

Cyprus presidents calls for UN intervention amid latest threats by Islamist Turkish gov't



The President of Cyprus, Nikos Anastasiades, on Tuesday called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, to personally intervene amid Ankara's threats to open and exploit a portion of the Cypriot ghost town of Famagusta for business and tourism, something that's in direct violation of UN Security Council resolutions. Famagusta was abandoned by the Greek Cypriots during the occupation of roughly one-third of the island republic by Turkish troops in the summer of 1974.

More than 25,000 Greek Cypriots, a large majority of the city, were ordered to flee Famagusta within 24 hours, and with only very few personal belongings.

The city's Varosha district, located south of Famagusta, was therefore ethnically cleansed, nominally falling within a UN buffer zone, but in essence being under the control of Turkish occupation troops.