



Security Council

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Letter dated 30 March 2021 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 29 March 2021, addressed to you by Sertaç Güven, Chargé d'affaires a.i. 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) Bilge **Koçyiğit** Grba
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 30 March 2021 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 written statement of the representative of the Greek Cypriot administration, delivered at the high-level open debate of the Security Council on addressing climate-related risks to international peace and security, held on 23 February 2021, which blatantly distorts facts pertaining to Cyprus. It is regrettable, but not surprising, that the Greek Cypriot side has, once again, opted to exploit the absence of the Turkish Cypriot side in the United Nations organs to further its political agenda regardless of its relevance to the subject at hand. Therefore, I am obliged to respond in order to set the record straight.

At the outset, I wish to underline that the Turkish Cypriot people are still denied their rightful representation and participation in international forums, including the relevant organs of the United Nations, effectively preventing Turkish Cypriots, as one of the equal co-owners of the island, from being heard and allowing Greek Cypriot representatives to flagrantly distort historical and legal facts about Cyprus in their absence.

As such, the Greek Cypriot side has been continuing to disinform the international community by portraying the Cyprus problem as one of “occupation”. It is crucial to underline in this regard that none of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus describe the legitimate and justified Turkish presence in the island in line with the 1960 International Cyprus Treaties as an “occupation”. In fact, the only occupation on the island is the occupation of the seat of government by the Greek Cypriot administration since 1963.

It should be remembered in this regard that the Cyprus problem commenced in 1963, not in 1974, when the Greek Cypriot side forcibly usurped the title of the partnership Republic of Cyprus and expelled its Turkish Cypriot partner from all organs of the State. During the years from 1963 to 1974, a period that the Greek Cypriot representatives conveniently choose 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 (the annexation of the island to Greece). This large-scale violence and ensuing gross human rights violations necessitated the Security Council to deploy 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. There is a plethora of United Nations documents attesting to these crimes against humanity.

The claim, in the above-mentioned statement, that there is environmental degradation in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is also totally unfounded and politically motivated. On the contrary, it could easily be observed by anyone visiting the island that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has been much more successful in environmental preservation compared to the South. Moreover, the laws and regulations of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in relation to the environment are in line with the relevant international rules and regulations and the issue of climate change is of utmost importance for the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Matters of governance are solely in the hands of the legitimate and democratically elected authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, whose jurisdiction extends over its entire territory. The only authority qualified to provide information on any kind of matter concerning the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, including the “environment”, are the relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

If the Greek Cypriot administration is sincere in its professed concern for the preservation of the environment on the island, instead of polished and lofty utterances, it is expected to engage, without further delay, with the Turkish Cypriot side on island-wide environmental issues by enabling direct cooperation between the two sides.

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

(Signed) Sertaç **Güven**
Deputy Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
