

Dear [MP],

You have always supported our just cause, to discover the fate of our missing relatives, and we are grateful for that. We are contacting you again because we are extremely concerned about the latest developments and would like to request for your support in asking the Government to do more towards the solution of our humanitarian problem.

Following the recent admission by a Turkish ex-soldier, that he was involved in the execution of ten prisoners of war during the invasion of Cyprus in 1974, and considering that many similar stories appeared in the past, we, the relatives of our missing loved ones, find ourselves again in turmoil. While the atrocities committed by the invading Turkish armed forces in 1974 have been well documented, both in the media and in reports by such esteemed organizations as the Council of Europe, the continuing uncertainty and the non-closure of each individual case bring, once more, this humanitarian issue to the fore.

The UK Government (together with many other EU member-states) have contributed funds in support of the work that the CMP (Committee of Missing Persons) is carrying out in Cyprus. While we are highly appreciative of these substantial contributions, we feel it is imperative that we underline, again, that the CMP's mandate does not extend beyond Cyprus and it is therefore unable to investigate the fate of missing persons who were transferred, in 1974, from Cyprus to Turkey. It is recalled, in this context, that the European Court of Human Rights concluded, in relevant judgments made in May 2001 and in January 2008 that “...*the Committee of Missing Persons (CMP) could not be considered a satisfactory replacement for Turkey's obligation to carry out an effective investigation into the whereabouts of the missing persons...*”

In light of the above, we firmly believe that the focus of our common efforts to arrive at a conclusive solution of this problem, which is almost 35 years old, must be turned on Turkey. A country with EU membership aspirations and with accession negotiations underway, a country considered by the UK to be an important friend and ally, must not be permitted to continue to flout international law and suppress human rights in Cyprus. If Turkey truly desires to join the big European family, it ought to demonstrate full commitment to European values and norms. The unresolved issue of the fate of the missing persons in Cyprus provides a perfect opportunity for that.

We would therefore like to urge you to lobby the UK Government, in support of our fundamental human right to receive conclusive answers as to the fate of our loved ones and to apply the required pressure on Turkey so that it fulfils its obligations, as specified by the aforementioned decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.

We look forward to your reply.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,