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Letter dated 10 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 6 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 10 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 meeting held on 15 May 2025 on the implementation of Council resolution [2474 \(2019\)](#) on missing persons in armed conflict, which once again blatantly distorted facts pertaining to Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot side has long 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.

A case in point is our request to attend the aforementioned meeting, which was not facilitated notwithstanding the fact that the issue of missing persons in Cyprus is a matter affecting both Turkish Cypriot people and Greek Cypriot people. As is known, the Turkish Cypriot people unfortunately had to endure widespread atrocities between the fateful years of 1963 and 1974. In fact, it was this large-scale violence and the ensuing gross human rights violations that necessitated the Security Council to deploy the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus to the island in 1964. No doubt, any discussion on the issue of missing persons in Cyprus in the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side, as one of the two parties to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, which operates under the auspices of the United Nations, cannot portray the whole picture regarding the matter in an objective and factual manner.

By exploiting the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side, Greek Cypriot representatives have long been misinforming the international community by portraying the Cyprus issue as one of “invasion” and “occupation”. As a matter of fact, none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describes the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention in the island, carried out in line with the 1959 International Cyprus Treaties, as “invasion” or its subsequent presence on the island as “occupation”. As is known, Guarantor Türkiye had to intervene after 11 years of Turkish Cypriot suffering at the hands of the Greek Cypriot militia, which culminated in the coup attempt organized by the military junta in Athens and its Greek Cypriot collaborators, aiming at the annexation of the entire island to Greece (enosis) and the total annihilation of Turkish Cypriot people. In view of past experiences and current human sufferings inflicted by recent conflicts worldwide, it is without any doubt that the guarantee system in Cyprus is now more relevant and necessary than ever.

Furthermore, it should be underlined 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 the 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 *Akritis Plan*, with the ultimate aim of achieving enosis. Notwithstanding the plethora of United Nations documents attesting to these crimes against humanity, the fact that there is no single reference to them in the said statement is testimony to the fact that these remarks are not fact-based, but another episode of the well-known Greek Cypriot propaganda machinery.

With regard to the statements made in relation 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 in Cyprus 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 the humanitarian stance of the Turkish Cypriot side regarding the matter, 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.

With a view to supporting the work of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, the Turkish Cypriot side established an archive committee in 2016, which is composed of military authorities, police authorities, experts from the Ministry of Health and National Archives as well as other relevant units of the Government, to examine the relevant archives for the information requested by the Committee regarding the location of missing persons. In this connection, access was given to the Turkish Cypriot Member's Office to check aerial photos from 1974. The Turkish Cypriot side has also established an investigation unit under the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Presidency to examine all relevant archives in order to gather information requested by the Committee regarding the potential locations of missing persons, as well as the Missing Persons Unit, which conducts criminal investigations into the cases of the identified Greek Cypriot missing persons under the supervision of the constitutionally independent Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Attorney-General's Office. Furthermore, upon finding evidence of potential burial places, the Turkish Cypriot side accommodates the access of the Committee to any area throughout the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, be it by interrupting the construction of a major road or giving access to military areas that the Committee asks for according to its workplan. So far, 99 excavations have been carried out in the military areas located in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and an additional 3 excavations were carried out in the buffer zone with the consent of the military authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, whereas only 2 excavations were carried out in the military areas within the Greek Cypriot Administration. It should also be noted that both the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Türkiye continue to support the Committee financially.

Busy with spreading disinformation about the Turkish Cypriot side and Türkiye, the Greek Cypriot side has yet to give any response to the call of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus to search its military or police reports, logbooks, medical reports or any other document that may include information about potential burial sites or remains belonging to missing persons. None of the criminal investigations conducted into the deaths of Turkish Cypriot missing persons has resulted in the identification of the perpetrators or the prosecution of those identified. Moreover, to this day, the Greek Cypriot side has failed to reciprocate in terms of facilitating access to all military areas as well as to the archives of the Greek Cypriot police who were involved first-hand in the mass atrocities against the Turkish Cypriot people, particularly during the period 1963–1964.

While it is important to do our utmost to bring to a closure, to the extent possible, the emotional repercussions of past sufferings, it is also crucial that we do not lose sight of the basic human rights violations that we still face today. In this context, I would like to draw your kind attention to the unjust and inhuman isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people at the instigation of the Greek Cypriot Administration. These all-encompassing restrictions range from denying the Turkish Cypriot people the right to representation in the international arena, even in cultural, academic and sporting events, to preventing and restricting their travel abroad and their communication with the outside world to curtailing trade relations with other countries. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the unjust isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people is the most important element poisoning the

relations between the two sides and their peoples, thus undermining the prospects for a negotiated agreement on the island.

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 creates 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 is also called for 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 could be 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
