

**THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
550 (11 MAY 1984)**

The Security Council,

Having considered the situation in Cyprus at the request of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus,

Having heard the statement made by the President of the Republic of Cyprus,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Recalling its resolutions 365(1974), 367 (1975), 541 (1983) and 544 (1983),

Deeply regretting the non-implementation of its resolutions, in particular resolution 541 (1983),

Gravely concerned about the further secessionist acts in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus which are in violation of resolution 541 (1983), namely the purported exchange of Ambassadors between Turkey and the legally invalid "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" and the contemplated holding of a "constitutional referendum" and "elections", as well as by other actions or threats of actions aimed at further consolidating the purported independent state and the division of Cyprus,

Deeply concerned about recent threats for settlement of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants,

Reaffirming its continuing support for the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus,

1. Reaffirms its resolution 541 (1983) and calls for its urgent and effective implementation;
2. Condemns all secessionist actions, including the purported exchange of Ambassadors between Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership, declares them illegal and invalid and calls for their immediate withdrawal;
3. Reiterates the call upon all States not to recognize 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 the aforesaid secessionist entity;

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4. Calls upon all States to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, unity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus;

5. Considers attempts to settle any part of Varosha (Famagusta) by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible and calls for the transfer of this area to the administration of the United Nations;

6. Considers any attempts to interfere with the status or the deployment of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus as contrary to the resolutions of the United Nations;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to promote the urgent implementation of Security Council resolution 541 (1983);

8. Reaffirms its mandate of good offices given to the Secretary-General and requests him to undertake new efforts to attain an overall solution to the Cyprus problem in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions for such a settlement laid down in the pertinent United Nations resolutions, including resolution 541 (1983) and the present resolution;

9. Calls upon all parties to co-operate with the Secretary – General in his mission of good offices;

10. Decides to remain seized of the situation with a view to taking urgent and appropriate measures in the event of non-implementation of resolution 541 (1983) and the present resolution;

11. Requests the Secretary – General to promote the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Security Council as developments require.

(Turkey has not implemented above Resolution and numerous other Resolutions relating to Famagusta, but was elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2009-2010).

DECLARATION

We, the lawful inhabitants of the city of Famagusta within the boundaries of the municipality, demand the immediate return to our homes, without further delay, because:

1. It is unacceptable that after 33 years we still live as refugees in our own homeland.
2. The occupation of the city of Famagusta and the "imprisonment" of a part of it, deprived of its lawful inhabitants, as war spoils for reasons of blackmail, constitute a crime against Europe and the whole world.
3. The European Union, of which Cyprus is a member-state and where Turkey aspires to accede, must demonstrate the necessary sensitivity towards the crime which is being perpetuated against a European city.
4. The continuing occupation of the city of Famagusta clearly violates not only Human Rights, but also Security Council Resolution 550 which is binding on all, as well as the High Level Agreements between Kyprianou and Denktash.
 - A. We call upon the Government, the political parties and the organized groups of Cyprus, to make all the necessary representations internationally and to continue to raise the question of Famagusta, stressing the priority it deserves.
 - B. We call upon the U.N. to implement its resolutions and decisions, especially the Security Council Resolution 550 (1984)

We are fighting together with all the refugees to safeguard our inalienable right to return to our homes. At the same time, we believe that the return of Famagusta to its lawful inhabitants will create the pre-conditions for further progress and a solution to the Cyprus problem. At the same time, it will also create the conditions for productive cooperation at all levels with our Turkish Cypriot compatriots.

For all these reasons, we declare our irrevocable decision to continue in the most decisive manner the struggle for the return to our homes and properties and we call upon the rest of the people of Cyprus to join us in this fight.

(About thirty thousand lawful inhabitants of Famagusta living in the free areas of Cyprus and abroad signed this Declaration between 14-22 April 2007)

FAMAGUSTA

A EUROPEAN GHOST TOWN

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The exhibition you see today is made up of photographs taken prior to the Turkish invasion (1974) and photographs taken by amateur photographers after the war and before the city was sealed-off.

No one is allowed to date to enter the ghost town of Famagusta or the beachfront and this is reflected in the quality of the photographs.

Entry to the sealed-off area of Famagusta was prohibited by the Turkish occupation army to the members of the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament during their Fact Finding Visit on 27 November 2007.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FAMAGUSTA

The oldest traces of settlements are found in Enkomi, a village near by the modern town of Famagusta. Enkomi started as a small community of farmers in the 17th century B.C., but from the 14th century B.C., acquired considerable importance as a result of the development of trade relations, with Egypt and the Syro-Palestinian coast. Towards the end of the 13th century, Enkomi was inhabited by Achaean colonists who built a new town with streets and a cyclopean wall. An earthquake destroyed the city around 1075 B.C, and its inhabitants moved to an area nearby, where they built Salamis.

