

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

21 Trinity Road  
London  
N22 4LB.

Telephone: Office 020-8805 6939

E-mail: [ormc1974@btopenworld.com](mailto:ormc1974@btopenworld.com)

Website: [www.ormc-uk.org](http://www.ormc-uk.org)

## **News Bulletin March 2009**

### **The work continues....**

Letters have been sent to C. Flint, Minister for Europe and O. Rehn, EU Commissioner for EU enlargement. (See below part of his reply). Also letters have been sent to our MPs asking them to apply pressure on the British Government to force Turkey to hand over all the information it has on our Missing. Lobby for Cyprus have sent out 600 letters to key Organisations and Human Rights Groups worldwide regarding the Attila Olgac admission on television of killing ten Greek Cypriots during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, and demanding that Turkey abides by the ECHR judgement against her in the case of Varnava and others. It is also calling for an independent inquiry for the investigation of the fate of the Missing, following the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

#### **Extract from O. Rehn's reply:**

*Thank you very much for your letter of 5 February.*

*The Commission is aware of the importance of the issue of missing persons in Cyprus. For the families concerned, it is crucial to determine the fate of their loved ones. It follows from a judgement of the European Court of Human Rights (Cyprus v Turkey, 10 May 2001) that Turkey is obliged to ensure effective investigation aimed at clarifying the whereabouts and fate of Greek Cypriot missing persons who disappeared in life-threatening circumstances. It is urgent for Turkey to follow-up on this judgment rapidly and in full.*

### **Latest on Missing Persons in Cyprus.**

**Exhumations:** To date, the remains of 486 individuals have been exhumed from different burial sites located across the island. Over 246 burial sites have been visited and opened by the CMP.

**Identifications :** To date, the remains of 183 (152 GC, 31 TC) individuals have been identified and returned to their families. Following these and earlier identifications **the total number of Greek Cypriot Missing Persons, as a result of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, now stands at 1467.**

Since our last bulleting the remains of the following have been identified: Erineos A. Louca from Ayios Sergios, Yiangos M. Mama from Kalo Chorio Lefkas, Costas Constantinides of Kythrea, Leontios Constantinou from Lythrodontas, Evangelos Tsianakka from Trahoni Kythreas, Georgios Hadjiyiannis from Neon Chorion Kythreas and Evangelos and Melpomeni Evangelou from Lapithos.

In December 08-February 09 the following donations were made towards the work of the CMP. Cyprus 150,000 Euros, Germany 100,000, Turkey 100,000, Ireland 50,000, Turkish Cypriots 39,500 and 2,000,000 from the EU.

### **The tip of the iceberg.**

We were always sure that atrocities were committed by the Turkish army in Cyprus during the 1974 Turkish invasion. However nobody from the big powers wanted to believe this and apply pressure on Turkey. This has now been confirmed by the admission of Turkish actor Attila Olgac in a TV interview. "The first person that I killed was a 19-year old soldier who was taken prisoner, with his hands tied. When I aimed my gun in his face, he spat on my face. I shot him in the forehead. Later on I killed nine more people".

Since then another book by Roni Alasor, a kurdish man living in Norway, describes even more horrible murders of POWs and civilians, including women and children, by the Turkish army. Ten Turkish army officers describe what they saw and did during the 1974 invasion of Cyprus. The book's title is: "**ORDER: KILL THE POWs**"

*The time is well overdue for the International community (especially the USA, Britain, The Council of Europe, EU and the UN) to apply the necessary pressure on Turkey to comply by the ECHR decisions (2001 & 2008) and release ALL the information it holds about the Missing people of Cyprus? We await! But continue our campaign- join us if you can.*

### **We now have our own Website.**



[www.ormc-uk.org](http://www.ormc-uk.org)

**Please visit our website and use the already prepared letter to write to your MP/MEP. You can even get the name and address of your MP, from our website, if you do not know it. It is all so very simple. Or Call our office.**

*(Picture on right) An instance from the Cutting of the New Year (Vassilopita) cake on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 09.*



**European Union: (12.3.09) 2008 progress reports on Turkey:** MEPs call on Turkey to comply with its obligations under international law and the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights on the Fourth Interstate Application by Cyprus against Turkey, regarding investigations into the fate of missing persons. Member States are asked to urge Turkey to take action on this humanitarian issue.

**Questions in the House: Chris Mullins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Turkey on Turkish compliance with the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Varnava and others on persons who disappeared following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974; and if he will make a statement.

**Caroline Flint:** (Minister of State (Europe), Foreign & Commonwealth Office; Don Valley, Labour) | My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not raised any missing persons cases recently with his Turkish interlocutors. The Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus carries out important humanitarian work, identifying and returning the remains of those who lost their lives during this period. We attach great importance to their work and welcome the progress of the Committee since its launch in August 2006. The UK contributes to the funding of the programme annually through the EU and through bilateral donations.

**EDITORS note:** *The question by Chris Mullins was not answered by C. Flint! She instead talks about the work of the CMP. It has been noticed lately that this is happening a lot with our MPs. We know the CMP is doing a grand job **but**, it will do a better job if Turkey was forced to give ALL the information it has on our Missing and abide by the ECHR judgement!*

**DONATIONS:** A donation was received from Mr L. Loizou for £100.00 towards the work of our Organisation. He will also write to his MP. We thank Mr Loizou, through the NEWS BULLETIN as well.

We would like members of our Community to write to their MPs about our Missing. It is very simple! Visit our website [www.ormc-uk.org](http://www.ormc-uk.org) and download the letter for the MPs and MEPs. Our site can even give you the name and address of your MP.