

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 2 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 September 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) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 2 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In view of the baseless allegations made by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York in his written statement as regards the Security Council high-level open debate entitled “Conflict-related sexual violence: turning commitments into compliance” on 17 July 2020, I would like to bring the following facts to your kind attention.

After the destruction of the partnership “Republic of Cyprus” following the Greek Cypriot onslaught in December 1963, Turkish Cypriots were forcefully ejected from all organs of the State and subjected to a campaign of ethnic cleansing. Hundreds of civilians were killed, and thousands were rendered homeless refugees. One must not forget that it was in the face of these atrocities against the Turkish Cypriot people that the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus was first deployed on the island, in 1964. In fact, the inhuman living conditions forced upon the Turkish Cypriot population were so severe that it was described as a “veritable siege” by the then United Nations Secretary-General in his report of 10 September 1964 (S/5950) to the Security Council. Only a few days ago, on 14 August, 126 Turkish Cypriots, including children, women and older persons, who were massacred in the villages of Muratağa, Sandallar and Atlılar, were once again commemorated on the island by their grieving families and the Turkish Cypriot people. The Greek Cypriot representative, who with lofty words professes that those who commit crimes against humanity should not have impunity, is naturally expected to explain why, 46 years after these and similar atrocities were committed, their perpetrators still remain at large. It is an undeniable fact that it was the Turkish Cypriot people who had to endure basic human rights violations during the ill-fated 1963–1974 period on the island and the false assertions made in the statement of the Greek Cypriot representative are nothing but a futile effort aimed at rewriting history to suit the Greek Cypriot propaganda machinery.

It must be underlined that the attempted portrayal of the Cyprus issue as one of “invasion” by Turkey is also not corroborated by historical facts. The plain truth is that the Cyprus problem was created in 1963, when the Greek Cypriot partner of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus, established under international treaties, tried to impose its political will on Turkish Cypriots by force of arms and converted the binational Republic into a purely Greek Cypriot entity. This deep-rooted Greek Cypriot policy in Cyprus was also confessed by the then Greek Cypriot leader, Glafcos Clerides, in his memoir entitled *Cyprus: My Deposition*, in the following words: “the Greek Cypriot preoccupation was that Cyprus should be a Greek Cypriot state, with a protected Turkish Cypriot minority” (vol. 3, p. 105).

As a matter of fact, Turkey intervened on the island in accordance with its rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee following the Greek/Greek Cypriot coup d'état, in 1974, which was aimed at annexing the island to Greece (enosis). In fact, the coup itself was described by the then Greek Cypriot leader, Archbishop Makarios, in his speech before the Security Council on 19 July 1974, as “an invasion” by Greece. The Turkish intervention was carried out against the backdrop of an 11-year-long systematic campaign of oppression directed against the Turkish Cypriots. One must also not forget the fact that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention of 1974 as an “invasion”.

We therefore reject all the baseless claims contained in the aforementioned statement by the Greek Cypriot representative and once again underline that, unless this aggressive campaign of disinformation by the Greek Cypriot administration is

abandoned in favour of a fact-based approach, the prospects for promoting confidence and ultimately reaching a settlement between the two sides will continue to remain bleak.

I should 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