Salamis became one of the most important cities in Cyprus particularly during the classical and the Roman periods and its magnificent remains still bear witness to its past glory. The earthquakes of 332 and 343 A.D., destroyed Salamis which was built again by the Emperor Constantius II who named it Constantia. The town regained its glory and became an administrative and religious metropolis. Numerous Arab raids from the middle of the 7th century finally caused the destruction of the town and its inhabitants moved to Arsinoe, a town situated south of Constantia.

The name "Amochostos" is first recorded during the Byzantine period as a substitute for the name Arsinoe, which gradually faded away. The Byzantine period lasted a thousand years and firmly established Cyprus as a part of the Greek Christian world. During the French and the Venetian dominations from the 12th to the 16th century "Amochostos"- called Famagusta by its new masters - became one of the biggest harbours and trade centres of the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Ottoman Turks conquered Famagusta in 1571 after a nine-month siege. Three years later they forced all Greek inhabitants out of the walled city. The displaced Greeks settled in the outskirts of the town and the new settlement, which with time grew larger than the walled city, was known by the name of Varosha. However "Famagusta" has since survived as the official name of the whole town, both old and new, whilst Varosha is used to describe the part of the town, which was inhabited solely by Greeks.

Cyprus was taken over by the British in 1878 following the agreements of the Congress of Berlin and was proclaimed a British colony after Turkey entered the First World War against England and her allies.

Since independence in 1960 and until the Turkish invasion of 1974, Famagusta was the most important and developing town of Cyprus. It had flourished commercially, touristically and culturally. Famagusta was a "jewel" of the Eastern Mediterranean.



The peaceful life of the monks that lived in the monastery came to a full stop in August 1974. They fled together with 45.000 rightful inhabitants of Famagusta and found refuge in monasteries in the free part of Cyprus.



The Roman Gymnasium of Salamis.



A prosperous city! The golden sandy beach before 1974.



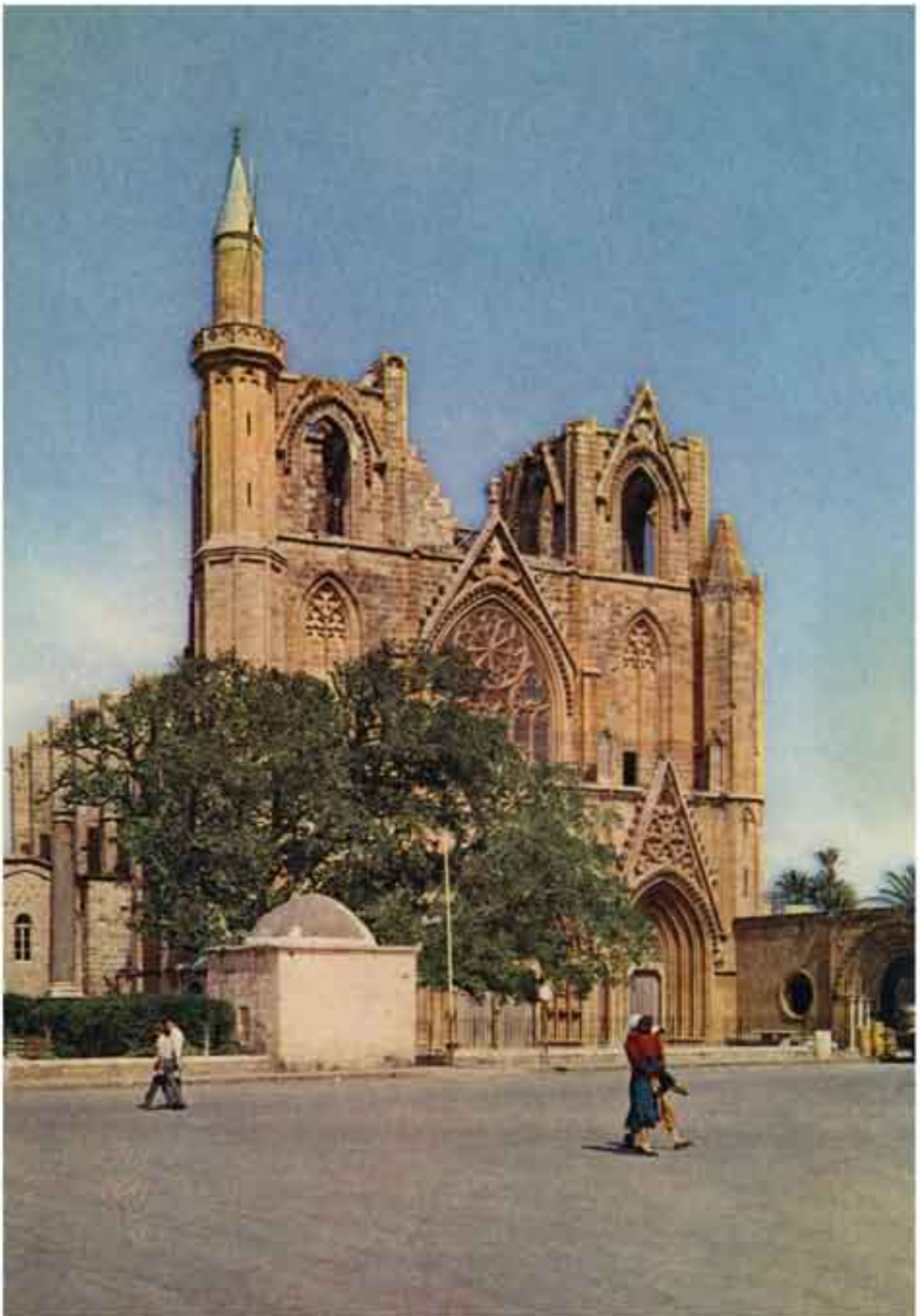
Famagusta had golden sands, rich orange groves, a medieval city, a modern city that was flourishing as the days went by. All this came to a sudden end in August 1974. Since then, the people of Famagusta gaze at their city from afar. Now it is a ghost town prisoner to the Turkish troops.



