

**ORGANISATION OF RELATIVES OF MISSING CYPRIOTS (UK)**  
**ΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΗ ΣΥΓΓΕΝΩΝ ΚΥΠΡΙΩΝ ΑΓΝΟΟΥΜΕΝΩΝ**  
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His Excellency  
The Commissioner for EU Enlargement  
Mr O. Rhen  
Brussels

5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009

Your Excellency,

We have heard that you would be visiting Cyprus in the next few days and that you and the EU support the efforts of the two leaders to find a solution for the Cypriots. We hope you would agree, that while the two leaders are very likely to find common ground in many areas, some issues they cannot tackle by themselves, such as the removal of the Turkish troops from Cyprus and the solution to the Missing Persons problem.

We know that you are familiar with the Missing Persons issue. However the solution of the problem lies with Turkey. That is the conclusion of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in its judgments of May 2001 and January 2008: "*ECHR affirms its previous finding 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*". Instead of this, Turkey prevents even the basic investigation by the CMP when information leads to potential graves in areas which the Turkish army uses as military camps in Cyprus

You will no doubt agree with us that with the continued violations of human rights in Cyprus and the suffering of the relatives of the missing being perpetuated, financial contributions towards the work of the CMP, although gratefully welcome, should nevertheless not be the main focus of our interest. A country with EU membership aspirations, continues to violate international law and human rights in Cyprus, for decades. This is the direction to which our attention should be focused.

In recent days, the relatives are again in turmoil following the admission of a Turkish ex-soldier, being involved in the execution of prisoners of war during the invasion of Cyprus in 1974, and the many similar stories that appear in the papers. We know that atrocities took place at the time and that many of our relatives were killed either in battle or during their captivity. With the continuing uncertainty and the non-closure of each individual case we are forced to relive these killings on a daily basis for the last 34 years and more. We urge you to support our human right to know and help to end this ongoing nightmare.

With your impending visit to Cyprus, we urge to raise these matters in the right quarters. We also urge you to meet with our sister Committee of the Pancyprian Organization of Relatives and Undeclared Prisoners and Missing Persons who will supply you with further relevant information. We would also recommend a visit to the CMP.

We look forward to your reply and we wish you every success in your mission to Cyprus.

Yours sincerely



pp Nick Neokleous