

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

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NEWS BULLETIN March 2012

IDENTIFICATIONS: Since December 2011 the following four identifications were announced: Themis Vlami from Voni, Andreas Savva from Dora, Christos Christides from Kythrea Kyriacos Christou from Kato Dherynia, Michael and Marias Maronitou from Neo Chorio Kythreas.

LOBBYING TOGETHER WITH THE PANCYPRIAN ORGANISATION OF RELATIVES OF UNDECLARED PRISONERS AND MISSING PERSONS:

The President and G Secretary of the sister Organisation together the President and members of our Committee had a series of meetings in London last week including:

With David Barrowers MP, President of the APPG for Cyprus: We informed him of the positive developments in the Council of Europe (see below) and together agreed a series of activities to ensure that the UK Government keeps the issue on the agenda of the Committee of Ministers' of Council of Europe and put pressure on Turkey to comply with ECHR judgements. Also given to Mr Barrowers were extracts from books, written by Turkish military personnel, who took part in the invasion of Cyprus, where they provide information of ill treatment and killings of soldiers and civilians believed to who are now listed as missing. We have agreed that pressure should be applied to Turkey to provide information about these and all the cases of our Missing.

With Marina Yannakoudakis MEP: Discussed the ways Marina is promoting our issue, on an ongoing basis, in the European Parliament and the Commission. More specifically, we provided a list of places in the occupied areas where mass graves have been located but which Turkey refuses access to the CMP because they are so called "military zones". Also, her suggestion for members of both Committees to go to Brussels for direct lobbying of EU Commissioners.



Above, from the New Year event.

A prayer for the Missing and a speech by the Consul General of the Cyprus High Commission took place on Sunday 8th January at St Mary's Church in Wood Green. Afterwards we had the vasilopitta cutting at St Barnabas Church Hall.

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE: We were very pleased to learn that the this Committee voted (25 for, 4 against, and 2 abstentions) that Turkey should comply with ECHR and provide information about the missing, as well as allow the CMP access to military zones. The issue will be discussed again at the June meeting of the same Committee.

MEETING THE CYPRUS FOREIGN MINISTER: On Wednesday 25th January a delegation from our Committee had a meeting with the Cyprus Foreign Minister Mrs Erato Kozakou-Marcoulli at the Cyprus High Commission. Present was also the High Commissioner and Consul General of the CHC. The meeting was very encouraging.

MEETING WITH MP MIKE FREER AND MEP MARINA YANNAKOUDAKIS: On Friday 17th February a delegation from ORMC(UK) met with the MP & MEP and had a very useful discussion, on how we can push our case forward in both, the European Parliament and in the British Government. Mike and Marina have been very supportive of our case and will continue to do so, until our just demands are met.

*******WE NEED TO SHOW THE RELATIVES APPRECIATION TO MARINA FOR HER EFFECTIVE LOBBYING ON OUR BEHALF IN THE EU – PLEASE ALL ATTEND HER MEETING ON FRIDAY 30TH MARCH – SEE ATTACHED INVITATION.**

From the President & Committee of ORMC (UK) *****

If you intend to attend please call Poppy on 8445 8055 and advise her.



APPG OPEN MEETING 29th FEB 2012: A very interesting meeting chaired by MP D. Burrowes, took place in Portcullis House in which amongst issues, like Famagusta and the destruction of the cultural heritage, the issue of our Missing was also discussed. It was pleasing to note that all the T/Cypriots present agreed that this issue must be resolved the soonest. **The APPG announced their intention to hold a Public Enquiry on the issue of our Missing.**