

# ORGANISATION OF RELATIVES OF MISSING CYPRIOTS (UK)

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## NEWS BULLETIN MARCH 2020

**IDENTIFICATIONS:** The following identifications have been announced: Alexandros Olymbiou from Aglanzia, Stavros Stavrou from Lythrodonda,

5 Turkish Cypriots have also been identified since last September but unfortunately we cannot obtain their names.

**CMP's Latest figures:** The U.N. sponsored Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) figures show that:

- Greek Cypriots: 710 identified, 810 still missing \*
- Turkish Cypriots: 274 identified, 218 still missing.
- Total identified this year – to the end of February: 5
- Total exhumed this year – to the end of February: 2

\*Some exhumed remains have yet to be identified due to the condition they were found and their genetic coding cannot be determined. The CMP scientists are continuing their effort to achieve identifications.

### **NEW YEAR'S CAKE CUTTING:** On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>

January we welcome the New Year by cutting the traditional cake at St. John's hall in Wightman Road, after the liturgy in the church, where a memorial service was held for those identified and buried and prayers were said for those still missing. A short speech was delivered by the Cyprus Consul General Mr Theodoros Gotsis.

In the hall, full of people, Father Theofanis Petrou blessed and cut the cake and then offered it to all those present. Tea, coffee and crudities were offered and the help of all was asked in ascertaining the fate of those still missing.



### **Supervision of the execution of the European Court's judgments (Regarding Missing Persons) by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe: Cyprus v. Turkey & Varnava and others v. Turkey – December 2019**

1. Recalling the important humanitarian issues which arise in respect of the missing persons, underlined that, due to the passage of time, it remains urgent for the Turkish authorities to advance their proactive approach to providing the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) with all necessary assistance so that it can continue to achieve tangible results as quickly as possible;
2. Welcomed in this respect the information submitted by the Turkish authorities that in June 2019 they provided the CMP with access to 30 additional suspected burial sites in military areas situated in the northern part of Cyprus, with the timing of excavations to be decided by the CMP; encouraged the Turkish authorities to continue with this approach and to provide the CMP with unhindered access to all areas which could contain the remains of missing persons;
3. Underlining that as with the passage of time witness testimony becomes scarcer, the CMP urgently needs documentary evidence to allow it to continue identifying possible burial sites; reiterated, therefore, their call on the Turkish authorities to advance their efforts to provide the CMP *proprio motu* and without delay with all information at their disposal relating to burial sites and any other places where remains might be found, including information in military archives;

**NIKI'S ART EXHIBITION:** This took place at the Cypriot Brotherhood between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December. Niki has donated £300.00 from sales of her paintings for the needs of an elderly mother of a Missing. Thank you Niki!

**DONATIONS:** Yiannis Kashimeris £100, Efterpi Gavriel £20, Kyriakou Pafiti £20. **We thank you all so very much.**