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AK118/2022

5.11.2022

Mr. Colin Stewart
 Special Representative of the UN
 General Secretary in Cyprus and
 Head of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force
 In Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Dear Sir,

PETITION IN PROTEST OF REOCCURRING EVENTS IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE

We strongly protest for events that occur and re-occur inside the Neutral Zone under the UN responsibility which do not comply with the terms of reference of the Peace-keeping Force. Recent such events undermine the Cyprus Government Sovereign Rights which is in violation of the Forces terms of reference.

It must not be forgotten that the establishment of the Force in Cyprus came, following an invitation and agreement with the Sovereign State of Cyprus and according to the UN Security Council Resolutions establishing the Force. UNFICYP undertook to observe the ceasefire in Cyprus by exercising its control inside a buffer zone, temporarily allocated by the Government of Cyprus.

In accordance with its terms of reference UNFICYP:

- Must ensure that the ceasefire is respected and that the buffer zone is not militarily violated. Unfortunately, this is not observed by the Turkish troops. Armed Turkish troops enter the buffer zone, interfere with the agricultural activities of Greek farmers and steal their crops. We are sorry to observe that the UN Peace keepers do not react in a manner they should and what is worse we do not see any reports to the Secretary General which bring condemnation of such illegal acts by the Turkish invader.
- Any dealings having to do with the buffer zone must be done with the Sovereign Government of Cyprus. Unfortunately, the events having to do with the Tsiettingayia football ground in Nicosia are in serious breach of this term of reference. We wish to remind you of the Un Security Council resolutions 541 and 550 which clearly state that the regime in the occupied area is illegal, therefore nonexistent and must not be recognized or have any dealings with.
- Has the responsibility to ensure that nobody enters the buffer zone without its permission. Unfortunately, we daily have illegal immigrants entering the buffer zone and from there, in to the area under the Cyprus Government control causing a demographic explosion with all the associated problems. We are being led to conclude that UNFICYP is facilitating the Turkish plan to flood the free areas of Cyprus with illegal immigrants for political purposes.

Αμετάθετος στόχος μας η απελευθέρωση και επιστροφή στα κατεχόμενα, τώρα, χωριά και πόλεις μας

The restoration of the Human Rights of all refugees is not negotiable

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Mr. Stewart,

We strongly protest about these events under the authority of UNFICYP, because our small Nation and its people relied and looked to the UN and its Charter as the Body through which we could have our State and Human rights restored. That is why we look to and expect its representatives to act in line with the UN Charter so that the credibility of the organization as a peace keeper Body to be preserved.

We call on you to put an end to such acts in the buffer zone from now on and be prepared to act on site and with relative reports to the Secretary General so that any illegal harassment of the buffer zone by Turkey to be appropriately dealt with.

We ask you to forward our petition to the UN Secretary General.

On behalf of the protesters
Ioannis Shekersavvas
President of ADOULOTI KERINIA