

Documents on Cyprus

The European Parliament

• having regard to its previous resolutions on Cyprus, in particular its resolutions of 12 July 1995 on Cyprus's application for membership of the European Union, and 19 September on the situation in Cyprus,

A. shocked by the latest cold-blooded murder in Cyprus of yet another Greek Cypriot, Petros Kakoulis, in Cyprus by the Turkish occupation army,

B. whereas this totally unjustified act took place near the former police station of Achna, a territory controlled by the British military base at Dhekelia, while the base police and officials of the United Nations peacekeeping forces were not permitted to approach the site of the incident,

a. emphasising the fact that the victim was the fourth unarmed Greek Cypriot murdered without reason over the last months by the Turkish occupation army or Turkish paramilitary organisations, which could be an indication of the real intentions of some extremist circles to create the false impression that the two communities of the island of Cyprus cannot peacefully coexist,

b. having regard to the refusal of the occupation authorities to comply with the repeated request from the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights for authorisation to visit Greek Cypriots imprisoned in the occupied part of Cyprus in conditions which are in breach of those set out in the relevant international conventions, as is demonstrated in the UN Secretary-General's recent report to the Security Council,

c. having regard to the continuing violation of the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the enclave in Turkish-occupied Cyprus, including the right of education, given the refusal by the occupying regime to allow one of the three Greek Cypriot teachers in Karpassia who is retiring to be replaced,

1. Strongly condemns the murder of Petros Kakoulis by the Turkish occupation forces, expresses its sincere condolences to the victims's families and asks the Commission and the Council to inform the Turkish occupation forces of the deep indignation of the European Union with regard to the incident;

2. Calls for a thorough investigation of the incident in order to identify those responsible and bring them to justice;

3. Believes that the people of Cyprus, Greek and Turkish Cypriots alike, wish

to put an end to the killings and to the division of the island, and that Cyprus's accession to the EU will benefit both communities and contribute to a solution of the Cyprus problem;

4. Reminds the Turkish Government that relations between Turkey and the EU depend partly on the Turkish Government's policy on Cyprus and reiterates its decision to freeze financial cooperation with Turkey as well as the MEDA programs with regard to Turkey, with the exception of those aspects concerning the promotion of democracy, human rights and civil society;

5. Calls on Turkey to respect the human rights and the fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriot and Maronites in the enclaves, to put an end to any action or omission which violates these rights and freedoms and to implement faithfully the provisions of the Third Vienna Agreement of 1975, particularly with regard to prisoners of whatever faith or origin, who are imprisoned in the occupied part of Cyprus;

6. Calls upon the Member States to respond with continued firm pressure on Turkey with the aim of freeing the island of the presence of all Turkish troops, guaranteeing freedom of movement for all citizens and working for a just and peaceful solution to the current Cypriot problem, along the lines of relevant UN Security resolutions;

7. Reiterates its support for the Cypriot Government's proposal to demilitarise the island and calls on Turkey to withdraw the occupying forces and to comply with the UN resolutions on Cyprus;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the government and parliaments of Cyprus and Turkey and the United Nations.

UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS
UNFICYP

Press Release

The Demonstrations of 11 August 1996

The United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has completed its review of the events surrounding the demonstrations of Sunday, 11 August. The facts that have emerged are as follows:

1. On Sunday, 11 August, some 3,500 persons gathered at various locations in anticipation of proceeding to Dherinia, the originally intended starting point for the demonstration route. The demonstrators included some 120 motorcyclists from 12 countries who had arrived in Cyprus on 10 August, following a journey which began in Berlin on 2 August. During the weeks leading up to the demonstration, UNFICYP liaised closely with all relevant authorities to ensure that all necessary measures be taken to prevent a violation of the United Nations buffer zone.

2. On 10 August, the Secretary-General issued a statement in which he expresses his concern at reports that a Greek Cypriot motorcycle association was planning to violate the cease-fire lines as well as the United Nations buffer zone in Cyprus. He expresses his hope that the organizers of this event would avoid a course of action that could only harm efforts to resolve the long standing Cyprus problem. The Secretary-General also called on the Government of Cyprus to take effective measures, in exercise of its responsibilities, to prevent any unauthorized entry into the United Nations buffer zone.

3. In response to an appeal from President Clerides early on Sunday morning, the President of the Cyprus Motorcycle Federation agreed to cancel the planned demonstration route and instead called on all participants to assemble in Makarios Stadium in Nicosia. Some 1,500 motorcyclists and associated motorists proceeded to Makarios Stadium late on Sunday morning to hear the message from their leader who also conveyed a message from President Clerides.

4. Meanwhile, a major counter-demonstration had been organized in north Nicosia of some 2,500 persons, including a significant number of members of the Grey Wolves who had come from Turkey. This demonstration remained peaceful.

