

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

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IDENTIFICATIONS: The following identifications have been announced: Christos Chrysostomou from Lefkosia and Haralambos Potamitis from Morphou.

NEW YEAR'S CAKE CUTTING: On Sunday 19th January we had our usual New Year's Cake Cutting at St Barnabas Church hall, after the liturgy at St Mary's, where a memorial service was held for those identified and buried and prayers were said for those still missing. The High Commissioner for Cyprus attended and gave a short speech. MEP Marina Yiannakoudakis also attended, together with many members and friends of the missing.

In the hall bishop Athanasios cut and distributed the cake and the ORMC(UK) President gave an account of the Organisation's efforts during 2013 and thanked all those who helped ORMC(UK) especially MEP Marina Yiannakoudakis.

The High Commissioner congratulated the Organisation for its hard work on the issue and urged us to continue in the same way until every single one of the missing is found. Neoklis and M. Kashis asked all those present, regardless of political persuasion, to go and vote and give their vote to Marina in the forthcoming EU elections in May.

We would also like to thank all those who helped organise the event, especially the ladies for their various items of food and donations.



MEETING WITH MEP MARINA YIANNAKOUDAKIS: On Friday 31st January 2014 ORMC(UK) reps discussed with Marina the latest statistical information from the CMP. It shows clearly that the majority of funding received is spent in opening suspected burial places, the majority of which (over 80% in 2013) did not contain any remains. At the same time the statistics show that the remains of over 300 missing persons have been exhumed and completed anthropological analysis, but have not forwarded for DNA testing (maybe due to lack of funds). In 2013 only 64 missing were exhumed with 46% of the total budget spent for this purpose. This is due to the fact that the CMP investigations are based on secondary, mostly unconfirmed information. The Turkish authorities are not providing any reliable information, which only they We have requested that the MEP makes an appeal to the EU Budgeting Committee to allocate more funds to the CMP or, as a minimum, to provide additional funding for the DNA testing of the 300.

ORMC(UK) also informed Marina of our efforts to persuade the Committee of Ministers (CoM) to press Turkey to provide information about the fate and whereabouts of our missing. The MEP volunteered to write to the CoM herself as well and asked why they allow Turkey to pretend that they are contributing to finding the missing when by the time they are getting involved the missing person has already been identified and no longer missing.

The Turkish authorities are not providing any reliable information, which only they possess or they are in a position to obtain. This, despite several European Court of Human Rights judgements and Committee of Ministers resolutions, calling for them to do so.

This problem will only be solved when Turkey gives the information needed and allows the CMP access to known mass graves in the so called military zones.

MEETING WITH MP MIKE FREER: The MP has requested a meeting with ORMC(UK) to bring him up to date with the latest developments on the issue of our missing. The meeting was held on Friday 7th February 2014, and discussed the same issues as above (with the MEP). The MP promised to convey our concerns to the Minister for Europe.

Mr Freer also informed us that he will be organising another debate in the House on the issue of our missing (as he has done in 2011) in the next few months.

WE WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS A HAPPY EASTER