

# ORGANISATION OF RELATIVES OF MISSING CYPRIOTS (UK)

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## NEWS BULLETIN MARCH 2025

**IDENTIFICATIONS:** The following identifications have been announced: Ayse Ramadan from Poli Pafos. CMP figures now stand at Greek Cypriots, 756 identified and still missing 754. Turkish Cypriots, 296 and 196 respectively.

**1521<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Ministers' Deputies in Strasbourg 4-6 March 2025:** The Deputies addressed the ongoing issue of Greek Cypriot missing persons related to the Cyprus v. Turkey case, following the European Court's judgment from 2001. Acknowledged the progress made, particularly the assistance provided by Turkey (ed: !!!??) to the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) and the work carried out by the Missing Persons Unit (MPU). The Turkish authorities have been urged to continue their commitment, including providing unhindered access and relevant information for ongoing investigations. But, they also highlighted Turkey's unresolved obligation to pay the just satisfaction awarded in the Cyprus v. Turkey and Varnava and Others v. Turkey cases, noting this includes compensation for the suffering of the surviving relatives. The lack of response to previous interim resolutions on this matter has been deplored, and preparations for further resolutions are set to continue unless the situation improves by the next review in March 2026.

*Background notes: The case of Cyprus v. Turkey highlighted three key human rights violations linked to Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974. For the Missing: The Right to Life (Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights) and the Right to Liberty and Security (Article 5). For the Relatives: Prohibition of Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (Article 3). - The Cyprus Government and the Organisations of Relatives raise concerns over restricted access to potential burial sites and a lack of detailed records from Turkey regarding relocated remains. - Turkey claims to have provided all available information and continues to cooperate with the CMP. The Committee supervises the execution of judgments and continues to urge compliance, focusing on both financial obligations and investigative measures.*

ORMC (UK) Comment: Similar Deputies decisions have been repeated since 2005! When would the Deputies act more decisively, ensuring Turkey complies with the ECHR judgments and starts providing the CMP with the information it desperately needs regarding the locations of mass graves?

**NEW YEAR'S CAKE CUTTING:** This took place at St. John's hall on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025, after the liturgy and memorial for those identified and buried and prayers for those still missing. Present was also H.E. the High Commissioner for Cyprus Dr. K. Kouros. Fr. Apostolos Trifillis conducted the service and he made an emotional speech in the church followed by a short speech in the hall by the High Commissioner. We would like to thank the President and Church Committee as well as the ladies committee for their help. Thanks also to members Xenia, Eleftheria and Rita for bringing more vasilopittas and cakes.



**DONATIONS:** Mr L. Loizou £300.00, Mr Y. Kashimeris £100.00 *Thank you for your kindness and generosity.*