5. Shortly before noon, the demonstrators left the Makarios Stadium, split up into many groups, and began to move around the city and beyond to various des-

tinations that were difficult to anticipate. Groups of motorcyclists and persons in cars assembled in various locations in Nicosia, notably the Ledra Palace checkpoint, the United Nations Protected Area Foxtrot Gate and the Presidential Palace. These demonstrations remained peaceful.

The main incidents

6. A group of some 150 Greek Cypriot demonstrators, who were subsequently joined by another 200, arrived at the United Nations buffer zone at the Old Famagusta road at about 1240 hours. The Cyprus Police (Cypol) lifted the National Guard (NG) cease-fire line barrier from where the demonstrators quickly proceeded into the United Nations buffer zone eventually right up to the Turkish Forces (TF) cease-fire line, starting fires as they went along. UNFICYP troops in the area, subsequently reinforced by elements of UNFICYP's Force Reserve, interposed themselves between the demonstrators and the TF who were soon joined by the Turkish Cypriot Police Element (TCPE) in riot gear. Although the situation became very tense, UNFICYP managed to keep it under control, not least because the TF and TCPE acted in a very disciplined and restrained manner despite considerable verbal provocations from the demonstrators, Cypol was not effective in controlling the demonstrators who had arrived at that location. By 1400 hours the crowd began to disperse and by 1730 hours all demonstrators had left the United Nations zone, there were no casualties.

7. At about 1200 hours, some 150 Turkish Cypriot demonstrators appeared along the Sovereign base Area (SBA) at the link road near the junction with the Old Nicosia Road. At 1330 hours, some 200 Greek Cypriot motorcyclists arrived along with several TV crews. The 12 SBA police deployed there were unable to keep the situation under control and the two sides began to throw stones at each other. Some Greek Cypriots crossed a few metres beyond the Turkish Forces Cease-fire line and planted a Greek flag. The Turkish Cypriot demonstrators responded by firing shotguns at the Greek Cypriots who retreated and proceeded to set fires. By 1500 hours, the Greek Cypriot motorcyclists left the area and proceeded in the direction of Dhekelia. According to reports, 10 Greek Cypriot demonstrators were wounded, some by shotgun pellets, as were 2 SBA policemen.

8. The most serious incident took place in Dherinia. On Sunday morning, a peaceful demonstration by some 250 Cypriots took place. They entered the United Nations buffer zone and requested to deliver a petition to the Turkish Cypriot checkpoint. When the latter refused to receive the petition, the demonstrators left the United Nations buffer zone, but remained in the area. At 1430 hours, some 300 motorcyclists together with some 700 persons in vehicles escorted by Cypol arrived at the NG cease-fire line checkpoint in Dherinia.

Cypol deployed along the NG cease-fire line but left the checkpoint unattended, thus enabling the demonstrators to enter the United Nations buffer zone unimpeded.

9. In the meantime, the Turkish Forces had allowed some 1,000 persons in buses to pass through their 3 km deep military zone and to assemble along the TF cease-fire, including persons carrying the flag of the Grey Wolves who had come from Turkey.

10. The situation soon became violent, after Greek Cypriot demonstrators entered the buffer zone and approached the TF cease-fire line to provoke the TF, the TCPE and demonstrators assembled there with verbal abuse and throwing stones. Cypol was not effective in controlling the Greek Cypriot demonstrators.

11. At about 1600 hours, the Turkish Forces allowed the Turkish Cypriot demonstrators to enter the United Nations buffer zone armed with bats and iron bars. The Turkish Cypriot demonstrators, joined by the Turkish Cypriot Police, then proceeded to pursue the Greek Cypriots and mercilessly beat all those who they were able to catch. At the same time, there was shooting, including by Turkish Cypriot police, behind the Turkish Forces cease-fire line towards the Greek Cypriot demonstrators.

12. During this period, a Greek Cypriot demonstrator, Anastasios Isaak, was beaten to death by a number of Turkish Cypriot demonstrators, including three Turkish Cypriot policemen. By 1800 hours the situation began to calm down. In addition to the one dead, it was reported that some 54 Greek Cypriots and 17 Turkish Cypriots were injured. 12 UNFICYP personnel suffered injuries.

13. The UNFICYP investigation revealed conclusively that the killing of Anastasios Isaak had occurred some 50 metres from the scene shown on television in which three Greek Cypriots were being severely beaten by Turkish Cypriot demonstrators while helplessly entangled in barbed wire. Two UNFICYP Irish Civilian Police had done their best in trying to rescue Anastasios Isaak at considerable personal risk.

14. The two United Nations Civilian Police had observed two Greek Cypriot demonstrators being set upon by two groups of Turkish Cypriot demonstrators who proceeded to beat them with brutal force. The two United Nations Police went to the assistance of one of the Greek Cypriots and managed to facilitate his escape. When they turned to assist the second Greek Cypriot (Isaak), and were finally able to push aside the Turkish Cypriots, including three Turkish Cypriot policemen, who were still beating him, it was too late. The location of the killing inside the United Nations buffer zone was about 95 metres from the National Guard cease-fire line and about 32 metres from the Turkish Forces cease-fire line.

