

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
23 July 2020

Original: English

Letter dated 22 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 22 July 2020, addressed to you by Mr. 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 22 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**

In view of the continued obstructive and arbitrary policy of the Greek Cypriot administration regarding the crossing of individuals between the two sides in Cyprus, I deem it necessary to bring the following considerations to your kind attention, particularly at a time when the deliberations of the Security Council in relation to the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus are underway.

It is very regrettable that as of 1 July 2020, Turkish Cypriot citizens of different origins, as well as foreign nationals (including European Union nationals) who arrived on the island via South Cyprus, have been prevented and in some cases detained by the Greek Cypriot administration when they tried to cross to or from North Cyprus. Similarly, the Greek Cypriot side has decided, again owing to political considerations, to keep the Lokmacı (Ledra Street) crossing point closed. It is arguably the most important crossing point in terms of the volume of crossings and the economic activity that it generates in the North through tourism.

It is not possible to explain these restrictions by invoking the measures taken in view of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. It is clear that these ill-intentioned and politically motivated decisions are part and parcel of the isolation policy of the Greek Cypriot administration to harm the economy and curtail the tourism of North Cyprus, and the unfortunate and dire conditions created by the pandemic are being exploited to this end.

A recent example among many documented cases of this obstructionist policy took place today, when a Turkish Cypriot bearing an Australian passport arrived at the island via South Cyprus was detained and harassed, and her documents were confiscated at the Greek Cypriot crossing point. After all the ordeal she had to endure, and without being given any reason whatsoever, she was not allowed to cross to North Cyprus. Needless to say, such restrictions, which clearly have no relation to the fight against the pandemic, not only render meaningless any effort aimed at building confidence between the two sides, but also clearly contradict the call made by the United Nations Secretary-General in this regard. The Secretary-General underlined in his latest report on his good offices mission in Cyprus (S/2020/685) that "it is essential that movement within the island be allowed along with incoming travel". In the same paragraph, he also called "for the full reopening of all crossing points" (para. 48). We trust that these considerations of the Secretary-General will be echoed by the Security Council in its forthcoming resolution.

We believe that the Security Council should not condone this provocative and hostile Greek Cypriot policy by remaining silent, as it not only violates the free movement of people throughout the island, but also further diminishes the level of trust between the two peoples in Cyprus.

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

(Signed) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative