

ORGANISATION OF RELATIVES OF MISSING CYPRIOTS (UK)

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IDENTIFICATIONS: The following identifications were announced: Vrionis Moniati from Souni Lemesou, Costas Kapros from Trachoni Kythreas, Georgios Paphitis from Ashia, Georgios Antoniadis from Arminou, Andreas Karoulla from Styloi, Andreas Zisimos from Ammohostos, Georgios Hadjichristodoulou from Angastina. There were also four Turkish Cypriots identified, whose names we, unfortunately, cannot obtain.

CMP (Committee of Missing Persons): We hear from Cyprus that if Turkey does not give the CMP information as to the sites where our Missing have been buried, the danger of it becoming ineffective is very real. Could this mean the end of the CMP?



The President and Committee members would like to wish to all our members, friends and supporters a Merry Xmas and a happier New Year.



CUTTING OF THE NEW YEAR'S CAKE: This will take place on Sunday 13th January 2019 at St. John's Hall in Wightman Road, after the liturgy where prayers will be said for the missing and a memorial service will be held for those identified and buried. The Cyprus Consul General, Mr T. Gotsis, will attend and give a short speech.

We call all our members, friends and supporters to attend. Tea, coffee soft drinks etc. will be offered. Looking forward to seeing most of you, if not all, there!

In the September issue of NEWS BULLETIN, we printed out the letter we sent to the Prime Minister and the reply we received stated that "our letter was forwarded to the Foreign Office so that they are aware of our views!"

We have now received a reply from the Central Correspondence Unit of the F. O. dated the 14th August 2018 and we print it below for your information.

Dear Dr Hadjiphilippou,

Thank you for your letter of 10 July to the Prime Minister, about Cyprus. The Central Correspondence Unit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been asked to reply.

Firstly, we would like to stress that the UK shares the concerns of both Cypriot communities over missing persons, which understandably remains a very sensitive aspect of the Cyprus problem.

The UK welcomes the important work being undertaken by the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP), and we commend the contribution it makes to bringing closure for the many families affected. We facilitate the CMP's work by enabling it to work from a British-owned site in the Buffer Zone at minimal cost, thus easing administration costs. The CMP is in receipt of EU funding and we have provided them with additional financial support, including for DNA testing. Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence officials met with the CMP in September 2017 during its visit to London to carry out archive research. The UK will remain in regular contact with the CMP to establish how we may further support its work.

Turkey's agreement in November 2015 to give the CMP access to thirty sites controlled by the Turkish military was a helpful step, and some further remains have been recovered as a result. This work is ongoing, and we understand the CMP is satisfied with the current arrangements for accessing these sites. While the percentage of sites in Cyprus confirmed as containing remains has diminished in recent years, the CMP recognises that, with the passage of time, witness accounts and information on potential burial sites is harder to find.

Nonetheless, there is certainly still further progress to be made. This is regularly underlined in decisions adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, which supervises the implementation of the European Court of Human Rights judgment in Cyprus vs Turkey of 2001. In June this year, the Committee called on Turkey to continue to provide the CMP with the assistance it needs to achieve tangible results as quickly as possible, including providing unhindered access to all possible burial sites, supplying information from relevant archives and making further progress on investigations. The Committee also insisted that Turkey had an unconditional obligation to pay the just satisfaction awarded by the European Court of Human Rights for damages suffered by families of missing persons. The UK actively contributes to the Committee's discussions and fully supports its Decisions.

DONATIONS: Mr Y. Kashimeri £50. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED!