

Mr. President,

The situation of human rights in Cyprus continues to be preoccupying. Violations of various aspects of humanitarian law are still ongoing, more than 30 years after the invasion by Turkey, in 1974,

Numerous European Court of Human Rights' judgements and Security Council resolutions, calling for restitution of respect for these rights, are systematically ignored. In particular, the judgement of the European Court in the case of the fourth interstate application of Cyprus versus Turkey, which found the latter in violation of the European Convention on 14 separate grounds, has not yet been executed.

In this context, the issue of missing persons remains of primary importance to both living relatives and the government of Cyprus. Despite efforts undertaken in the framework of the United Nations Commission on Missing Persons, no concrete results have been achieved so far. Against this background, the obligation of Turkey - emanating from the abovementioned ruling of the European Court- to conduct an effective investigation into the fate of the missing becomes even more pressing.

With regard to displaced persons, continuing violation of their rights has, once more, been confirmed by the a recent decision of the European Court (case of Xenides - Arestis v. Turkey). In the meantime, excessive construction activity and systematic sale of usurped Greek Cypriot land continue unimpeded in the occupied territories. On the other hand, the influx of settlers from mainland

Turkey has increased to the point where native Turkish Cypriots, who continue to emigrate, have already become a minority in their own homeland.

Last but not least, the presence of more than 40.000 Turkish troops, illegally stationed in Cyprus, entrenches the division on the island, thus hindering the prospects for a negotiated settlement of the political problem.

Thank you, Mr. President