

ORGANISATION OF RELATIVES OF MISSING CYPRIOTS (UK)

69 Firs Park Ave.,
London
N21 2PR.

Telephone: Office 020-8805-6939

E-mail: ormc1974@btopenworld.com

Website: <http://www.ormc-uk.org>

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IDENTIFICATIONS: No Greek Cypriot identifications have been announced since our last News Review. However there have been 21 Turkish Cypriot identifications but unfortunately, we are not able to obtain their names.

LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER:

The following letter was sent to our Prime Minister.

10th July 2018.

Dear Madam Prime Minister Theresa May,

We are addressing this letter to you to express our great concern for the purposeful delay observed on the part of Turkey towards ending the violation of the human rights of the Missing Persons of Cyprus. The relatives of the missing, bear a tragic burden for the last 44 years and continue to live in a prolonged state of anguish for the fate of their loved ones.

At a time when negotiations are due to restart for a renewed effort to achieve a settlement to the Cyprus problem, we are keen, as British relatives of Missing Cypriots, that the UK government applies the necessary diplomatic pressure on Turkey for answers to the humanitarian issue of the Missing Cypriots. Closure for all relatives will be an important step in confidence building measures and further contribute towards a lasting solution.

After more than forty years from the Turkish invasion and occupation of the areas where our missing disappeared, we are far from satisfied with the progress made so far on finding out the fate and whereabouts of our missing relatives. The Committee of Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP) reports that only few individuals are exhumed each year and that remains are found in only one in five of the excavated sites. Sadly, even the few remains that are found are incomplete as they were removed from their original place of burial. To date, approximately half of those missing are still unaccounted for. Unless reliable information is passed from Turkey to the CMP, the problem will never be completely resolved.

As a clear humanitarian issue, discovering the fates of the Missing People of Cyprus should not form part of any proposed future solution, nor should it wait until after a proposed solution. Unfortunately, Turkish intransigence, denial and insensitivity, have not allowed genuine and substantial progress to be made. Such actions form violations of the European Court of Human Rights, of the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations, all of which Britain continues to be a member of.

We therefore appeal to you to help us bring an end to the inhumane treatment we have been enduring for more than four decades, by taking concrete steps towards ensuring that Turkey fulfils its obligations in giving full access to exhumation teams and by providing all critical information that could lead to the location of our Missing.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. S. Hadjiphilippou
General Secretary

The Prime Minister's office advised us that our letter was forwarded to the Foreign Office so that they are aware of our views!!!

TOM COX 1930 – 2018: When in 1983 our Organisation was set up, we wrote to many MPs asking for their support in lobbying the UK Government to putting pressure on Turkey to provide information about the fate and whereabouts of our Missing. Tom Cox was the first to respond stating that he had already sent a letter to the PM regarding the issue, and shared with us the letter he received from the Prime Minister of the time.

Tom continued to lobby successive governments on the Cyprus question in general and for individual issues specifically, including the Missing. He had also taken the case up many times in the Council of Europe, where he was a UK Parliamentary Representative for many years. Even after he retired he would join the Relatives outside Parliament during our annual lobbying of MPs.

Tom will be sorely missed by many, especially by the Relatives of Missing Cypriots. He was a great friend of Organisation and will be remembered forever. May he Rest in Peace.



LATEST NEWS: We have now moved our office to: **69 Firs Park Ave., London N21 2PR.** All correspondence to be addressed to our new office please.

We would like to thank our members Anastasia and Theoklis Chrysanthou for their kindness and generosity in offering us this facility.

Many thanks also to the Committee of St. John the Baptist Church in Wightman Road for allowing us to have our meetings on their premises.

We also thank H.E. Archbishop Gregorios, then Bishop Tropaiou, for offering us the space at 21 Trinity Road and Bishop Athanasios for allowing us to use the room until last year.

DONATIONS: Mrs S. Black £25. MANY THANKS INDEED.

APPEAL: *If you have an e-mail address please let us have it so that we can e-mail you all correspondence etc. It will help us tremendously and save us the postage, which today is pretty expensive!!*

Thank you.