

THE INHUMAN ISOLATION OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE

Since their destruction of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus through force of arms, the main aim of the Greek Cypriot side has been to constantly deny the Turkish Cypriot people any opportunity to engage in political, economical, social, cultural and sporting contacts with the rest of the world, aiming to bring about their collapse in all these areas. The embargoes imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people range from denying the right of representation in the international fora; to preventing or restricting their travel abroad as well as their communication with the outside world; to curtailing the trade and tourism between North Cyprus and the outside world; to hampering all cultural and sporting relations with other countries; and to attempting to prevent the academic cooperation of the universities in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, with the universities of other countries.

Although the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people is instigated by the Greek Cypriot administration, the international community, whether intentionally or not, participates in this by treating the Greek Cypriot side as the "legitimate government of the whole of Cyprus". This is the main reason that the isolation is effective. In reality, there is no UN Security Council Resolution enforcing such restrictions on the Turkish

"I shall address some of the practical effects of this isolation. It denies Turkish Cypriots the right of representation in almost every international forum. It prevents or restricts the use of ports and airports in Northern Cyprus. It precluded Turkish Cypriots having access to financial markets, curtails trade and tourism, and hampers all cultural and sporting relations between the TRNC and other countries. Turkish Cypriots have done nothing to deserve the treatment, nor has it ever been authorised by a sanctions resolution under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter. Turkish Cypriots have been under isolation from as long ago as 1963, when the Greek Cypriots massacred hundreds of their men, women and children and drove them into defensive enclaves."

"Turkish Cypriots earned the right to be relieved of their isolation when they voted for the Annan plan."

Lord MAGINNIS of Drumglass',

Address to The House of Lords,
November 20, 2006

Cypriots.

As a result of the Greek Cypriot obstructions, direct flights cannot take place to and from the TRNC, exports of products like the citrus fruit and potatoes to Europe through its ports are prevented, Turkish Cypriots cannot participate in any international sporting activity, and so forth.

"Though the EU denies it has an embargo against Northern Cyprus, it is not set up to receive exports from places without recognized governments, though Cyprus is supposedly part of the EU. Some "single market"! So the TRNC's only access to the world is through Turkey."

By Gerald OWEN,
National Post, December
8, 2006



While the Turkish Cypriot side is subjected to these restrictions, the Greek Cypriot side continues to enjoy the benefits of the title of the "Republic of Cyprus" which they have usurped in 1963. Many foreign reporters and politicians have stressed in their articles or speeches that isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people is unjust and should be lifted.

To put an end to this injustice and find its rightful place within the international community, the Turkish Cypriot side has always supported efforts towards finding a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem under the good offices mission of the UN Secretary-General. It is in this spirit that the Turkish Cypriot side has participated at the UN-sponsored negotiations for decades. However, the Greek Cypriot side has made it clear, at every opportunity, that the Greek Cypriots do not want a settlement based on the principles of political equality and bizonality.

"The international embargo that has been in place for the last forty years, making a mockery of international law and basic human rights, is to be reconsidered."

Derek HALLIGAN,
Fortnight, Politics June
2004

The latest negotiations, which continued for four and a half years, came to an end on 31 March

2004 as the UN Secretary-General finalized the last version of the Plan, namely the Annan Plan, which was a compromise plan. The Plan, envisaging a new partnership based on the political equality of the two peoples, was put into separate simultaneous referenda on both sides on 24 April 2004.

While the 76 per cent of the Greek Cypriot people overwhelmingly rejected the plan, the

"Hopes for reunification have been steadily deteriorating since the Greek Cypriots rejected, in a referendum 18 months ago, a unification plan submitted by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan."

By Andrew BOROWIEC,
The Washington Times,
November 7, 2005

Turkish Cypriot people approved it by 65 per cent. Such a strong "no" from the Greek Cypriot side, demonstrated that neither the Greek Cypriot leadership nor the Greek Cypriot people are ready to enter into a power-sharing arrangement with the Turkish Cypriots. In fact, the results of the referenda have shown which side is for a solution and which side is for the continuation of the situation.

