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HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

Mr. Claudio Grossman,
Chairperson,
Committee against Torture,
Human Rights Treaties Division,
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Geneva.

10 April 2014

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to refer to the report titled "Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention pursuant to the optional reporting procedure" which was submitted by the Republic of Cyprus to the Committee against Torture on 24 September 2013 (CAT/C/CYP/4), as a response to the "List of issues prior to the submission of the fourth periodic report of Cyprus" (CAT/C/CYP/Q/4) dated 13 July 2010, and to bring to your kind attention the following.

It is observed that under **Paragraph 12** of the document titled "List of issues prior to the submission of the fourth periodic report of Cyprus", the Committee raised the issue of the relatives of a number of Turkish Cypriot detainees who were denied entry to the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus Turkey and underlined that this constitutes a violation of prisoner's visitation rights, requiring the Republic of Cyprus to provide an explanation for denial of entry and provide information on measures that can be taken to remedy this situation. As a response, the Republic of Cyprus, in Paragraph 95 of its response paper (CAT/C/CYP/4), linked this humanitarian issue with the Green Line Regulation, stating that Turkish Cypriots can cross to the Republic of Cyprus controlled areas without any hindrance, and neglects to mention that it makes a distinction between them based on their ethnic origin. This explanation is misleading and incomplete. In reality, the Republic of Cyprus has a policy of discriminating against Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus citizens based on their places of birth and prevents those originating from Turkey from entering the Republic of Cyprus controlled areas.



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OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

More specifically, the Republic of Cyprus does not permit:

a) The descendants of the citizens of the Republic of Turkey who were born in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Many of those persons have never been in Turkey in their lives and do not hold Turkish passport. It would be burdensome and time consuming for those persons to have Republic of Turkey passport as they would need to go to Turkey to obtain them. After that they would have to apply to obtain a visa to go to Greece in order to make a visa application for the Republic of Cyprus.

b) On a random basis, some of the offspring of intermarriage between Republic of Turkey-TRNC citizens

This policy denies Turkish Cypriots their freedom of movement and, in this specific instance, in effect violates the prisoners' visitation rights as well.

It is the expectation of the Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation for the Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to take up this issue during the examination of the Report for Cyprus which will take place at the 52nd Session of the Committee between 28 April-23 May 2014, and to reflect the truths on the matter in its future reports on Cyprus.

Yours sincerely,

Emine Çolak

Head of the Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation