



R2685/19/EC

17 March 2009

Mr Nicholas Emiliou
The Permanent Secretary Ambassador
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Presidential Palace Avenue
1447 Nicosia
Cyprus

Dear Mr Emiliou

Re: International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (hereinafter "the Convention")

I refer to the abovementioned matter and enclose herewith copy of letter to the Minister of Justice, the content of which is self explanatory.

I remain at your disposal for any clarifications.

Yours sincerely

Achilleas Demetriades

TRUTH NOW
Member of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED)

Truth Now NGO Ltd

The Chanteclair House - 2 Sophoulis Street - 9th (Top) Floor - 1096 Nicosia - Cyprus
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R2685/20/EC

17 March 2009

Mr Christophe Girod
Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus
P O Box 21642
1590 Nicosia
Cyprus

Dear Mr Girod

Re: International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (hereinafter "the Convention")

I refer to the abovementioned matter and enclose herewith copy of letter to the Minister of Justice, the content of which is self explanatory.

I remain at your disposal for any clarifications.

Yours sincerely

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R2685/21/EC

17 March 2009

Mr Nicos Sergides
General Secretary
The Pancyprian Organization of Parents and Relatives
of Undeclared Prisoners and Missing Persons
4 A Demetriou
1066 Nicosia
Cyprus

Dear Mr Sergides

**Re: International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced
Disappearance (hereinafter "the Convention")**

I refer to the abovementioned matter and enclose herewith copy of letter to the
Minister of Justice, the content of which is self explanatory.

I remain at your disposal for any clarifications.

Yours sincerely

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R2685/18/EC

17 March 2009

Mr Loucas Louca
Minister of Justice and Public Order
Ministry of Justice and Public Order
Nicosia
Cyprus

BY HAND

Your Excellency

We would like to draw the attention of Your Excellency to the **International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance** (hereinafter the Convention).

As you well know the Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly by consensus on 20 December, 2006 and it represents the culmination of a long effort by many families of disappeared, non-governmental organizations and governments to address, through international law, the continuing problem of enforced disappearances.

On 6 February, 2007 the Convention was opened for signature in Paris. We were pleased to see that Cyprus was one of the countries to sign during this event. So far 81 countries have signed the Convention and 10 countries have ratified.

We welcome the positive attitude of the Cyprus government towards the Convention. However, we notice the lapse of more than two years since its signature with no further developments. Its paramount importance for Cyprus can hardly be overstated. Our country has long suffered from this practice with many disappearances of Greek and Turkish Cypriot citizens still being unresolved.

We would therefore urge you to promote the preparation of a ratifying law to the House of Representatives as a top priority of your Ministry. The Convention will enter into force after 20 ratifications. By taking action without hesitation, Cyprus would be distinguished among the first countries to ratify the Convention and would therefore be instrumental to its entry into force.

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The Convention provides, inter alia, for the right to truth of the victims and of their relatives. Although the Convention does not have a retroactive effect, ratifying the Convention would send a strong, symbolical message that the State is endorsing its citizens' claim to have the fate of their loved ones ascertained.

Additionally we stress the importance for Cyprus to:

- Adjust Cypriot legislation to all the provisions of the Convention.
- Refrain from reservations to the Convention that may result incompatible with the object and purpose of the convention;
- Recognize the competence of the new Committee on Enforced Disappearance to receive and consider individual complaints; and

We look forward to the acts that prove the dedication of the Cyprus government to eradicate enforced disappearances. In the meantime we remain available for a constructive dialogue.

Yours sincerely

Achilleas Demetriades

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