



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
Washington, D.C.

June 21, 2011

Dr. Cesare P.R. Romano
Professor of Law
Loyola Law School Los Angeles
919 Albany Street
Los Angeles, 90015

Dear Dr. Romano,

It has recently come to our attention that the Loyola Law School of Los Angeles is organizing between July 17 – August 5, 2011, a summer program in Cyprus about international dispute settlement and conflict resolution in cooperation with the University of Nicosia and the illegal «Eastern Mediterranean University» («EMU»). Since part of this summer program is due to take place in Famagusta, which is situated in the Turkish occupied part of Cyprus, please allow me to briefly bring to your attention the situation on the island.

As I am sure you are aware, Cyprus has been illegally divided since the summer of 1974 when Turkey invaded the island, in violation of all rules of international law and legality, including the U.N. Charter, and occupied approximately 37% of the northern part of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Cyprus. The invasion and continuing illegal occupation of this northern part of the island, by what is today a force of 43,000 Turkish troops, has resulted in the mass violation of the human rights of the Cypriot people; the forcible expulsion of approximately 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes, which at the time amounted to almost one-third of the total population of the island (the equivalent in the US would be approximately 100 million); massive colonization through the illegal implantation of more than 180,000 Turkish mainland settlers in the occupied areas of Cyprus; usurpation and illegal exploitation of property belonging to the Greek Cypriot refugees; cultural destruction and religious desecration; suffering of a great number of families whose relatives remain missing since 1974 and whose fate is still unknown, including four Americans; and forcible ethnic segregation and division of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The unilateral declaration of the so-called «Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus» («TRNC»), the secessionist entity established illegally in the northern occupied part of Cyprus by Turkey in 1983, has been condemned as legally invalid by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984). These Resolutions consider the Government of the Republic of Cyprus as the only internationally recognized Government in the entire territory of the Republic, while they call upon the international community not to recognize, facilitate or in any other way assist the secessionist entity set up in the occupied part of Cyprus and to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. In conformity with the aforementioned U.N. Resolutions, no country, except Turkey, has recognized this illegal entity. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus remains the only internationally recognized Government in the entire territory of Cyprus, including the northern part of the island, even though it does not exercise effective control over the northern part of the country because of the continuing Turkish occupation.

2211 R Street, N.W. – Washington, D.C. 20008-4082,
T: (202) 462-5772, F: (202) 483-6710, www.cyprusembassy.net

In regards to the so-called «universities» established in the occupied part of Cyprus, I would like to bring to your attention that the Laws of the Republic of Cyprus stipulate that all academic institutions in Cyprus be registered with and accredited by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus. The «universities» operating in the Turkish occupied areas of Cyprus have neither been registered nor accredited by the aforementioned competent authority, and as such they are unlawfully operating «educational institutions» which are not recognized by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. In this context, the argument advanced by some, including Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots, that all «universities» operating in the occupied part of Cyprus do so under the purported «law» of the «TRNC» and that these «universities» are evaluated, accredited and recognized by the so-called «Ministry of Education» of the «TRNC», cannot be accepted by anyone, including the internationally recognized educational organizations and members of the international community in general, since the establishment and operation of the so-called «Ministry» by the illegal secessionist entity violates international legality and U.N. Security Council Resolutions on Cyprus.

Besides their illegal status, Turkish Cypriot «universities», are also involved in the illegal exploitation of Greek Cypriot properties in the occupied part of Cyprus, as they operate on land and buildings which belong to Greek Cypriot refugees who were forcibly expelled from their homes and properties by the Turkish military after the invasion of 1974. At the time of the Turkish invasion in 1974, Greek Cypriots owned properties including houses, hotels and businesses which covered 78,62% of the privately-owned land today under Turkish military occupation. The vast majority of these properties have been illegally exploited, without the consent of the legal Greek Cypriot owners, by Turkey and its subordinate local administration in the occupied part of Cyprus.