Despite the absence of a political settlement in the island and the Greek Cypriot side's responsibility for it, Southern Cyprus was unjustly admitted to the European Union on 1 May 2004. Exploiting the privileges of its new EU membership, the Greek Cypriot administration is continuing vehemently its campaign of isolating the Turkish Cypriot people. After the referendum, the UN, many world leaders and international personalities applauded the Turkish Cypriots' affirmative vote and called for an end to the unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriots.

"The EU failed to honour its promises to the Turkish Cypriots that their isolation would end if they voted for the UN proposals for a settlement in Cyprus. In contrast, the EU rewarded the Greek Cypriots with full membership of the EU after they voted against the UN plans.

It is unfair and unreasonable for the EU to demand access to Turkish ports for Greek Cypriots and at the same time to continue to deny access to EU ports for Turkish Cypriots.

The Government must now unilaterally agree to direct access to Britain for transport to Northern Cyprus".

**Lord AHMED,
Lord HARRISON,
Lord KILCLOONEY
Lady KNIGHT of Collingtree,
Lord MAGINNIS of Drumglass
Lord MONSON, Lord ROGAN,
Lady BUTTERWORTH**

The Daily Telegraph/Letters
December 5, 2006

"Once again it seems as if the Turkish Cypriots find themselves in for a bad time, or so they think. Despite all the good intentions of the EU they threaten to sink even further down in their isolation."

Eric OUTSCHOORN,
Volkskrant, November 22, 2006

These calls once more disposed of Greek Cypriot administration's allegation that "there is no isolation of and embargoes on Turkish Cypriots" and proved that its argument is totally misleading and factually wrong.

The UN Secretary-General H.E. Kofi Annan expressed his views regarding the results of the referendum in his report to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437) in the following fashion:

"the Turkish Cypriot vote has undone any rationale for pressuring and isolating them. I would hope that the members of the Council can give a strong lead to all states to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies, to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development".

The European Council of Foreign Ministers in its decision of 26 April 2004 expressed its determination to end the isolation of Turkish Cypriots: "... to put an end to the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots."

This was followed by **The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Resolution of 1376 (2004) stating that:** *"The international community, in particular, the Council of Europe and the European Union, cannot ignore or betray the expressed desire of the majority of Turkish Cypriots for greater openness and should take rapid and appropriate steps to encourage it. The Turkish Cypriots' international isolation must cease".*

On 26 April 2004, **The EU Enlargement Commissioner Gunther Verhaugen stated that :**

"..., now we have to end the isolation of the North. The Commission is ready to take various measures for that aim"

Isolation imposed by the Greek Cypriot administration and the international community constrains the economic development of the TRNC. It should be stressed that the reason why the Turkish Cypriot economy could not reach the same level as the Greek Cypriots is not the structural character of the economy, TRNC is a fully functioning state. Additionally, it is not either related to structural weaknesses, low productive capacity, size of population or inability to compete.

It is normal for a small island economy to face difficulties. However, as a result of living on the same island it would normally be expected that both

peoples share the same economic conditions. If the isolation was lifted, the two peoples would have the same opportunities to compete.

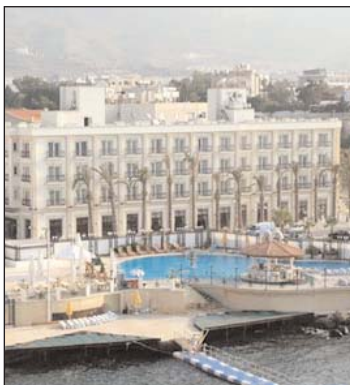
Although the calls for the lifting of the isolation on Turkish Cypriot people are important for Turkish Cypriots' efforts towards ending the unjust isolation, it is unfortunate that, they have not been possible to ease the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people due to the obstructionist policies of the Greek Cypriot administration. Clearly the continued non-settlement of the Cyprus issue has provided the Greek Cypriot side with the opportunity to continue its assault against the Turkish Cypriots in a more disguised fashion in the form of total isolation.

