

INTERVENTION BY TURKEY

Mr. President,

- Since this is not the right place to speak of the realities regarding the creation and the perpetuation of the Cyprus conflict, we shall concentrate on the human rights situation. We only wish to recall that the Turkish intervention on Cyprus, which was carried out in the wake of a coup d'état in 1974, was fully legal under 1960 Treaty of Guarantee. It should also be recalled that the last UN settlement plan, namely the Annan Plan, was approved by the Turkish Cypriot side but rejected by the Greek Cypriot side at the separate simultaneous referendums held in 2004.
- Almost ten years elapsed, but Turkish Cypriots are still deprived of their basic human rights. There are no direct flights, trade relations, postal services or other kind of communication between North Cyprus and the outside world, except Turkey. Turkish Cypriots are prevented from being represented at international platforms; and from establishing sporting, cultural or educational relations at international level. Even their human rights situation cannot be directly communicated to, or observed and reported by relevant international bodies.
- In the South, there are increasing cases of maltreatment, discrimination and violence against Turkish Cypriots, as well as hatred attacks on Turkish-Muslim monuments. There are no schools providing education to Turkish Cypriot children in Turkish language, and no mosques are designated for the unrestricted and continuous worship by Muslim Turkish Cypriots. Turkish Cypriots are arbitrarily prevented from crossing to the south of the island on the basis of ethnic descent.
- The division of the island cannot be used as an excuse for the foregoing violations. Greek Cypriots simply fail to take the necessary measures to ensure the human rights of Turkish Cypriots in the South, including their right to religious freedom, freedom of movement and education in their mother tongue.
- Contrary to the misleading Greek Cypriot allegations in the report, Turkey has always supported and shall continue to support the work of the Missing Persons Committee. Before I conclude, I wish to reiterate our strong support for a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Thank you Mr. President