

ORGANISATION OF RELATIVES OF MISSING CYPRIOTS (UK)

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NEWS BULLETIN MARCH 2023

IDENTIFICATIONS:Two new identifications were announced: Constantinos Hadjikyprianou from Xeros and Athanasios Hadjinicola from Voni. CMP figures now stand at: Identified 737 Greek Cypriots 773 still missing, 292 Turkish Cypriots identified and 200 still missing.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR MISSING: Relatives of our missing can now have the information held in the Missing Persons Service regarding that particular missing person. If you are a close relative (father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister) and you wish to be given that information please apply by email to dkamilari@presidency.gov.cy, giving all the details of the missing person and yours. *If you do not have internet. Please call the office for help.*

CO-ORDINATED ACTION BY THE THREE COMMITTEES OF RELATIVES

In February, representatives from the three Committees of Relatives: Pancyprian Organisation of Relatives of Missing Persons, Panhellenic Organisation of Relatives of Missing Persons of Cyprus Tragedy and the Organisation of Relatives of Missing Cypriots (UK) met in Athens to coordinate their efforts and plan a joint campaign for the Missing.

The first course of action agreed was in relation to the forthcoming meeting of the Committee of Ministers (CM), of the Council of Europe, which was due early in March to debate the outstanding European Court of Human Rights cases against Turkey relating to the missing of Cyprus.

A report, co-signed by the Presidents of the three committees was sent to all members of the Committee of Ministers, outlining the Relatives expectations of the CM.

Representatives from the Committees of Relatives went to Strasbourg in March:

On the first day, they met with the Secretariat, who showed particular interest in the evidence from the 1974 Turkish Veterans' Testimony Book and urged them to collect any other evidence for their own use. They also urged Relatives to report any problems recorded by the CMP to them.

On the second day a gathering was organised for Country Representatives (Ministers to the Council of Europe). 29 of the 46 countries were represented. A short documentary film about the Missing was presented to them. The Relatives representatives answered questions from those present and gave real examples of missing persons cases.

The main issues raised were: 773 Missing (today)-The cases cannot be closed before they are identified; Military zones (arbitrary designation of 60% - 70% of the occupied area, such as parks, town squares etc.); Information from files, books, testimonies, etc.; Movements from the original burial site and concealment of the new burial site; Few bones given to relatives for burial; Inefficient case management by the MPU, with no substantive findings or accountability to date;

Our delegation felt that the response from the Ministers, was positive and indirectly responded to the Turkish memorandum sent to the CM earlier in the year.

Regrettably however, the published "compromised" Deputies Decision is very disappointing and not a reflection of the positive feedback received from the actual CM Meeting, where the vast majority of the Ministers spoke in support of Cyprus and the urgent need for Turkey to implement the ECHR judgements.

Finally, the CM decided to resume consideration of the issue of the missing persons, together with the individual measures in the Varnava case, at their March 2024 DH (Human Rights) meeting.

Condolences to our President NNeokleous, and his family, for the lost of his brother recently. **May he RIP!**

DONATIONS:Yiannis Kashimeris £100, Louis Loizou £150. **Thank you for your kindness and generosity.**

IBAN GB68HBUK40033362336375