



## **International Day of the Disappeared 30.8.2017**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The past can neither be altered nor can it be buried. Truth must be revealed to achieve peace within the society and the souls and minds of those who have been suffering for years, including the relatives of the missing persons.

On the occasion of the International Day of the Disappeared, TRUTH NOW (<http://www.truthnowcyprus.org/index.php/en/>) repeats its call for the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) to take all the necessary measures for the ascertainment of the truth and restoration of justice and to provide guarantees of non repetition of similar events and mistakes.

TRUTH NOW applauds the recent decision of the RoC, to finally proceed with the exhumation of the remains of the dead after the bombing of the Athalassa Psychiatric Hospital in 1974 as well as the decisions taken by the Committee for Missing Persons (CMP) for the creation of a data base and an accessible system and also joins the call for more and accurate information that could lead to burial sites and the identification of more of our missing persons.

Furthermore, TRUTH NOW repeats its proposal for the creation of a Truth Commission in Cyprus by way of upgrading the existing CMP after amending its Terms of Reference so as, among other, to enable an effective investigation throughout the whole territory of Cyprus (<http://www.truthnowcyprus.org/index.php/en/a-truth-commission-for-cyprus/item/27-proposal-for-amending-the-terms-of-reference-of-cmp>).

TRUTH NOW also expects that the RoC:

a) will forthwith ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which the Republic of Cyprus signed in 2007, but has not yet ratified; [Since 2015 TRUTH NOW has been asking from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for clarifications concerning the delay observed in relation to the preparation of a ratifying bill (<http://www.truthnowcyprus.org/index.php/en/announcements/item/50-letter-to-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-for-the-ratification-of-the-convention>), however, it has not yet received a reply], and

b) will proceed at long last with the effective investigation and ascertainment of the truth in relation to the collection of the dead that took place on 17.8.1974, during an agreed ceasefire, in the Ayios Pavlos area in Nicosia, and their burial at Lakatamia Cemetery, amongst whom many of our missing persons were included.

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