving behind them a history to be distorted and a civilization to be insensitively destroyed by Turkey.
- The displaced Kyrenians, including women, children and the elderly, were forced to flee to the government controlled areas with only the few possessions they were able to scramble together while fleeing, which were mainly the few items of clothing they happened to be wearing.
- Turkey has implemented a geographic separation of the population along ethnic lines, by forcing both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots out of their homes.
- Turkey violated international humanitarian law through indiscriminate attacks on civilians, summary executions, torture including rape, pillage and the destruction of civilian property and cultural heritage.



- The properties of the expelled native residents were distributed among the thousands of Anatolian settlers brought to the City of Kyrenia by Turkey, while Turkish businessmen benefited by utilising these properties for profit, and selling them to Europeans and other foreigners, despite rulings by the European Court of Human Rights condemning these practices. This practice has led many foreigners who have purchased stolen property from the illegal occupants, to the European Court of Human Rights, which has repeatedly ruled in favour of the original legal property owner.
- Ungraceful cement hotels and casinos, the uprooting of century old trees for the purpose of constructing roads and the vulgar disorderly housing development spoil the natural environment and litter the picturesque beachfront of the Kyrenia city.

- Houses, churches, public buildings and schools have been pillaged and destroyed to serve the occupation's regime international crime of cultural genocide and the fundamental Turkish aim to complete the Turkification of the occupied areas and the eradication of any element that would connect them to the past and their legal inhabitants.
- Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots have lived together for centuries and share the same social identity. Many Turkish Cypriots oppose the present situation and supports the return of the settlers to Turkey.
- It is estimated that 57,000 Turkish Cypriots out of a population of 116,000 in 1974 have emigrated since the invasion. Turkish settlers are estimated at around 160,000 compared to the 87,900 Turkish Cypriots that remained in the occupied areas of Cyprus.