

ORGANISATION OF RELATIVES OF MISSING CYPRIOTS (UK)
ΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΗ ΣΥΓΓΕΝΩΝ ΚΥΠΡΙΩΝ ΑΓΝΟΟΥΜΕΝΩΝ (ΗΒ)

21 Trinity Road
London
N22 8LB.

Telephone: Office 020-8805 6939

E-mail: ormc1974@btopenworld.com

Website: <http://www.ormc-uk.org>

NEWS BULLETIN December 2011

We wish all our members, friends and supporters a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and may the new year bring an end to our just cause.

IDENTIFICATIONS: The following identifications were announced. Nikou Kallouma from Kythrea, Ioanni Savvide from Lefkosia, Savva Christoforou from Lefkosia, Christou Thoma from Voni, Georgiou Pitta from Ashia. The total number of our Missing identified in 2011 were: 30 Greek Cypriots and 8 Turkish Cypriots.

CMP REPORT ON ITS WORK: The UN sponsored Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) released information about its efforts since 2006 to locate and return to the next of kin the identified remains of persons listed as missing since the 1974 Turkish invasion and earlier hostilities in Cyprus. As of December 2011 bicomunal CMP teams had visited 542 reported burial sites on both sides of the green line. Only 274 of the sites visited contained bones relating to 798 individuals. DNA analyses had been performed by the Institute of Neurology and Genetics. The remains of a total of 311 missing persons have been returned to their families for

ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (APPG) for Cyprus. The Committee announced that the next meeting to discuss the issue of our Missing will take place on:

- 21st March 2012, House of Commons, room 7
from 4.00pm. Subject for discussion:

THE WAY FORWARD. It will be chaired by MP David Burrowes.

The meeting is open to all. Members, friends and supporters are requested to attend. The APPG for Cyprus announced that their lead person on the issue of our Missing will be MP Mike Freer. Mr Freer is knowledgeable and very concerned about this problem (he secured the Westminster Hall debate on our Missing). We look forward to working with him and the APPG in persuading the UK Government to act on this issue.

NEW YEAR CAKE CUTTING. Like every year this will take place on Sunday 8th January 2012 at St Barnabas Church hall, Finsbury Road, N22, after the service at St Mary's Church in Wood Green, where prayers will be said for the fate of our Missing and memorial service for those identified and buried.

The Cyprus Consul General Mr George Georgiou will attend and give a short speech. Marina Yannakoudakis, London MEP and APPG representatives will also attend. The Very Reverend Bishop Athanasios will bless and cut the cake. All members, friends and supporters are welcome. Members wishing to bring along cakes etc please let Costas know on 020- 8805 6939. Looking forward to seeing you there.

FROM CHC PRESS OFFICE: UK Minister of State for Transport MP Theresa Villiers (*following meetings and correspondence with our Committee*) met with Minister of State for Europe David Lidington on 23 November to discuss progress on resolving the problem of persons listed as missing in Cyprus. Ms Villiers urged Mr Lidington to put pressure on Turkey to allow access to areas in Turkish-occupied Cyprus which the tripartite Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) has not been able to reach. She called on him to use the UK's current presidency of the Council of Europe's Ministerial Committee (*see below*) to ensure that the issue of the missing in Cyprus is discussed at forthcoming meetings. Declaring that "the UK's presidency of the Council of Europe is a good opportunity to push for answers on the missing, Ms Villiers added that the UK's agenda must include "tougher action on Turkey to fulfil its obligations and to ensure that effective measures are taken so that information is finally revealed about what really happened to Cyprus' missing persons".

COUNCIL OF EUROPE, COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS. 29th Nov – 1st Dec 2011. The issue of our Missing and the non compliance of Turkey to the European Court of Human Rights judgements was on this meeting's agenda. Unfortunately Turkey refused to attend. Regrettably member states cannot be forced to attend. Turkey's stance on this issue met with the disapproval even from her traditionally supportive countries (e.g. on the properties issue). In a statement issued it is stated that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe expresses its dissatisfaction and disappointment for the non-participation of Turkey and is asking her to review her stance and open her archives and give positive information about the missing. The next Committee of Ministers is in March 2012.