

To: Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus
Attention: Mr. Solon Savva, First Secretary

Los Angeles, July 17, 2011

Dear Mr. Savva,

This letter is in reply to your letter of June 21st, 2011, which urged Loyola Law School to reconsider holding the second part of our Summer Abroad Program in the Eastern Mediterranean (Cyprus) in Famagusta.

Thank you for your very thoughtful letter. It was discussed at length amongst the concerned members of the faculty as well as the Dean and Associate Deans. It was agreed that our program should proceed. Our Dean, Victor Gold, has authorized me to convey to you the following.

We are sensitive to the concerns of the Republic of Cyprus and intend to make sure that our students will gain full exposure to these concerns. To this end, we have forwarded your letter to all our students, as you requested, asking them to read it carefully and consider its significance. Our students had until July 5th to withdraw from the program at no cost. None withdrew. Also, we will post your letter on our programs' website, to ensure everyone interested in the program is fully aware of your government's position.

However, we respectfully disagree with your statements that our program is "not simply an apolitical, harmless academic summer program, which aims solely to provide with an advanced, in-depth and on-the-spot education about international dispute settlement and conflict resolution" and that you believe that "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 have created in Cyprus with the use of arms and the continuing violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms is tolerated by the international community".

Our program is an apolitical and academic summer program. We have no interest in advancing partisan political goals. Our aim is solely to provide our students with an advanced, in-depth and on-the-spot education about international dispute settlement and conflict resolution. We do not believe that the actions of our school will influence the question of the international legal status of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus". Since checkpoints were opened in 2003, tens of thousands of foreigners have crossed the border in both directions. Foreign companies and organizations have begun numerous activities in the "TRNC".

Let me reassure you that our students are fully aware of the legal, moral and ethical considerations of the Cyprus question. The syllabi of the courses taught at our program are focused on all international legal documents of the Cyprus question. All relevant decisions of the European Court of Justice and European Court of Human Rights, as well as decisions of UK and U.S. Courts are fully studied. Two guest lecturers, academics of the Republic of Cyprus, will

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teach two classes to make sure our students are fully knowledgeable and aware of the position of your government and the legal, moral and ethical considerations of the question and our program.

As you know, we are by no means the first American university to have programs that take place in whole or in part in the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”. At least a dozen other schools have had or currently have programs at the Eastern Mediterranean University. American educational institutions adhere to the U.S. foreign policy towards the Cyprus question. The U.S. Government has been engaged for years in an attempt to foster a comprehensive settlement that reunifies the island into a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. Our Government supports easing the economic and social isolation of Turkish Cypriots as a way to reduce disparities between the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot Communities, and thereby facilitate reunification of the island. One of the ways in which it does so is exactly by encouraging educational and cultural exchanges with members of the Turkish Cypriot Community.

I assure you that we have set up a balanced program, one which takes students to both the Republic of Cyprus and the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”. We wrote our curricula carefully, to make sure students are exposed to all legal, political, moral and ethical dimension of the Cyprus question. We are welcoming guest lecturers from both communities to talk to our students, and will provide our students with any materials you wish to send us.

We regret your letter arrived too close to the start date of the program for us to be able to consider alternative plans. University of Nicosia’s campus is available only during the week of July 15-23 and there was no time to find a place in the Republic of Cyprus which could host us for the remaining two weeks of the program. Going forward, we will welcome suggestions by your Government as to alternative ways in which we could structure our program, and look forward engaging with your Government in a constructive conversation which is respectful of our respective roles and the policies of our respective Governments.

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Cesare Romano
W. Joseph Ford Fellow
Loyola Law School Los Angeles