



18/10/2018

To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this letter is your University's upcoming participation in the Cyprus Education fair, organized by the British Council in Cyprus on 9-11 November 2018. It has come to our attention that your University is participating in an event taking place in the occupied part of Cyprus and more specifically in the Merit Hotel located at the area of occupied Nicosia on 9 November 2018. By opting to participate in this event, you are as a University directly recognizing, supporting and promoting an illegal pseudo-state, which is the result of the brutal 1974 illegal Turkish military invasion in Cyprus and thus you are in direct conflict with many UN Resolutions as well as International law. Your actions ignore the extensive and on-going human rights violations taking place since the day Turkey invaded Cyprus, a member country of the EU since 2004. The pseudo-state where the event is organised, the so-called "TRNC", is recognised only by Turkey and represents nothing more but four decades of pain and suffering of the 200,000 refugees, the families of the 1619 missing people and the descendants of the thousands of brutally murdered soldiers and civilians.

UN Resolution 550 (1984), "Reaffirms the call upon all States not to recognise the purported state of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" set up by secessionist acts and calls upon them not to facilitate or in any way assist this the aforesaid secessionist entity." The Council of Europe, responding Cyprus' Interstate Applications, has found Turkey, through the relevant reports of the European Commission of Human Rights, responsible for serious violations of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in the part of Cyprus occupied by Turkey (Cyprus v. Turkey, Joint Apps. 6789/74 and 6950/75, 26 May 1975; Cyprus v. Turkey, App. 8007/77, 10 July 1978). In addition, the European Court of Human Rights in its decision regarding the Fourth Interstate Application by the Cyprus Government against Turkey, (Cyprus v. Turkey, App.25781/94, Judgment of 10 May 2001), finds Turkey guilty of gross violations of human rights in Cyprus and in continuing violation of a number of articles of the ECHR (Articles 3, 8, 9, 10, 13 of the Convention and Article 1 of Protocol 1 to the Convention). Furthermore, in the landmark case of Titina Loizidou, a Greek-Cypriot refugee from Kyrenia, the European Court of Human Rights held that the denial to the applicant of access to her home in the occupied by Turkey territories of Cyprus and the loss of control of her property was imputable to Turkey and its subordinate local administration. The Court ruled that Loizidou remains the legal owner of her property in Kyrenia, and that Turkey is in violation of the European Convention not allowing her to access her property (Loizidou v. Turkey, (Merits), Case no. 40/1993/435/514, Judgment of 18 December 1996).

It is important for us to clarify and emphasise that our movement does not question the right of Turkish Cypriots students enter the British Universities, provided that this is exercised through the one and only legal and globally recognised state of the Republic of Cyprus. Afterall, Turkish Cypriot Students are only able to enroll to UK Universities through the use of their "Republic of Cyprus" Passport. However, we do question decisions that seem to actively support an illegal state which has been in consistent violation of various international treaties and conventions including but not limited to the UN Charter and the ECHR. Furthermore, Hilton Cyprus Hotel

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(located in the non-occupied area of Nicosia) where the exhibition will take place on 10 and 11 November 2018 with many more UK Universities in attendance, is just a 25-minute drive away from Merit Hotel (located in the occupied area of Nicosia and where the exhibition on 9 November 2018 purports to take place). Thus, we see no reason for two different exhibitions to take place, especially considering the fact, that the majority of universities will not be participating in the exhibition taking place on 9 November 2018. We strongly believe that by not attending the exhibition of 9th November 2018 you, as a University, practically prove that you don't recognise the ongoing situation in Cyprus and that you stand by the side of the plethora of Cypriot Students currently studying at your University.

As "METOPO Cypriot Student Movement UK", we urge you to reconsider your decision to be part of 9 November 2018 exhibition in Merit Hotel, due to the fact that this decision unquestionably reflects upon your University's honor, integrity and prestige.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and understanding.

Yours faithfully,

Andreas Georgiou
President of "METOPO Cypriot Student Movement UK" 's Board