

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

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## NEWS BULLETIN MARCH 2015

**IDENTIFICATIONS:** The following were announced: Iacovou Yiakoumetti from **Peristerona**, Christaki Alexandrou and Andrea Kyprianou from **Lefkosia**, Georgiou Philippou from **Trikomo**, Louka Demetriou from **Lymbia**, Louka Yianni and Nikou Papayianni from **K. Dikomo**, Linou Erotokritou, Iakovou Nicolaou, Yianni Georgiou and Christodoulou Christodoulou from **Ammohostos**, Petrou Velousi, Ktori Yiannatzi, Soteriou Franzeskou and Vasili Paraskevopoulou from **Lefkoniko**, Andrea Papayianni from **Marathovounos**, Andrea Charalambous, Sotiri and Georgiou Nicolaou from **Kyrenia**, Alexandrou Vourka from **Fteryha**, Savva Christodoulou from **Karmi**, Costa Efstathiou from **Ag. Georgios**. Michael Michael from **Xylotymbou**, Georgios Poyiadgi from **Larnaka**, Loizou Avraam from **Koma tou Yialou**, Kyriacou Hadjisotiri from **Komi Kebir**, Andrea Petrasiti from **Palekythro**.

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTED RESOLUTION:** On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015 the European Parliament in a resolution calls on Turkey to allow without delay access to zones that have been defined as military and there is information that burial sites of missing persons are located within them; underlines that the Turkish military should supply and share old military maps and give full access to its archives in order to facilitate the search for undisclosed burial grounds.

**NEW YEAR'S CAKE CUTTING:** On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015 we celebrated the coming of the New Year with the cutting of the cake. This took place at St. Barnabas Church Hall, after the liturgy, memorial service for those identified and buried and prayers for those still missing. The Consul General for Cyprus, Mr G. Georgiou, was also present and gave a short speech.

In the hall the V. Rev. Bishop Athanasios cut and shared the cake with all present. Committee member Niki Loizou, who had just buried her missing brother, gave an emotional account of her feelings and described how it felt burying her brother after forty years of waiting. All so very touching. Panayiota Zeniou then recited a poem about the missing and finally Evgenia sung a beautiful song written by hero Evagoras Pallikarides. To all present tea, coffee, soft drinks and crudities were offered.



*Bishop Athanasios blessing the New Year's cake.*

### MEETING WITH MP MATTHEW OFFORD:

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015 the President and committee members met with MP Matthew Offord, the Chairman of the Cyprus APPG, to discuss the issue of our Missing. The President presented Mr Offord with the notes of our last meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> August 13, and Mr Offord stated that since then he had met, together with David Burrowes MP, with the Minister for Europe Mr David Lidington MP, regarding our demand for Britain to push Turkey to abide by the Court's decisions, but obviously, he said, "not much has been achieved".

The President informed Mr Offord that the Turkish authorities have never carried out any effective investigations on the fate and whereabouts of Greek Cypriot missing since 1974, and as demanded to do by the European Court of Human Rights since its original judgement in May 2001. They are in-fact hindering the work of the CMP by giving them only very limited access to military areas and by the removal and relocation to unknown places of remains of missing, by the Turkish army. He also pointed out, from the CMP records that due to lack of reliable information, many of the graves opened by the CMP in non-military areas had produced no remains at all, which was a waste of time and money. And this because Turkey refuses to give the information it has about the whereabouts of those captured by the Turkish army, or fallen in the occupied part of Cyprus.

It is obvious that not enough pressure has been put on Turkey to do that. We would like to see the British Government, at the next meeting in Strasbourg in June 15, to be more forceful in its demand for Turkey to do the right thing and abide by the Court's decisions.

Mr Offord said that he will be putting questions in parliament on this issue. He will also arrange another meeting with the Minister for Europe to discuss the problem of our missing. He will also request that the UK Government contribute further funds to the CMP so that it could be in a position to carry out more DNA tests on remains that have been exhumed but not yet identified. This is due to the fact that the CMP spends almost half of its limited funds on excavation of areas where no remains are found



(reliable evidence can only come from the Turkish authorities but they are unwilling to provide).

Mr Offord was asked if he could help in organising a meeting in the House to once again bring the issue to the attention of the MPs and Government. Mr Fotiou, Commissioner for ex-pats and human rights issues, would be invited to attend and participate in the meeting.

Mr Offord was only too happy to arrange that as soon as possible and before the General Elections in May.

He will be talking to other Cyprus APPG members and will be advising us.