

Embargoed! Information Pack

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Join Embargoed! and End the Embargoes Against the Turkish Cypriot People

Yes, you can make a difference!

For over 40 years the Turkish Cypriot people have been isolated by the world for political expediency. They have not been able to trade, travel or communicate. Participation in international meetings, sports and cultural events is not permitted. Life as a global citizen is impossible.

This is a situation Turkish Cypriots have endured since December 1963, when Greek Cypriots violently seized power, illegally eradicated Turkish Cypriot constitutional rights and installed themselves as the “Government of Cyprus”. Sadly, this coup has been tolerated by the international community who continue to treat the Greek Cypriots as the sole legitimate authority on the entire island, while ignoring the rights of Turkish Cypriots.

In April 2004, Cyprus became the focus of massive international political and media attention as Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots voted on the United Nations sponsored Annan Plan. The Greek Cypriots voted overwhelmingly (75%) against the plan and unification, while 65% of Turkish Cypriots voted in favour, even though this would have resulted in considerable risks and sacrifices on their part.

The international community pledged to reward the Turkish Cypriots’ brave and positive vote by ending their isolation. The Turkish Cypriots are still waiting for the world to make good on these promises.

Whoever you are, wherever you live, your support is vital in creating a worldwide movement that demands an immediate and unconditional end to these unjust embargoes against North Cyprus. You can help give Turkish Cypriots the same economic, political, cultural and social rights and opportunities that we should all enjoy.

Please help by supporting Embargoed! in any way you can.

Thank you.

Life Under the Embargoes

Below are some basic facts about the dual lives of the two peoples of Cyprus; the Greek Cypriots enjoy full economic, political, cultural and social rights, while Turkish Cypriots continue to be subjected to a life under embargoes.

Cyprus

- Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus – 200,000 population under embargo
- Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus – full recognition for 750,000 population

Political and legal rights and participation

- The Turkish Cypriot people are denied their constitutional right to be political equals in their homeland of Cyprus. Without these rights their position in law is relegated to a “minority” that is left without any political representation in any international location and institution
- In contrast Greek Cypriots, through history and UN Resolution 186, are elevated to a new status of ‘sole recognised authority in Cyprus’ with full diplomatic presence all over the world

Annual Gross National Product (GNP) per capita¹

- The average Turkish Cypriot earns \$5,600
- The average Greek Cypriot earns \$19,200

Purchasing power²

- North Cyprus: \$1.2 billion
- South Cyprus: \$14.8 billion

Exports³

- North Cyprus: \$46 million
- South Cyprus: \$1,054 million

¹ CIA World Factbook, 2003, website: www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/

² CIA World Factbook, 2003, website: www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/

³ CIA World Factbook, 2003, website: www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/

Time and cost to fly to Cyprus from the UK

- North Cyprus: flight from London to Ercan, Nicosia via Turkey – 6 hours, average cost £270 per adult⁴
- South Cyprus: direct flight from London to Larnaca – 4.5 hours, flights are as low as £116 per adult⁵

Time taken for a letter posted in the UK to arrive

- North Cyprus (via Mersin 10, Turkey): 1-2 weeks
- South Cyprus: 3-4 days⁶

Impact of 5 July 1994 European Court of Justice judgement (Case C-432/92) on North Cyprus trade with the European Union (EU)

- EU member states not permitted to import fruit and vegetables from North Cyprus without a certificate issued by the Greek Cypriot authorities
- In 1993, North Cyprus exports to the EU totalled almost \$37 million. 10 years later, as a direct consequence of this ruling, exports dropped to £12.5 million⁷
- In contrast, “EU countries constitute the most important markets” for Greek Cypriots, with 54% of exports EU bound in 2003 generating £117 million⁸

Number of airlines flying to Cyprus

- Two to North Cyprus⁹
- More than 40 to South Cyprus¹⁰

⁴ Cyprus Turkish Airlines, <http://www.kthy.net/>

⁵ For prices, <http://www.cheapflights.co.uk/flights/Larnaca/>, for travel duration, <http://www.cyprusairways.com/main/default.aspx?mid=563&TabID=55&ItemID=313>