The sandy beach of Famagusta was a favourite place for both, the people of Famagusta and the tourists.



Birds eye view of the city along the beach front.



The Gothic Cathedral of St. Nicholas in the Medieval town dates back to the 14th century. It was here that the Cypriot Kings were crowned Kings of Jerusalem and Armenia.



The neoclassical building of the Greek High School and the public gardens were the heart of the city before 1974.



The train that linked the harbour of Famagusta to Nicosia and other towns.



Hereon cinema before 1974



A city that blossomed in all ways: Commercially, touristically, culturally
(Before 1974)



The commercial road, empty as it stood after the invasion of 1974.



The public garden and the Greek High School (Gymnasium) of Famagusta
(before 1974)



The ancient theatre of Salamis was the centre of Famagusta's cultural life.



During the Orange Festival the whole city participated and created works of art to celebrate.



Photo by Doros Partasides

Ruins and dead bodies.



The town and the hotels along the beach were bombed by the Turkish air force in 1974.



Life has stopped after 1974.
The photograph shows one of the main commercial streets of the city.



Democratias avenue the main street of Famagusta, once the most popular and crowded street.



A felicitous moment of the excavations was the discovery of the 4th century BC marble head of Aphrodite-the only classic period sculpture discovered in Salamis.



The famous Flower Festival in Famagusta (before 1974).



The ruins of the city of Salamis. A famous archaeological site.



Destruction after the Turkish air raids.
Public buildings and the hospital were not spared.



Most of the statues discovered in Salamis were in a broken state. They were mended and transported to the Archaeological Museums of Nicosia and Famagusta.



A closer view of the Greek Gymnasium of Famagusta adjoining the stadium of the town.



Saint Barnabas monastery one of the most important Christian churches in Cyprus, as St. Barnabas together with Apostle Paul were the first to preach the Christian faith on the island in 45 AD.



The engine of the train that connected Famagusta with Nicosia and other towns.



The occupied port of Famagusta after 1974.



A panoramic view of the archaeological site of Salamis which covers an area of approximately one and a half square kilometers.



Ayia Zoni church behind barbed wire.



The workers of the excavations in Salamis, some 60 people of men and women, coming from the surrounding villages: Engomi, Agios Sergios and Trikomo.



The main square with the Municipal market (before 1974).



Aerial photograph of the ancient theatre of Salamis before the Turkish invasion of 1974.



A large number of antiquities such as vases and amphorae were discovered in Tomb Number 79 in May 1966.



Famagusta after 1974:
The inner town, the medieval wall and the famous harbour of Famagusta.



Occupied Famagusta after the Turkish invasion of 1974: The beach front of the city.



Occupied Famagusta after 1974: The city and the harbour .



A message by a refugee citizen of Famagusta
"Open up, I left my soul within the town".



The Municipal Band of Famagusta (Before 1974).



The Town Hall of Famagusta now occupied and used for other purposes.



The harbour, before 1974, being the busiest port of Cyprus.



The District Office of Famagusta after being bombed in 1974.



The town today is a ghost town. Its inhabitants are rats and snakes. A beautiful town has been returned to the natural elements.



Books, works of art, archaeological collections, all were looted and sold.



A beautiful neoclassical building housed the Greek Gymnasium of Famagusta.



One of the two stadiums of Famagusta that was "home" for "Nea Salamina" football club in the 1960's.



"Anorthosis" building in the sealed-off area of Famagusta (after 1974). "Anorthosis" Famagusta club was established in 1911 and in 2008 became the first football team of Cyprus that managed to participate in the group stages of the Champions League.



Citizens of Famagusta signing in April 14 of 2007, the Petition for the return to their homes and properties.