The illegal exploitation and use of Greek Cypriot properties in the occupied areas of Cyprus was brought before Cypriot, British and other European Courts in several cases. In all cases, the Courts held, *inter alia*, that: (a) Turkey violates the property rights of Greek Cypriot refugees, as it denies them both access and the peaceful enjoyment of their property in the occupied part of Cyprus and (b) Greek Cypriot owners have not lost the legal title to their properties as a result of the occupation and have always remained and will continue to remain the only rightful and lawful owners of their properties in the occupied areas of Cyprus. The right, therefore, of every Greek Cypriot refugee who owns property in the occupied areas to bring Turkey or any individual person, company or institution before a competent Court for violating his/her property rights, trespassing etc, is valid and available to any affected individual in Cyprus.

A clear example of the exploitation and use of Greek Cypriot properties in the occupied areas of Cyprus, which is directly related to the summer program that the Loyola Law School is organizing in Cyprus, is the case of the «Eastern Mediterranean University». In particular, the «EMU» is situated in the occupied town of Ammochostos (Famagusta) and its premises comprise the usurped buildings and land of the Center of Higher Studies of Ammochostos, also known as the Saveriades K.A.S.A. College. In its Judgment of September 22, 2009, in the case of Saveriades v Turkey (16160/90), the European Court of Human Rights found Turkey responsible for various violations of the European Convention on Human Rights, including violation of the right of Mr. Saveriades, a Greek Cypriot refugee and owner of the Saveriades K.A.S.A. College, to have full access to and control, use and enjoy his property. Moreover, the fact that the dormitories of this «university» are offered as possible accommodation for students who will participate in the summer program, further adds to the illegality of the situation, as students are effectively urged to commit trespassing violations and thus contribute to the violation of the property rights of Greek Cypriot refugees.

The aforementioned situation in Cyprus is brought to your attention in order to highlight the implications that accompany possible cooperation with illegal «universities» operating in the areas of the Republic of Cyprus which are under Turkish military occupation. I am certain that as an esteemed and respected academic institution, the Loyola Law School would not wish to be associated, either directly or indirectly, with actions that undermine the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, endorse the illegal usurpation of

Greek Cypriot properties in the northern occupied part of Cyprus and support the violation of the human rights of dispossessed Greek Cypriots.

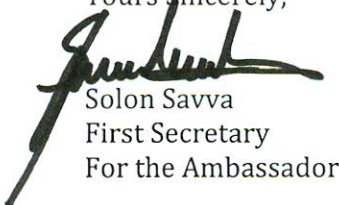
As you will appreciate, and regardless of whatever the intent may be, this is not simply an apolitical, harmless academic summer program, which aims solely to provide students with an advanced, in-depth and on-the-spot education about international dispute settlements and conflict resolution, as some might like to argue. To the contrary, this is a program which involves major legal, moral and ethical considerations, as it sends a clear message to the secessionist entity that the illegal situation it has created in Cyprus with the use of arms and the continuing violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms is tolerated by the international community. Regrettably, such a message does not really help the efforts to settle a dispute or a conflict, which is exactly the topic of discussion of your summer program, but serves only in further emboldening the illegal secessionist entity in its policy of politically upgrading the status of the occupied areas and aiming for a two-state solution.

To this end, I would kindly request that you urgently reconsider holding the aforementioned summer program in cooperation with the «EMU». Even though the Embassy cannot speak on behalf of the University of Nicosia, which is a private institution, the Loyola Law School could possibly look into continuing the second week of the program in cooperation with the University of Nicosia or alternatively with another higher institution located in the Government controlled areas. In this way, the Loyola Law School would demonstrate in practical terms and beyond any doubt that it respects international law and legality as well as the human rights of the Cypriot people. In addition to reconsidering your cooperation with the «EMU» for the aforementioned summer program, I would also like to kindly request that your school refrains from similar cooperation with illegal «universities» in the occupied part of Cyprus in the future.

I would appreciate if this letter is distributed to all students who expressed interest in participating in this summer program, as students should be fully aware of the situation on the island and the implications that this program, as it is currently designed, might have.

I remain at your disposal for any further information you may require and await your reply.

Yours Sincerely,



Solon Savva
First Secretary
For the Ambassador

cc: Dr. Victor J. Gold
Dean and Professor of Law
Loyola Law School Los Angeles
Senior Vice President, Loyola Marymount University

Dr. Anna Spain Bradley
Associate Professor of Law
University of Colorado at Boulder

Dr. Peter M. Tiersma
Professor of Law and Joseph Scott Fellow
Director of International Programs
Loyola Law School Los Angeles