⁶ Royal Mail

⁷ Figures taken from Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce website, <http://www.ktto.net/english/export1.xls>

⁸ Section 3.2 of the ‘CYPRUS EXTERNAL TRADE DEVELOPMENTS IN 2003’ report, produced by Greek Cypriot authorities, <http://www.cyprus.gov.cy/cyphome/govhome.nsf/0/AC5D0EAF3DB36F34C2256D960023F410?OpenDocument&languageNo=1>

⁹ www.cypnet.co.uk

¹⁰ www.visitcyprus.org.cy

Number of tourists per year

- Approximately 500,000 to North Cyprus (350,000 are from Turkey)¹¹
- Over 3 million to South Cyprus¹²

Participation in international sporting and cultural events

- North Cyprus: representation not permitted in any international events, such as the Olympics, the Eurovision Song Contest, or the World Cup – even friendly football matches with other international club and national teams are banned¹³
- South Cyprus: can represent ‘the whole island’ in any international social, sporting or cultural activity

¹¹ www.holidayinnorthcyprus.com

¹² www.cti-conference.org/

¹³ FIFA decision in 1987, as expressed in letter dated 22 June 1987 from JS Blatter, General Secretary of FIFA, to the Cyprus Turkish Football Association

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the Turkish Cypriot People

We Turkish Cypriots appeal to good people around the world to help end the four decades of unjust isolation we have endured for merely seeking to preserve our rights. This Charter enshrines the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the Turkish Cypriot people.

Please sign the following declaration if you support this Charter

We, the undersigned, call upon the international community in general, and in particular the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the European Union, the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, to honour their words to end the isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people.

All embargoes against North Cyprus and its people should be removed immediately and unconditionally and the international community should:

1. Acknowledge that the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus, acting under the banner of the 'Republic of Cyprus', has neither the right nor the authority to represent the Turkish Cypriot people;
2. Deal directly with the elected representatives and authorities of the Turkish Cypriot people;
3. Enable:
 - Direct flights to and from North Cyprus;
 - Direct postal and telecommunications links between North Cyprus and the rest of the world;
 - Unhindered trade, direct foreign investment and aid to North Cyprus;
 - Direct access to North Cyprus sea ports;
 - The participation and representation of Turkish Cypriot organisations and representatives at international political, social, cultural, sportive events and organisations;
 - North Cyprus to host international events.

About Embargoed!

Mission and Purpose

Embargoed! is a volunteer managed, non-profit membership association that is campaigning to bring an immediate and unconditional end to all embargoes against the people of North Cyprus. The group was formed in London in September 2004.

Core Values

Embargoed! forms a global community of human rights activists that aim to restore the fundamental political, economic and social rights of all citizens of North Cyprus.

Methods

Embargoed! uses all possible channels to mobilise non-violent action and support for its campaigns. It lobbies governments, intergovernmental organisations, political groups and representatives, non-governmental organisations and community groups to end the unjust isolation imposed on the people of North Cyprus.

People

Embargoed! was formed in London, where a major concentration of Turkish Cypriots reside. Its members have a common purpose and are committed to positive, peaceful actions that will bring about the end of all embargoes against Turkish Cypriots.

Activities

The group has recently:

- Lobbied members of the House of Lords to support Embargoed!
- Submitted a report, "Time to End the Isolation", to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee (report available on request)
- Launched The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the Turkish Cypriot people (copies available in English and Turkish on request)

Membership

Embargoed! is not exclusive to Turkish Cypriots. It is open to persons and organisations of all nationalities and ethnicities that share the desire and ability to help the group realise its objectives. By joining Embargoed! you will receive our electronic member newsletter, access to special briefings and updates on campaigns and the latest developments affecting the embargoes issue and North Cyprus.

Your membership fees are vital to covering the group's administrative costs (website, communications, etc.) and funding its campaign activities (creating a global online petition to support the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the My Story campaign, lobbying, advertising, media briefings, and many other activities in the pipeline...).