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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1974 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the following atrocities  
committed by the invading Turkish armed forces:

The Sun  
London, 5 Aug. 1974  
News report  
by: Iain Walker

"A horrifying story of atrocities by the Turkish invaders of Cyprus emerged today. It was told by weeping Greek Cypriot villagers rescued by United Nations soldiers. They told of watching their loved ones tortured and shot. They told of barbaric rape at gunpoint ... and threats of instant execution if they struggled. The villagers are from Trimithi, Karimi and Ayios Georghios, three farming communities west of the holiday town of Kyrenia. They had been trapped since the fighting began two weeks ago and were only evacuated to Nicosia by the United Nations forces on Saturday. And today at a Nicosia orphanage, they told their tales ... simply and without any prompting.

"A 20-year old girl, sitting under an icon of Jesus, described how she was raped and watched horrified as her fiancé and six other men were shot dead in cold blood ... a few minutes after they had been promised that they would not be harmed.

"She said: 'After the shooting, a Turkish soldier grabbed me and pulled me into a ditch. I struggled and tried to escape but he pushed me to the ground.

'Another Turkish soldier who was watching us had a nine-month-old baby in his arms and I, trying to save myself, called out that the child was mine. They laughed at me and threw the baby to the ground. I was then raped and fainted soon after.'

"Mrs. Elena Mateidou, aged 28, of Trimithi said: 'The soldiers separated the women and children and ushered us behind some olive trees. I heard a burst of shooting and knew that they had been killed. Later, they took us back to the village with our hands tied behind our backs. Two

soldiers took me into a room in a deserted house and raped me. One of them held a gun at my head and said if I struggled he would shoot me. Later I went back to the olive groves and found the bodies of my husband and father along with five other men. My father had been stabbed and my husband shot in the belly.' Later, United Nations soldiers brought villagers food. 'The Turks took it away', said Mrs. Mateidou.

"Another woman said: 'I watched from the bushes as they cut off my father's hands and legs below the knee with a double-edged cutting knife. At first he screamed and beat at them with his fists, but then he became quiet and did not utter a word. Then they shot him in the stomach while I watched.'

"Farmer Christos Savva Drakos, 51, saw his wife and two sons murdered. 'I was watering my orchard when the bombs started to explode', he said. 'With the rest of the village, we tried to run away through the groves and river beds but the Turks caught us and we surrendered. They searched us but no one had a gun. Then the shooting started one by one and I heard my 16-year-old boy Georgios saying in a calm voice, 'Daddy, they have shot me'. I pulled him down and we fell behind a rock. He died there in my arms. An officer appeared and told his men to stop. My wife and my other boy Nicos, only 13, were dead. My friend's wife was injured and told the officer, 'Why should I live without my husband? Shoot me ...' The officer shrugged his shoulders and walked off and a soldier shot her in the head.

"If the Turkish authorities deny these allegations, I will remember the drawn face of that old man cowering in a corner. His body racked with tears. This was clearly no actor, or a man ordered to lie for political propaganda. He was a poor man who had lost everything he ever possessed or loved in the world.

"Hotel manager Vassilios Efthimos was the only survivor in a party of men seized by the Turks. He said: 'They separated the men from the women and shot the 12 men'. Those killed ranged from a 12-year-old boy to an old man in his 90's."

The Sun, Editorial  
London, 5 Aug. 1974  
Under the heading  
"Shame on Them"  
writes:

"As the politicians vie to take credit for bringing a cease-fire to Cyprus, reports of appalling atrocities are filtering through from that tragic island. For, while the peace talks went on, Turkish soldiers were killing and terrorising innocent civilians. The behaviour of these

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troops will shock the world. As they are in Cyprus in the name of Turkey, that nation must immediately take action against the animals that wear its uniform."

The Sunday Telegraph,  
4 Aug. 1974, "Turks  
drive our Greek  
villagers" by  
R. Barry O'Brien  
in Nicosia

"The mass expulsion of Greek Cypriots from several villages near Kyrenia in the Turkish held zone of Cyprus was reported by the International Red Cross in Nicosia yesterday.

"The Red Cross said all Greek Cypriots in the villages of Karmi and Trimiti had been expelled by Turkish soldiers from their homes."

The New York Times,  
6 Aug. 1974

"United Nations officials here expressed concern today over forcible removal of Greek Cypriot men from their homes in areas occupied by the Turkish Invasion army.

"The officials complained that their own freedom of movement was being restricted, particularly in the area controlled by the Turkish army."

The New York Times,  
6 Aug. 1974  
"Villager Driven  
From Cyprus Homes  
Charge Murder and  
Rape by Turks"  
Nicosia, Cyprus  
5 Aug.

"Greek Cypriots from small villages around Kyrenia told stories today of murder, rape and looting by the Turkish army after its invasion of Cyprus. The villagers are among 20,000 civilians driven from their homes by the Turks along the northern coast of the Island.

"One ashen-faced man told tearfully how his wife and children were shot before his eyes by Turkish soldiers who rounded up villagers before shooting them. A married woman whose husband was shot by the Turks and a young girl who saw her fiancé shot told how they were then raped at gunpoint by Turkish soldiers.

"After two weeks of living under Turkish occupation with shortages of food and facing constant harrassment, more than 600 villagers from Ayios Yeorios, Trimiti and Karmi were deported by the Turks to the green line which separates Greek and Turkish communities, here Saturday. More than 100 men between ages 16 to 65 from the villages were herded off to prisoner-of-war camps by the Turks."

Reports by the International Press of these crimes are but a pale reflection of the indiscriminate killing, rape and massive expulsion from the area in an orgy of deracination of the Cypriot people from their ancestral homes in the occupied territories. It is authoritatively estimated that over 200,000 people have thus been uprooted from their homes, the women molested, their belongings stolen and their properties plundered. Those remaining were starved. To avoid any record of their crimes, the United Nations Peace Force was threatened by

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machine guns and forcibly driven away in a further affront to the United Nations and its task in Cyprus. Similarly, the humanitarian work of the International Red Cross in its efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the inhabitants, was deliberately prevented and nullified by that army. They were thus forcibly deprived of supplies of food and water delivered to them by the Red Cross, confiscated by the Turkish military.

I would be grateful, Your Excellency, if you could kindly have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zenon ROSSIDES  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of  
Cyprus to the United Nations

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