"Years of international embargoes and non-recognition of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC) by any country other than Turkey have accustomed Turkish Cypriots to disappointment."

Justin KEAY,
Jane's Foreign Report July
28, 2005

Claims that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory and the airspace of the TRNC, are baseless and contrary to the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within and above its respective territory on the island. However, despite this reality, not only the freedom of movement of the Turkish Cypriots is restricted but also of visitors, who would like to come to the TRNC. Lack of direct flights to the TRNC and the requirement of a stopover of aircrafts in Turkey increase the time and cost of the flight, causes undue inconvenience to the visitors and might discourage them from visiting the TRNC. Restrictions on direct trade to and from the TRNC, also has a negative impact on the development of the economy.

Higher education is the very fast improving sector in the TRNC which, the Greek Cypriot administration has also carrying out an intensive campaign to prevent its development, and to totally collapse it.



Rocks Hotel



Ercan State Airport



Eastern Mediterranean University

"A trustee committee for the California State system declined Wednesday to suspend an overseas study program on conflict resolution held on the divided island of Cyprus.

Representatives of the "Cyprus government" had pushed for the suspension because the course, sponsored by San Diego University, is offered on the Turkish run portion of the island."

Deborah Schoch,

L.A. Times December 7, 2006

The Under-Secretary of U.S.A State Department Matthew Bryza in his letter dated 1 December 2006, to California State Universities' Director Charles Rent noted that:

"The Exchange Program between San Diego State University and the Eastern Mediterranean University has provided a significant contribution to the efforts of the USA for the whole island towards increasing the exchange in the fields of education and culture with the Cypriots."

Our embassy in Cyprus is also granting allowances for further improving scientific development, education and etc. within the framework of bi-communal support program.

Recently, I have granted an allowance to the EMU in order to support the Meeting of Peace Journalism. I would like to assure the Board of Directors that according to American Laws, it is legal for Americans to travel to the EMU, which is administered by the Turkish Cypriots."

In this context, it is of vital importance that air and sea transportation to ports and airports in Northern Cyprus continue without any hindrance so that the Turkish Cypriots could develop their potential in tourism, trade education and other sectors. The Famagusta Port in Northern Cyprus is not only equipped with the necessary infrastructure for international trade but is also fully operational despite the fact that the Greek Cypriot side unilaterally declared the port "closed" in 1974. Turkish Cypriot economy

is not in need of ports to export goods under the control and authority of the Greek Cypriot administration, as the Greek Cypriots propose, but is in need of lifting of the restrictions on the development of a preferential trade



relationship with the EU and the other countries, including the utilization of the Famagusta Port for imports and exports to and from EU member countries.

In this framework, direct trade would help end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots and enable them to prosper. EU Commission's proposal on direct trade is designed to provide the Turkish Cypriot people with this opportunity and open the way for economic development in Northern Cyprus independent of Greek Cypriot political aspirations. Coinciding with the days that the implementation of the Direct Trade Regulation was going to be discussed in the EU, the Greek Cypriot administration was doing its utmost in order to prevent it from materializing and to extend its illegal authority over Turkish Cypriots.

In order to create the myth that the Direct Trade Regulation is unnecessary and shall not bring any added economic benefits to the Turkish Cypriot economy, the Greek Cypriot leadership is trying to promote the Green

Line Regulation, which was devised for intra-island trade and is not functioning effectively due to Greek Cypriot obstructionism. In any case, it could not end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people as the trade volume it can generate is very limited and was not designed for this

purpose. It is clearly stated in the annual report issued by the Commission dated 25 September 2006 on the implementation of the Green Line Regulation that "... overall scale of Green Line Trade (approximately 2



million Euros per year) remains very limited." The only way to end the restrictions on trade is to establish unhindered trade between the North and rest of the world and lift all types of unnecessary restrictions.

