

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE RETURN OF VAROSHA TO ITS LAWFUL INHABITANTS

What would YOU do if they kicked you out of
your town and wouldn't let you back for 35 years?
WE are doing a petition.

Sign it on www.isxys.org/famagusta

an initiative of



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Famagusta, Varosha being the modern part of the city, is currently a 'ghost-town', an abandoned city, empty since the displacement of its citizens in the summer of 1974. In August 1974, Turkey carried out the second part of its military invasion against Cyprus, a country of which it still occupies 36% of its territory.

This is a Global Campaign for the Return of Varosha to its Legal Inhabitants, displaced by force in 1974. In a time where International Law and respect for Human Rights is in decline, you can join us in demanding that right prevails over wrong, that States comply with their international obligations in maintaining peace and order and that the people of Famagusta return back to their homes after 33 years in exile!

The last 100 years before time stood still in 1974



During the early days of British Rule, Famagusta was the fourth biggest city in Cyprus, only slightly larger than Paphos. In a short span of 100 years however, it grew into a prosperous and modern city, numbering 40.000 inhabitants by 1974. It was an important commercial and tourism-oriented city that was vibrant in every respect. If one adds the great

numbers of tourists that visited the city during the hot summer months then the people moving to and from Famagusta could easily reach 60.000.

Famagusta was the capital of the second largest province of Cyprus both in terms of its population and surface area. This was an important factor as the city accommodated the administrative authorities of the whole province, covering the needs of 124,000 people in 1973. Moreover, the establishment of British military bases in Cyprus during the 1950's and the subsequent settlement of British families on the island, and primarily in Famagusta, generated an important source of income for the city, at a time when traditional sectors of the economy grew only at a slow rate. There were however, other, more important reasons behind the city's prosperity. The cultivation of citrus fruit, the rich and fertile mainland, the port, tourist and industrial sectors were perhaps the most significant contributors to the city's economic dynamism.

An account of the events of 1974

We left in the morning of the **14th of August 1974**. It was Wednesday when the second invasion of Attila begun and the defensive line at Mias Miliias fell. When the news broke out, and following orders from the military headquarters, the Director of the Hospital called for the immediate transfer of the Hospital to the nearby village of Frenaros. The news spread in a matter of minutes, from mouth to mouth and from house to house and everyone started to move towards Dekeleia, convinced they would return to their homes in the evening once the situation had deflated. **Turkish military troops moved in and bombarded the city relentlessly, as well as the beachfront and hospital.**

Ruins and dead bodies in Famagusta following the invasion / Photo by Doros Partasides



It was an immense loss for the 40.000 inhabitants of Famagusta who became refugees in their own country. They had **lost their land, their properties, their homes and businesses and many of their own people**. After a couple of days spent in tents at the British sovereign bases, the people moved southwards in search of a new life. Many Famagustians settled in Limassol and Laranaca. Others went to Paphos. Others still had no option but to go overseas in search of a better future to support their broken families.

Our city is like we left it

My neighborhood is built in the sand

Its roots are in the sea

My neighborhood

I unbury every night

But each time, it buries itself again

Polyvios Nikolaou, from the poetry collection Famagusta /82

Expatriated and uprooted Famagustians worked very hard, both in Cyprus and abroad to make a living. They developed new businesses and raised their children in the hope that soon again they would be able to return to their home town. Most Famagustians settled in Limassol and it is there that they built the Municipality of Famagusta from scratch, elected a new Mayor and waited for better days to come.



The past 33 years..the 'ghost-town'...

The people of Famagusta left their homes on the morning of the 14th of August 1974. Ever since, their determination to return home has become synonymous to their own survival. During the past 33 years there have been endless political discussions, rounds of tradeoff negotiations and many efforts to return the city of Famagusta to its lawful owners. Much ink has also been spilt on the Anan Plan and its provision that the city be returned to its lawful citizens 100 days after the mutual acceptance of the Plan. However, the Plan was rejected by the overwhelming majority of the Greek Cypriot people and is now considered History.

