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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CONDEMNING TURKEY FOR ITS ILLEGAL INVASION AND CONTINUED
OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS SINCE 1974**

Introduced By: Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis

Date Introduced: April 05, 2024

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 WHEREAS, This year marks 50 years since the illegal Turkish invasion in 1974 and
2 continued occupation, since then, of Cyprus; and

3 WHEREAS, This was the first time since World War II, that a European country was
4 militarily invaded in violation of the United Nations Charter and of international law; and

5 WHEREAS, As a result of this invasion and continued occupation, the people of Cyprus
6 have been suffering the persistent violation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms for
7 five decades; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 160,000 Cypriots (corresponding to one-third of the population
9 of the island in 1974) have been forcibly displaced from their ancestral land becoming refugees in
10 their own country; and

11 WHEREAS, The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) issued decisions and
12 judgments in which the Court confirms that persons, including United States citizens, who hold
13 title to real property located in the area of the Republic of Cyprus under the illegal Turkish
14 occupation are the only rightful owners of that real property, but Turkey has refused to comply
15 with ECHR judgements; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite having agreed to do so, the Government of Turkey has failed to
17 sufficiently support international efforts to find and identify the remains of persons, including
18 four United States citizens and over 900 Cypriot citizens, who remain missing since the Turkish
19 invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974; and

1 WHEREAS, In violation of the Vienna agreement, reached on August 2nd, 1975, the
2 Turkish regime has subjected the enslaved people to constant harassment, restrictions on
3 movement, denial of access to adequate medical care, denial of adequate facilities for education,
4 restrictions on the right to use their property and the free exercise of their religious rights, in line
5 with its deliberate policy of ethnic cleansing; and

6 WHEREAS, The Government of Turkey has brought over 200,000 illegal settlers into the
7 occupied territory of Cyprus seeking to change the demography as well as the socio-political
8 fabric of the area, in violation of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law; and

9 WHEREAS, The Government of Turkey has tolerated or abetted the desecration of
10 hundreds of Christian churches and religious sites in the occupied territory of Cyprus; and

11 WHEREAS, Turkey illegally reopened parts of the fenced-off area of Varosha aiming to
12 inhabit it by settlers, under the control of the illegal occupying regime, in violation of United
13 Nations Security Council Resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992), which call for the immediate
14 return of Varosha to its legal habitants under UN administration; and

15 WHEREAS, In full accordance with Turkey's stated goal of partition and ethnic
16 separation of the island, the occupying regime unilaterally declared, on November 15, 1983, the
17 so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", a secessionist act which was condemned as
18 legally invalid by the United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 541 (1983), which calls on
19 all states to respect the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of
20 Cyprus and to not recognize any Cypriot state other than the Republic of Cyprus; and

21 WHEREAS, Turkey illegally violates the Republic of Cyprus' maritime zones; and

22 WHEREAS, The international community remains committed to a solution of the Cyprus
23 question based on the United Nations Security Council's resolutions and international law, for a
24 bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, with a single sovereignty, single citizenship and single
25 international identity, with political equality as described in relevant United National Security
26 Council Resolutions; and

27 WHEREAS, Turkey openly calls for a "two-state" solution in Cyprus, in violation of
28 binding United Nations Security Council Resolutions, and in this regard, of the expressed
29 position of the international community; now, therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby unequivocally
31 condemns Turkey's illegal invasion and continued occupation of Cyprus since 1974 and:

32 (1) Calls upon Turkey to immediately withdraw all of its occupying forces from the
33 island;

34 (2) Calls for the respect of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the

1 Republic of Cyprus;

2 (3) Underlines that a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus question must to be based on
3 a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, with single sovereignty, single nationality and single
4 international personality, with a political system as described in the relevant United Nations
5 Security Council Resolutions;

6 (4) Calls on Turkey to fully respect the European Convention on Human Rights as
7 regards Cyprus;

8 (5) Calls on Turkey to abide by the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian
9 law as regards its active policy of illegal colonization of the occupied area of the Republic of
10 Cyprus;

11 (6) Calls on Turkey to respect the individual human rights of the enslaved, including
12 religious freedom, the right of free expression and the right to education;

13 (7) Demands Turkey's full cooperation in determining the fate of all remaining missing
14 persons, including four United States citizens;

15 (8) Calls on Turkey to respect the United Nations Security Council Resolution 550
16 (1984) and 789 (1992) as regards the fenced-off area of Varosha; and

17 (9) Calls on Turkey to abide with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
18 (UNCLOS) and respect the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus in its maritime zones; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States of America,
22 Vice President of the United States of America, the Secretary of State, the Congressional
23 Delegation of the State of Rhode Island to the United States Congress, the Speaker of the United
24 States House of Representatives, the United States House Minority Leader, the United States
25 Senate Majority Leader, the United States Senate Minority Leader, and United Nations Secretary-
26 General António Guterres.

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