



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus
Geneva*

*Ambassador
Permanent Representative*

23 July 2012

Dear Mr. Bianchi,

I have the honour to write to you on behalf of my Government to draw your attention to a recent decision of the Committee of Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe on the issue of the missing persons in Cyprus (attached herewith).

I wish to stress the fact that, after having discussed the humanitarian matter of the Missing Persons in Cyprus, through the supervision of the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in the cases of (a) Cyprus v. Turkey and (b) Varbava and others v. Turkey, the Committee of Ministers' Deputies underlined the need for Turkey to effectively investigate both the cases of people whose remains have been identified, and those whose fate is still unknown.

More specifically, the Committee of Ministers called on Turkey, *inter alia*, to

- adopt a proactive approach as regards effective investigations into the fate of persons who are still missing;
- offer further concrete information on the steps taken by the Turkish authorities aimed at giving the Committee of Missing Persons and investigative officers access to all relevant information and places, *in particular concerning military zones*; and
- provide replies to all the questions raised by the Committee, *while also drawing on all relevant information contained in military archives and reports*.

It is the conviction of my Government that, with its adopted Decision, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe sent a very clear message to Turkey to assume its responsibility and comply with its obligations stemming from the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, for the benefit of the relatives of missing persons.

I would, therefore, ask the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to reflect upon the aforesaid decision of the Committee of Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe.

Mr. Giovanni Binchi
Secretary
Committee on Enforced Disappearances
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais de Nations, 52, rue des Paquis
CH-1201 Geneva

OHCHR REGISTRY

26 JUL 2012

Recipients: CEA.....
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I take this opportunity to request that we arrange a meeting with the Committee, at a time of mutual convenience, to further discuss the issue at hand.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Leonidas Pantelides', with a large, sweeping flourish above it.

Leonidas Pantelides