15. A video broadcasted on «Euronews» *inter alia* clearly shows the killing of Anastasios Isaak and the intervention of the two United Nations police. The autopsy, attended by UNFICYP, which was performed late afternoon of 13 August, revealed that Anastasios Isaak died of «multiple blunt trauma to the head». UNFICYP has completed the collection of the evidence at the scene of the crime and is in the process of completing its investigation in cooperation with Cypol.

The role of UNFICYP

16. Following the cancellation of the original demonstration route, the Greek Cypriot demonstrators broke up into numerous small groups with unknown destinations. As a result, their moves could not be anticipated, making it difficult for UNFICYP to reinforce in advance the likely flashpoints. At the same time, UNFICYP had to place effective coverage at all critical locations along the buffer zone while maintaining minimum coverage in other areas. UNFICYP's force reserve had to be moved over considerable distances at short notice in order to respond to fast developing situations. Given the prevailing situation on the ground as described above, UNFICYP's resources were stretched to the extreme.

UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS

UNFICYP

Press Release

The Demonstrations of 14 August 1996

The United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has completed its review of the events surrounding the demonstration of Wednesday, 14 August 1996. The facts that have emerged are as follows.

On Wednesday 14 August, about 3,000 people and some 500 motorcyclists attended in Paralimni the funeral of Anastasios Isaak who had been killed by a group of Turkish Cypriots during the demonstrations in Dherinia the previous Sunday (see UNFICYP press release of the demonstrations of 11 August).

After the funeral service, at about 1345 hrs, some 200 motorcyclists and a number of vehicles arrived at the northern outskirts of Dherinia where members of Cypol (Cyprus Police) had been stationed. As during the events on Sunday, Cypol was not effective in preventing the demonstrators from entering the United Nations Buffer Zone (UNBZ). Some 150 Greek Cypriots passed the police line and outflanked the UNFICYP troops deployed inside the UNBZ.

As the Greek Cypriot demonstrators made their way into the UNBZ, Turkish Forces and Turkish Cypriot military and police, which until then had remained out of sight, deployed in full view and in added strength along the TF CFL (Turkish Forces Cease-Fire Line). UNFICYP requested both Turkish Forces and Turkish Cypriots military and police to exercise restraint and not to over-react. It also reminded them that UNFICYP has sole responsibility to deal with incursions into the buffer zone and that there must be no interference.

By 1420 hours, some 200 Greek Cypriots were inside the UNBZ, but UNFICYP was in control of the situation. The demonstrators were being rounded up and moved out of the UNBZ. The main group of Greek Cypriots were no closer than about 30 metres from the Turkish Forces Cease-Fire Line (TF CFL).

At about that time, a Greek Cypriot male, later identified as Solomos Spyrou Solomou, broke free from the main group and ran towards the Turkish Cypriot check point. He was chased by two UNFICYP soldiers, who caught up with him at the guard post, but the demonstrator broke free and began to climb a flag pole which was flying the Turkish flag just inside the Turkish Cypriot check point. The UNFICYP soldiers were pursuing him a few feet behind.

Solomou was some 3 metres off the ground (less than a fourth of the way to the top of the flag pole), when he was shot by a Turkish or Turkish Cypriot soldier and fell to the ground with blood flowing profusely from his neck (the autopsy revealed that Solomou was hit by five bullets), Turkish or Turkish Cypriot soldiers then proceeded to fire some 25 to 50 rounds indiscriminately into the crowd inside the buffer zone. The whole incident was witnessed by the UNFICYP Force Commander and the Commanding Officer of the Austrian Battalion who were in the UNBZ some 35 metres from the TF CFL. They observed uniformed Turkish Cypriot military personnel kneeling down and firing in the direction of the demonstrators inside the UNBZ.

As a result of the indiscriminate shooting by Turkish or Turkish Cypriot soldiers, two British UNFICYP soldiers were shot from behind and two Greek Cypriot civilians were also hit by gunfire. Three were inside the buffer zone and one of the civilians, who sustained a serious gun shot wound to the abdomen, was standing outside the UNBZ close to the National Guard checkpoint. During the demonstration, two Cypriot officers and five Greek Cypriot civilians suffered non-gunshot related injuries.

The Force Commander of UNFICYP accompanied by the Chief of Staff met with the Commander of the Turkish Forces in Cyprus late in the afternoon of 14 August to strongly protest the totally unwarranted use of force by Turkish or Turkish Cypriot military personnel which resulted in the killing of Solomou and in injuries to two peace-keepers and two civilians.

Nicosia, Cyprus, 17 August 1996