

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

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The ORMC(UK) President and committee would like to wish all our members, friends, supporters and in general the Community a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and may the New Year bring all that you wish for and to the Relatives of our Missing Deliverance.

IDENTIFICATIONS: The following identifications were announced:- Costas and Andrea Zachariades (father and son) from Kythrea, Antonakis, Georgios, Yiannakis, Nikos and 11 year old Yiorgos Englezou, Artemis Frangopoulos all from Ashia, Georgios Orphanou from Tymbou, Michalis Tourapi from Tseri, Costas Constantinou from Evrychou, Costas Savva from Ay. Dometios and Demetrios Neophytou from Salamiou.

MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON MISSING PERSONS:

On Monday 16th September our President with two other Committee members attended a meeting with Ms Kathyne Bomberger at the Sofitel Hotel. The meeting was asked for by Ms Bomberger. Ms Bomberger highlighted the change in attitudes to Missing Persons, from conflict situations in 1974 to those today as considerably different. The ICMP has a holistic approach that recognises justice as a core process, in the confidence and recovery of transitional states.

Using the International Criminal Tribunal of the former Yugoslavia as an example, Ms Bomberger illustrated how the ICMP helped the Balkan states to re-establish the rule of law. The United Nations Development Programme helped to excavate sites. Forensic archaeologists, brought in from abroad conducted examinations. Driven by the needs of the people, a court system was established. A new model of transparent sharing of information grew. Technical problems were overcome due to the existence of political will.

In July 2012, the CMP signed an agreement with the ICMP, confirming that the genetic laboratories in Sarajevo will take over initial DNA processing. The CMP labs in Nicosia will conduct the final cross checks. Ms Bomberger confirmed that the ICMP's current involvement with the Cyprus Missing is restricted to DNA matching alone. "The scientific initiative is a good start, but in order for more to be done, the Commission must be invited in by the Cypriot authorities".

So far the ICMP have conducted 1351 Skeletal elements (bone samples) transferred to the ICMP Laboratory for DNA analysis.

1163 Bone samples have been processed by the ICMP.

524 Complete matching and bone to bone association reports have been sent by the ICM. Our President underlined the unique circumstances of the Missing of Cyprus, the way in which they disappeared after just three weeks of conflict. And, the forty year struggle for archival information that should have been made available under the terms of the Geneva Convention.



Yet, relatives are continuously denied these vital facts by a ruthless and intransigent state. Ms Bomberger was thanked for her interest in the ORMC and for taking the trouble to meet with us during her recent stay in London. ORMC (UK) expressed a warm wish to exchange information in the months to come.

THE NEW G/CYPRIOT MEMBER OF CMP: The new Greek Cypriot member of the CMP is now Mr Theophilos Theophilou. He appeals to all those who know or have information about the burial sites of missing persons, Turkish Cypriot or Greek Cypriot missing and known dead, during the 1963-64 period and / or in 1974 to share with the CMP this information and bring to the attention of the competent authorities any evidence that they may have.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE TURKISH MEMORANDUM: We have prepared a response to this memorandum which Turkey presented to the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg on 28th Feb 2013 and was discussed on 5th March 2013. You can read it on our website under the sub-heading THE RESPONSE. The Committee discussed the issue of our Missing on 4th & 5th December recalling the necessity of adopting a proactive approach as regards the search of the persons who are still missing, called on the Turkish authorities to continue providing the CMP with all relevant information and to continue and to intensify their efforts aimed at rapidly giving access to all relevant places.; also noted the assurances of the Turkish authorities that they will continue to grant the CMP access to other military zones.

GLAFKOS CLERIDES: It is with great regret that we have learnt of the death of the late President of the Republic of Cyprus G. Clerides. For us he was the first politician to recognise our existence and ask us to attend meetings discussing the issue of our Missing. Our condolences go to his family and the whole of Cyprus. May he rest in peace.

NEW YEAR'S CAKE CUTTING: This will take place at St Barnabas church hall on Sunday 19th January 2014, after the liturgy at St Mary's. A memorial service for those identified and buried will be held on the same day at St Mary's church, as usual. Prayers will be said for the fate of our Missing. The H. Commissioner for Cyprus, Mr. E. Evriviades, will attend and give a short speech. Bishop Athanasios of Tropaëou or another priest will bless and cut the cake. The President will give the latest on the issue and answer any questions. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided. All members, supporters and friends are welcome.