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Letter dated 30 June 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 12 June 2025, addressed to you by Mehmet Dâna, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmet Yıldız
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 30 June 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in response to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the Security Council open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict held on 22 and 23 May 2025, 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.

At the outset, it is important to clarify 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 its 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, known as the Akritas Plan, with the ultimate aim of achieving enosis (the annexation of the entire island to Greece). This large-scale violence and ensuing gross human rights violations necessitated the Security Council to deploy the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in 1964 in order to stop the bloodshed and the atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people. The persistent attempts of the Greek Cypriot side to create a smokescreen before this reality by exploiting to the fullest its usurped title cannot change the historical facts of the island in relation to who is the aggressor and who is the victim in Cyprus. Notwithstanding the plethora of United Nations documents attesting to these crimes against humanity, the fact that there is no single reference to it in the said statement is a testament to the fact that it is another episode of the well-known Greek Cypriot propaganda machinery.

With regard to the to the issue of 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 Committee on Missing Persons so that the Committee can successfully deliver on its mandate. It should also be underlined in this regard that the majority of the Turkish Cypriot missing persons are civilians, whereas the majority of the Greek Cypriot missing persons are military personnel. Despite this constructive and sincere stance of the Turkish Cypriot side, the sole aim of the Greek Cypriot side, alas, is to politicize this humanitarian issue for political propaganda purposes before international platforms, including the United Nations, rather than to engage positively in the work of the Committee.

It is also important to note that the claim regarding “displaced” persons is a 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 had to flee their homes out of fear for their lives. 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. Following the Agreement, Turkish Cypriot people and Greek Cypriot people were transferred, respectively, to North Cyprus and South Cyprus under the supervision of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. Given these facts, referring to Greek Cypriot people living in South Cyprus as “displaced” is inappropriate.

Unfortunately, the Greek Cypriot administration also aims to exploit the Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus for political propaganda purposes by referring to them as the “enclaved”. Furthermore, the Greek Cypriots and Maronites who have chosen to reside in our territory in accordance with the 1975 Voluntary Exchange of Populations Agreement enjoy all rights and freedoms granted to Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus citizens, including freedom of movement, religion, expression, education, etc. I also wish to underline that the term “enclaved” was first coined by the then Secretary-General U Thant to describe the plight of the Turkish Cypriot people between 1963 and 1974, who had been forced by the Greek Cypriot side to live in small pockets scattered around the island, comprising a mere 3 per cent of the territory of Cyprus.

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 levelling unfounded accusations, which only create an environment of mistrust and hostility between the two peoples of the island, the Greek Cypriot side should make more effort to create an atmosphere conducive to cooperation between the two sides in Cyprus as also called upon in your report of 3 January 2025 ([S/2025/6](#)).

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 would be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