During all these years, women marches have been organised, the first of these dating from 1976 in the presence of the unforgettable Melina Mercouri. Many other events were organised throughout the years. The Famagusta Refugee Movement, the Famagusta Committee and other similar initiatives have all tried to mobilize resources and expose the problem of Famagusta to the wider public and particularly to international forums and

institutions, on the basis of international law, human rights and the numerous U.N Resolutions on the Cyprus Question.

Legal Basis for the return of Famagusta to its lawful inhabitants

UN Security Council Resolution 550 (1984)

...5. Considers attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible and calls for the transfer of this area to the administration of the United Nations...

UN Security Council Resolution 789 (1992)

*...8. Urges all concerned to commit themselves to the confidence-building measures set out below:
... (c) That, with a view to the implementation of resolution 550 (1984), the area at present under the control of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus be extended to include Varosha;...*

UN Security Council Resolution 889 (1993)

...8. Reaffirms that the status quo is unacceptable, and encourages the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to pursue the Secretary-General's mission of good offices on the basis of the Set of Ideas and the package of confidence-building measures relating to Varosha and Nicosia International Airport referred to in paragraph 45 of the Secretary-General's report of 22 November 1993;...

UN Security Council Resolution 902 (1994)

...2. Welcomes the acceptance in principle by both parties of the confidence-building measures relating, in particular, to Varosha and Nicosia International Airport;...

Loizidou v. Turkey case at the ECHR

The case of **Loizidou v. Turkey** illustrates how **Fundamental Human Rights** have been infringed by Turkey since 1974. The claimant at the European Court of Human Rights, Mrs Loizidou, a displaced Greek Cypriot from Kyrenia, sued Turkey under provisions of the European Convention for Human Rights, to which both Turkey and Cyprus are parties. She won the case, as the Court ruled that Turkey was for so many years since 1974 preventing the enjoyment of her lawful property,

ordering Turkey to pay damages of around one million EURO and to allow the peaceful **reinstallation of Mrs Loizidou to her property**. The first part has been carried out by Turkey, while the Council of Europe is waiting to see Turkey fulfill the second part of the judgement.

The legal precedent that emerged from the Loizidou case suffices to illustrate how Turkey is legally unjustified to be occupying the north of Cyprus. Specifically, Varosha is empty, abandoned and left deteriorate while its legal inhabitants are prevented from enjoying their lawful properties.

A Comprehensive Solution to the Cyprus Question

The return of Famagusta/Varosha to its lawful citizens **does not** constitute a solution wholly or partially to the Cyprus Question. On the contrary, a just, viable and lasting solution to the problem should be achieved through a pre-agreed solution by the two communities on the island, should be approved by the people of Cyprus and should conform with Public International Law, Fundamental Human Rights and European Union law. The 8th of July 2006 Agreement between the parties under the UN is a new starting point for negotiations that will hopefully lead to such a conclusion. **CYSO ISCHYS** is committed to enhancing every official effort for a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus Question with the above characteristics.