The Greek Cypriot policy in the sporting field that the only Greek Cypriot institutions can represent "Cyprus" is particularly abhorrent given the fact that sports in Cyprus has historically been in the context of the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot sports organizations. Under the 1960 Agreements

sports was considered a "communal affair", with authority in

this regard being vested in the respective Communal Chambers of the two sides. Religion,



education, culture and sports were specifically defined as "communal

affairs" under Articles 86, 87, 89, 108 and 182 of the 1960 Constitution and administered separately.

Turkish Cypriots have set up social, cultural and sports organizations which have over the years, become institutionalized. However, the countries with which Turkish Cypriots have established social, cultural and sportive contacts, are continually threatened and harassed by the Greek-Greek Cypriot front.

While the Greek Cypriot administration proudly gives unfounded figures as to the amount spent as total economic assistance to Turkish Cypriots, in forms of medical care, social insurance, certificates (identity cards, passports, birth certificates) or educational support, it fails to reveal the fact that it exploits these humanitarian issues only to support its illegal claim to be the "government" of Turkish Cypriots. Moreover, it is no secret that Turkish Cypriots are often subjected to discrimination as they seek these services in the South.

It is also noteworthy in this context that, the Greek Cypriot side has been receiving international aid for all these services in the name of whole population of the island for the past four decades.

In addition to all these restrictions, the Greek Cypriot administration is not only blocking the passage of international aid designed to develop the Turkish Cypriot economy or services but also prevents the aid for the promotion, protection and preservation of antiquities in Northern Cyprus, which are not only the monuments of Cyprus but the whole of humanity over the world.

Ben Chapman, Labour MP in the UK House of Commons during British Parliament's debate on Cyprus on 10 January 2007 stated that :

"Turkish Cypriots, who had voted for the plan were punished with isolation and the Greek Cypriots, who voted negatively, were rewarded with EU membership. The situation has reached upside down proportions. Is it not important that we resume, for example, direct links and end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots? Is that not a fundamental right for the Turkish northern Cypriots?"



Girne Yacht Harbour

Ever since the hijacking of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot partner, all the means and the privileges of the Republic have been utilized for the welfare of solely the Greek Cypriot population. The Greek Cypriot administration, under the title of the so-called "Republic of Cyprus", continue to be one of the most subsidized countries in the world, receiving massive aid from the international organizations such as IMF and EU. If the Turkish Cypriot partner was not prevented from exercising its co-founder rights, Turkish Cypriot people would have enjoyed the same economic welfare and proportionate

increase in their GNP as the Greek Cypriots. This would greatly contribute to decreasing the gap between the two side's economies and facilitate finding a just and viable settlement between the two parties.

It is evident from the above that the Greek Cypriot administration's attempts to prevent the Turkish Cypriot side from representing its people in the international fora, even socially and culturally, and from achieving a higher level of economic development shall continue. The Greek Cypriot side will continue to exploit the situation in order to keep Turkish Cypriots under constant pressure and impose its terms for a settlement in the island.

On the other hand, the Turkish Cypriot side remains committed to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue, based on bi-zonality and political equality, under the good offices mission of the UN Secretary-General.

In face of this ill-intentioned and counter-productive policy of the Greek Cypriot administration, it is the responsibility of the international actors interested in the resolution of the Cyprus problem to urgently take the necessary measures for ending the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people, which will surely be a positive step for achieving reconciliation in the island. Once the economic gap between the two sides is eliminated, the path towards conciliation and comprehensive settlement will be opened. It is obvious that leaving the ending of the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people to the 'good will' of the Greek Cypriot administration would be tantamount to keeping Turkish Cypriot people's rights and freedoms hostage to its political considerations.