

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 16 July 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 July 2020, addressed to you by Mehmet Dâna, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Raziye Bilge **Koçyiğit Grba**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 16 July 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing in response to the letter dated 10 July 2020, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York, which was also circulated as a United Nations document (S/2020/689). In the face of gross misrepresentation and distortion of legal and historical facts pertaining to Cyprus in the said letter, I feel compelled to bring the following considerations of the Turkish Cypriot side to your kind attention.

I would like to remind the Greek Cypriot representative, at the outset, that the Greek Cypriot administration's counterpart in Cyprus is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey.

It has become the trademark of the Greek Cypriot official policy to fabricate "historical and legal facts" to further its propaganda campaign aimed at misinforming the international community by portraying the Cyprus problem as one of "occupation". It is crucial to clarify that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified presence of guarantor Turkey on the island as "occupation". In fact, in accordance with its rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, Turkey was compelled to act following the coup attempt organized by the military junta in Athens and its Greek Cypriot collaborators aimed at annexing the island to Greece and the total annihilation of the Turkish Cypriot people.

Contrary to the Greek Cypriot representative's allegation, it was the Greek Cypriot partner who forcibly ejected the Turkish Cypriot representatives from all the organs of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus and hijacked the partnership State. During the years from 1963 to 1974, a period that the Greek Cypriot representative has once again conveniently and consistently chosen to ignore, the Greek Cypriots, aided and encouraged by Greece, took part in an ethnic cleansing campaign against Turkish Cypriots, known as the Akritas Plan, with the ultimate aim of achieving enosis (annexation of the island to Greece). It was in fact this large-scale violence that necessitated the Security Council deploying the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in 1964 in order to stop the bloodshed and the atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people.

With regard to the allegation in relation to the cultural and religious heritage in North Cyprus, I would like to emphasize that the Turkish Cypriot side, despite its meagre resources, protects and preserves the cultural and religious heritage in North Cyprus, emanating from the diverse and rich cultures as well as civilizations that have populated the island throughout history. In addition to its own efforts for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage in North Cyprus, irrespective of its origin, the Turkish Cypriot side has also been actively engaging in and contributing constructively to the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, which stands as an outstanding example of what the two sides can accomplish through cooperation for the good of the two peoples.

On the other hand, the Greek Cypriot administration, since 1963, has been pursuing a policy of eradicating all traces of the Turkish-Islamic heritage of Cyprus. During the period from 1963 to 1974, mosques, shrines and other holy sites in Turkish villages all around the island were destroyed by the Greek Cypriots. More recently, field studies conducted by our experts and the information gathered from Turkish Cypriots visiting South Cyprus have indicated that, of more than 130 mosques in South Cyprus, 32 have been left to collapse, while the majority of those remaining are in extremely poor condition. Furthermore, all the movable cultural objects from these monuments, namely hundreds of Holy Qur'an manuscripts, prayer rugs, Holy

Qur'an reading desks and pieces of Islamic iconography, have been destroyed or looted.

Against this background, it is clear that the defamatory remarks of the Greek Cypriot representative towards the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey are not corroborated by legal and historical facts pertaining to the island. Thus, instead of levelling unfounded accusations against the Turkish Cypriot side, which only creates an environment of mistrust and hostility between the two peoples of the island, the Greek Cypriot side should channel its efforts to create an atmosphere conducive to cooperation between the two sides, as also called for in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General and resolutions of the Security Council.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
