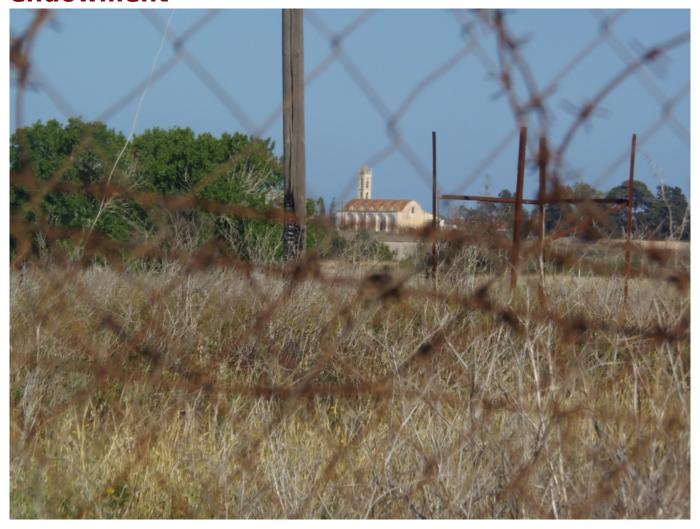
Turkish Cypriot head of religious foundation claims 40% of Cyprus comprises an 'Islamic endowment'



Turkish provocations in the wider region continued for yet another day this week, with the latest outrageous claim uttered by the head of the Turkish Cypriot religious endowment foundation Evkaf, which operates in the Turkish-occupied part of the island republic of Cyprus.

The man question, named Ibrahim Bender, claimed that all of the ghost town of Famagusta, more than 240 hectares within the British sovereign base of Akrotiri on the island and up to 40 percent of the entire island comprises an Islamic endowment.

Turkey's military has illegally occupied roughly one-third of Cyprus since the

summer of 1974, while setting up a pseudo-state in the occupied areas in 1981, an entity that only Ankara recognizes.