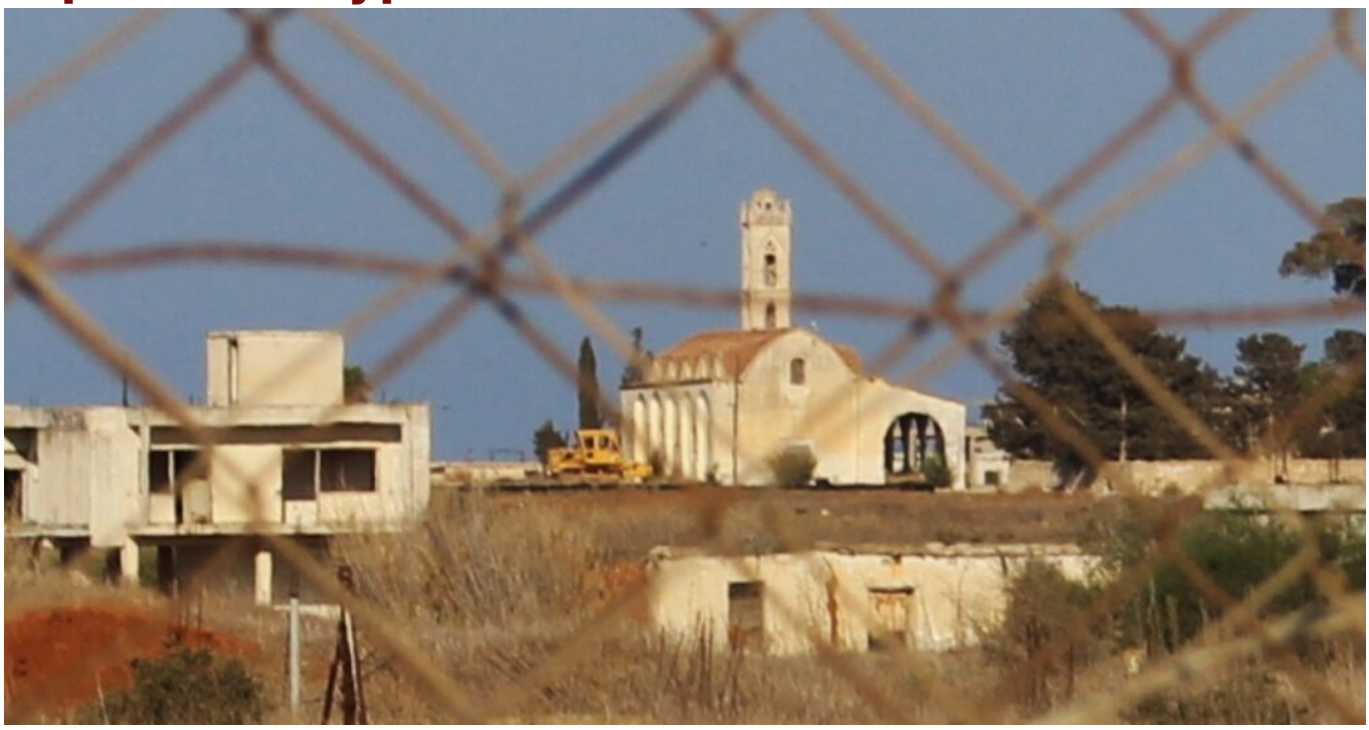
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Latest Turkish provocation against island republic of Cyprus



Sharp reactions accompanied the latest Turkish provocation against the island republic of Cyprus, in the eastern Mediterranean, in the wake of a top Turkish official’s threat to re-open the ghost town of Varosha to illegal Turkish settlement and exploitation.

Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay blatantly claimed that Varosha belongs to the illegal Turkish Cypriot regime, before taking part in a tour of the fenced-off part of the once-bustling resort city of Famagusta.

The UN Security Council last October warned against any action that would change the status quo of the uninhabited no-man’s-land.

Famagusta boasted 365 Churches and chapels before the Turkish invasion in July 1974, one for every day of the year.

In continuing the provocation, the Turkish side referred to a plan whereby Greek Cypriots’ property rights in Varosha would be recognized but under the condition that property holders must recognize the Turkish Cypriot pseudo-state.

Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades is expected to table the issue of Famagusta during his contacts on the sidelines of an extraordinary EU Summit this week in Brussels.