



National Federation of Cypriots in the UK

Εθνική Κυπριακή Ομοσπονδία Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου

Working for a Free, United Cyprus

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office,
King Charles St,
Whitehall, Westminster,
London SW1A 2AH

7 October 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

This month the Republic of Cyprus celebrated its 60th anniversary since its establishment as an independent sovereign state. It is however a tragic fact that the Republic of Cyprus has only been truly free and united for a quarter of its existence. We welcome the UN Secretary General's recent efforts to restart negotiations to reunite Cyprus, and sincerely hope that these are successful. It is therefore disappointing that immediately following this effort by the UN Secretary General, Turkey has decided to illegally re-open a beach area in Varosha, in breach on UN Security Council Resolutions. This disregard for international law and UN resolutions, seriously threatens stability in the region, as well as prospects for a Cyprus solution.

In February this year, the Turkish Vice President Oktay, whilst participating in a roundtable in the occupied area on reopening the ghost town, stated that Varosha belongs to the secessionist regime and it should open under its administration. Similar statements have been made by President Erdogan's Spokesman Ibrahim Kalin. This was followed in August, with a statement from Ersin Tatar, the self-proclaimed 'prime minister' of the occupation regime, who reiterated the plans to re-open the ghost town adding that he was "confident about Turkey's support", following a meeting with President Erdoğan.

Unfortunately, these statements of intent have been underestimated, at the very least, or worse, ignored by the International community. On 6th October, in Ankara, President Erdogan and Mr Tatar announced the opening of the Varosha beachfront. This is a clear breach of UN Security Council Resolutions 550 and 789 and most recently resolution 2537 (July 2020). The UN Secretary General has already raised his concerns about these illegal moves.

Under your leadership the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has articulated a positive vision for the UK's foreign policy outside the EU. We have already seen the UK embark on this positive foreign policy agenda through the new sanctions regime against individuals that are responsible for human rights violations, the global pledge on media freedom, as well as leading the international community response against acts of aggression from other countries.

President: Christos Karaolis • E-mail: christos.karaolis@cypriotfederation.org.uk

Vice-Presidents: Bambos Charalambous, Michael Ellinas, Andreas Papaevripides • General Secretary: Michael Kashis • Treasurer: Ninos Koumettou • Executive Secretary: Andreas Karaolis

Members of the Executive Committee: Susie Constantinides, Andreas Gregoriou, Yiannis Koumettou, Menicos Kouvaros, Marios Minaides, Christos Tuton, Michael Yiakoumi

A complete list of member organisations and the names of all of the current officers and members of the Secretariat of the Federation can be found on the Federation's website.

National Federation of Cypriots in the UK, Britannia Road, London, N12 9RU • Tel: 020 8445 9999

E-mail: enquiries@cypriotfederation.org.uk • www.cypriotfederation.org.uk • [@UKCypriotFed](https://twitter.com/UKCypriotFed)

To date, and prior to Turkey's most recent actions, the United Kingdom has already expressed its support for UN Security Council Resolutions on Varosha and also "made clear" the UK's concerns to Turkish officials regarding their announced plans for Varosha. Given Turkey's continued disregard for international law, as well as the UK's Treaty obligations to Cyprus and permanent membership of the UN Security Council, it is now time for our Government's public response to be more robust and clear in its condemnation, leaving in no doubt that the United Kingdom considers this action by Turkey a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions on Varosha. Moreover, we urge our Government to also consider all other measures and actions available to uphold International Law and UN Security Council Resolutions.

I look forward to your response

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christos Karaolis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christos Karaolis
President
National Federation of Cypriots in the UK

Cc: Rt Hon Sir Roger Gale MP, Bambos Charalambous MP, Christine Jardine MP, Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP, Jack Dromey MP, Sheryll Murray MP, Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, Mike Freer MP