Consequences of the Turkish Invasion of 1974 for Cypriots

- Almost **36%** of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus - i.e. the northern part of the island, where 70% of its natural resources are concentrated - is under Turkish occupation.
- **28%** of the Greek Cypriots have been **displaced** from the occupied northern sector where they had constituted 80% of the inhabitants.
- Greek and Turkish Cypriots, who for 300 years had lived together intermingled throughout the island, were now artificially **separated**.
- The ascertainment of the fate of the **missing persons** is still pending.
- By the end of 1974 about 12,000 people were **enclaved** in their occupied villages living under conditions of oppression, harassment and deprivation. Now only 535 people, 398 Greek Cypriots and 137 Maronites remain in the Turkish occupied areas of Cyprus.
- **40.000 Turkish soldiers**, armed with the latest weapons, are stationed in the occupied area, making it, according to the UN Secretary-General, "one of the most militarised regions of the world" (S994/680/7.6.1994.par.28).
- Over **115.000** Turks have been brought over from Turkey to colonise the occupied area thus changing the demography of the island and controlling the political situation.
- The "Attila line" ("Operation Attila" was the code-name Turkey gave to the invasion of Cyprus) artificially divides the island and its people and **prevents Cypriots from moving freely** throughout their country.
- In an effort to consolidate the de facto situation, the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" was unilaterally declared in 1983 in the occupied area, a pseudostate **recognised only by Turkey** and entirely dependent on it.
- According to Turkish-Cypriot newspapers, over one third of Turkish Cypriots emigrated from the occupied area between 1974-1995 because of the economic and social deprivation which prevails there. As a result the Turkish Cypriots who remain are today outnumbered by the Turkish troops together with the colonists.
- The illegal regime in the occupied area is deliberately and methodically trying to eradicate every trace of a 9.000 year old cultural and historical heritage. All Greek place-names have been replaced by Turkish ones. Churches, monuments, cemeteries and archaeological sites have been destroyed, desecrated or looted. Priceless religious and archaeological treasures, part of the world's cultural heritage, are being stolen and smuggled abroad, and illegal excavations and dealings in antiquities are taking place.

International Law has been infringed by Turkey in every possible way through its military invasion of 1974 and its continuing occupation of 36% of the island, which causes the deprivation for displaced Greek Cypriots to enjoy their lawful property and prevents Turkish Cypriots from living in

harmony under the 1960 Constitution that established the Republic of Cyprus, which is a UN Member-State and, since 2004, an EU Member State.

The proclamation of the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' by Turkey in the occupied areas of Cyprus on 15 November 1983 violates international law even further. An illegal entity, the so-called 'TRNC' is only recognised by Turkey. The **United Nations Security Council, the the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the European Union (then European Community), the Commonwealth Heads of Government** and other international and regional bodies, have repeatedly stated that the declaration of independence is "**legally invalid**", required its "**withdrawal**" and called upon all States "**not to recognize any Cypriot State other than the Republic of Cyprus**". See in particular UN Security Council Resolution 541 (1983).

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Numerous UN Security Council Resolutions have called for the end of the occupation in Cyprus, the withdrawal of the 'TRNC' and respect for the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus.



What is CYSO ISCHYS?

CYSO ISCHYS is the NGO behind the Global Campaign for the Return of Varosha.

Cypriot Young Scientists Organisation ISCHYS is a *non-governmental, non-profitable youth organisation*, the only of its kind in Cyprus. CYSO ISCHYS was founded and is being run **exclusively by young people**, on the basis of **transparency, democracy and pluralism**. In fact, **respect for every person's opinion both within and outside the NGO** is pivotal for CYSO ISCHYS' functioning.

ISCHYS has multiple purposes, set ambitiously to bring about change and reform. In general, the Organisation's aims are:

- To promote a smooth integration of the Cypriot society, particularly young people, into the European realities. This is achieved through engaging young people in various projects, aiming to increase their political and social participation. A plethora of ISCHYS' activities are European-oriented, while many of them have received funding from the EU's relevant initiatives.
- To exhibit and promote the capacity of young people that, due to various injustices, are marginalised from expressing their views and showcasing their capabilities. Indeed, such injustices in Cyprus include corruption and nepotism, phenomena which ISCHYS aims to exterminate. Its public interventions on such issues are regular and catalytical. Furthermore, functioning as a step for young people to express their views, the Organisation is a regular publisher of academic and other publications, all written by young scientists and young professionals.

- To create those circumstances that will facilitate a just, lasting and viable solution to the Cyprus Problem. All negotiations and suggested solution plans for the Problem have failed to balance Public International Law and Fundamental Human Rights appropriately. In fact, ISCHYS believes that the essence of the Problem is diminishing, i.e. the illegal Turkish military invasion of 1974 and the continued illegality Turkey's occupation has created in the area of Cyprus which is under its control.

More information about CYSO ISCHYS can be found at its website: www.isxys.org

**SIGN THE PETITION OF THE GLOBAL
CAMPAIGN FOR THE RETURN OF VAROSHA
AT**

www.isxys.org/famagusta