

**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
10 January 2019
Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Agenda items 45 and 78

Question of Cyprus

Oceans and the law of the sea

Security Council
Seventy-fourth year

**Letter dated 8 January 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 27 December 2018, addressed to you by İsmet Korukoğlu, 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 General Assembly, under agenda items 45 and 78, and of the Security Council, and could be published in the next *Law of the Sea Bulletin* as well as on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

(Signed) Rauf **Denktaş**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 8 January 2019 from the
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to you in response to the letter dated 1 October 2018 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot Representative, which contains false allegations regarding the activities of fishing vessels within the territorial waters of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and on the high seas.

I wish to state, at the outset, that the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus enacted the Territorial Waters Law (No. 42/2002) and established the breadth of the State's territorial waters, which constitute an integral part of its sovereign territory, at 12 nautical miles. In line with the generally accepted rules in the context of territorial waters, the authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have additionally adopted laws and regulations regarding, but not limited to, marine living species and the prevention of the infringement on fisheries.

Regarding the fishing vessel *Geia sou kaiki mou Ai Nikola*, flying the flag of the Greek Cypriot administration, contrary to the allegations in the Greek Cypriot Representative's letter, the vessel was arrested within the territorial sea of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, not in that of the Greek Cypriot administration. The incident took place 7.5 nautical miles from the northern coast of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which falls within its maritime jurisdiction. Hence, only the relevant laws of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus apply in the area. As per standard practice, the vessel in question was contacted over radio by the Coast Guard of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and asked to identify itself; however, those calls were not answered. I deem it necessary to underline that, at the time it was detained, the fishing vessel in question was carrying out illegal fishing activity in breach of the national law of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and, consequently, its crew was charged with violating the Aquaculture Resources Law (No. 27/2000) and the Immigration Law of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

What is more misleading in the Greek Cypriot Representative's letter is the claim that the fishing vessel *Geia sou kaiki mou Ai Nikola* was detained by Turkish forces. Within the territorial sea of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, only the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces Command and its Coast Guard have the jurisdiction to perform maritime patrol missions for the prevention of all illegal activities, including illegal fishing, that are prejudicial to the peace and security of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. As part of the duty entrusted to it by our national law to combat the unlawful acts, the Turkish Cypriot Coast Guard had no choice but to conduct the arrest the fishing vessel.

As *Geia sou kaiki mou Ai Nikola* was performing illegal fishing activity within the territorial sea of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and pursuant to the principles enshrined in international law, its passage through the State's territorial sea was not innocent. The rest of the allegations in the Greek Cypriot Representative's letter are also totally baseless.

In conclusion, the present letter and the previous ones addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot Representative tend to ignore the prevailing reality that there exist two independent, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to call upon the Greek Cypriot side to cease to disseminate untrue information with regard to the matters related to the Cyprus issue, which serves no purpose but to deepen the mistrust between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots on the island.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 45 and 78, and of the Security Council, and could be published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and in the next *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) İsmet **Korukoğlu**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
