



**CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS**  
**ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ**  
**CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN**

1220, rue de Beauharnois, Suite 109, Montréal (QC) H4N 1J5  
chc@chcongress.ca – www.chcongress.ca

July 13, 2021

**Via electronic mail:**  
**justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca; pm@pm.gc.ca**

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.

**Prime Minister of Canada**

Langevin Block

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

**SUBJECT: TURKEY'S VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN CYPRUS – IN  
CONTRAVENTION OF UN RESOLUTIONS – AND THE SITUATION IN  
VAROSHA (FAMAGUSTA)**

Dear Prime Minister,

As we approach the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion of the Republic of Cyprus, we, the Canadian Hellenic Congress, representing 350,000 Canadians of Hellenic descent across Canada, write to you and the Government of Canada to express and convey grave concerns regarding the new and renewed existential threats currently facing Cyprus from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

President Erdogan continues to ignore the rule of law and continuously acts contrary to UN resolutions.

On October 6, 2020, Turkey re-opened the beach in Varosha, the fenced-in area of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, which Turkey has occupied since it unlawfully invaded the Republic of Cyprus in 1974. This action violates UN resolutions and international treaties to which Canada and Turkey are signatories. Specifically, Turkey is in direct violation of UN Security Council resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992) that address the transfer of this area to the UN and the 1979 High-level Agreement between the Greek-Cypriot and the Turkish-Cypriot communities, which stated that priority should be given to the resettlement of Famagusta – a subdivision of Varosha – under UN auspices.

During the past year, President Erdogan and Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar have spoken openly about their support of a “two-state” solution regarding Cyprus: the permanent partition of the island. As such, President Erdogan's attempt to change Varosha's status demonstrates a lack of interest in resuming serious settlement talks in favour of pursuing tangible steps to advance a “two-state” solution regarding Cyprus, which contravenes the positions of the UN and the Canadian government.

.../2

---

***The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.***



**CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS**  
**ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ**  
**CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN**

1220, rue de Beauharnois, Suite 109, Montréal (QC) H4N 1J5  
chc@chcongress.ca – www.chcongress.ca

2/

In addition, Turkey's actions violate a European Parliament Written Declaration in 2012, which called on the government of Turkey to act according to UN Security Council Resolutions and previous European Parliament Legislative Committee reports and return the Famagusta sealed-off section to its lawful inhabitants

On October 9, 2020, the President of the UN Security Council issued a statement calling for the “reversal” of Turkey's actions vis-à-vis Varosha. However, Turkey has not reversed its actions regarding Varosha. Therefore, mere rhetoric or criticism of Turkey no longer suffices. Substantive action needs to be taken immediately. UN Security Council Resolution 550 (1984) explicitly states that an effort to change the status of Varosha necessitates the transfer of the area to the administration of the UN. To this effect, we urge your Administration to call upon the UN to enforce its Security Council Resolution 550, by which Varosha would be under UN control.

According to press reports, President Erdogan will visit Varosha this July 20<sup>th</sup> and purportedly make further announcements about its status. It is imperative for the Canadian government and the international community to be proactive and head off any further illegal actions of Turkish expansionism against Cyprus. A failure to act will only embolden President Erdogan in his pursuit of a “two-state” solution regarding Cyprus, which would be a disaster for the people of Cyprus and would not be in Canada's best interests. It would constitute an egregious violation of the rule of law and fundamental principles of Canada and the international community.

In many ways, President Erdogan's efforts to change the status of Varosha in furtherance of a “two-state” solution poses as dire a threat to Cyprus' sovereignty as Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Canada, and the international community, cannot lose sight of the fact that the rights of Greek Cypriots have been trampled upon, and we must ensure that their claims to ancestral land and property seized during the 1974 invasion are not compromised.

Prime Minister, Canada must send a signal to Turkey that the “two-state” proposal is not acceptable as a solution. Cyprus must remain an independent country with a single constitution that governs its affairs and Turkey must remove every soldier from Cyprus and allow the two peoples to work out their differences and the system of government through dialogue without foreign threats.

.../3

---

***The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.***



**CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS**  
**ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ**  
**CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN**

1220, rue de Beauharnois, Suite 109, Montréal (QC) H4N 1J5  
chc@chcongress.ca – www.chcongress.ca

3/

For decades, Canada has been a staunch advocate for a Cyprus, whole, free and, at peace. Yet, the Cyprus file has not been on the radar of our foreign policy. As Prime Minister, you are in a unique position to elevate the Cyprus file to a higher-priority level in Canada's foreign policy.

Prime Minister, we understand that you have good relations with President Erdogan. As such, we strongly urge you to call President Erdogan and convey to him the importance against further aggression toward Cyprus. Turkey's aggressiveness is not acceptable to Canada or to the international community.

President Erdogan must cease and desist from this policy. If this policy is not stopped and further actions toward the Republic of Cyprus are pursued, which threaten its sovereignty and cause instability in the region, you must convey to President Erdogan that his actions will have punitive and dire consequences. Furthermore, Canada should be prepared to impose an embargo on the sale of military materials and goods and services, as well as, to revoke the landing rights of its national airline.

In addition, we request that you direct our Canadian Ambassador to the UN to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 550, thereby bringing Varosha under UN administration.

We trust that you will give this matter your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Dr. Theodore Halatsis  
President

Dr. Costas Pappas  
VP-Administration & Secretary

C.c.: The Honorable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs;  
[marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Official Opposition; [Erin.OTOole@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Erin.OTOole@parl.gc.ca)

Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party; [Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca)

Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois; [Yves-Francois.Blanchet@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Yves-Francois.Blanchet@parl.gc.ca)

Annamie Paul, Leader of the Green Party; [annamie.paul@greenparty.ca](mailto:annamie.paul@greenparty.ca)

Christine Amygdalidis, President, Cypriot Federation of Canada;  
[cypriotfederation@rogers.com](mailto:cypriotfederation@rogers.com)

---

*The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.*