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The British bases should not support 'genocide' in Gaza

Tatar: used for humanitarian reasons only

By Tom Cleaver

TURKISH Cypriot Leader Ersin Tatar said on Monday that "as a respected state, the United Kingdom should not support such a genocide," referring to reports of the British bases being used to support Israel in the conflict in Gaza.

"Both the TRNC and the Greek Cypriot side will definitely not approve of the island being used as a tool for Israel's oppression of Palestine," said Tatar speaking to the Anadolu Agency.

"Of course, if the UK makes such interventions from Cyprus, it is even worse, because Cyprus is our homeland. The Turkish Cypriot people would condemn such an act and never approve it," he said.

"In other words, it saddens us that Cyprus, the land in which we were born and grew up, our homeland, is being used as a tool for such brutality and oppression.

"I hoped the [British] bases would be used for humanitarian aid and rescue operations rather than to support Israel. The 1,000 British soldiers [allegedly brought to the British bases since October 7] were supposedly used for rescue operations for the needs

of peace and humanity," he said.

"I hope they were brought here for those reasons. I hope there will be no support for Israel's attacks on civilians and children in Gaza."

He went on to speak about what he described as British inaction during the Bloody Christmas of 1963, in which over 100 Turkish Cypriots were killed by Greek Cypriot militias.

"The UK remained a spectator to the events of 1963, but they are now interfering in another country's affairs by using the bases here," he said.

"They stood by while Turks were being killed in Cyprus ... While the Turkish Cypriots were being sub-

jected to massacres, while our children were being taken alive to their graves and shot."

"We always waited for the British to intervene as a guarantor country, but that intervention never happened," he added.

Tatar's comments come after reports surfaced that the British Royal Air Force has made over 30 military transport flights from Cyprus to Tel Aviv since Israel began bombing Gaza.

At the same time, Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported that over 40 US transport aircraft, 20 British transport aircraft and seven heavy transport helicopters had flown to RAF Akrotiri, carrying equipment, arms, and forces.



Ersin Tatar

Friday deadline for Chevron on Aphrodite gas

THE government has given energy giant Chevron until Friday to put its position in writing concerning the commercial development of the offshore Aphrodite gas field, the energy minister revealed on Monday.

It was the latest in a series of extensions afforded to the company in the ongoing back-and-forth with the government. Speaking to the Cyprus News Agency, Energy Minister George Papanastasiou said the exchange of letters between the two parties is only a part of the negotiations process.

"Several deliberations have been held, and others are taking place as well, in order to reach a commonly acceptable solution," he added.

Though again expressing optimism the parties would clinch a deal, he declined to go into detail about the nature of the give-and-take.

He did however confirm that at least part of the dispute relates to the construction or not of a Floating Production Unit (FPU) atop a future production well at Aphrodite.



Wild pine trees and black pine trees are for sale

Buy a potted pine for your Christmas tree

THE public is being urged to buy real Christmas trees this year, as the forestry department on Monday launched a campaign to sell potted pines as a more ecological method of decorating homes.

At a nursery of the forestry department in Athalassa, Nicosia on Monday, several trees were displayed, and the public was informed that wild pine trees up to one and a half metres high would be sold for €6, while black pine trees up to 2 metres would be sold for €14.

The ceremony was attended by Environment Commissioner Maria Panayiotou and forestry department representatives.

Forestry department spokesman George Constantinou said that the points of sale of potted trees are located in Athalassa, Nicosia, Dhekelia, Fassouri, Polemiada, Kato Paphos, Platania, and Panayia, Paphos. The public can come to collect Christmas trees from Monday to Friday, from 8.00 am to 2.30 pm.

The Nicosia forestry department representative Loizos Constantinou gave some instructions on the care of the trees. He said the tree should be placed in an area where it does not

get excessive sunshine or shade.

"This position must be stable and only change during the period when we decorate the tree, because the tree cannot easily adapt to these changes," he explained.

When bringing the tree in the house for decoration, it should not be close to a heat source as this will dry out the soil.

The tree must be fertilised once a year, with a water-soluble mixture.

He also emphasised that people should monitor the foliage of the plant regularly.

"If we notice an attack by a pathogenic organism, whether an insect or a fungus, then we should contact a specialist, who will give us advice on the application of a formula so that we can fight this attack and keep the tree in good condition," he said.

Afterwards, Constantinou said that if the tree has been in a pot for some time, it can be taken out every two to three years for root pruning, because the roots get wrapped up in the pot.

By its fifth or tenth year the tree will most likely need replanting in an outside space in the garden.

NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF PAPHOS

App'l.No. 5111/2023 (Justice)
In the matter of ANN GORDON-TAYLOR late of Coral Bay, Paphos District

Deceased

Notice is hereby given that after the expiration of eight days from today, an application will be made at the Probate Registry of the District Court of Paphos for the issue of the Grant of Probate of the Will of ANN GORDON-TAYLOR deceased, late of Coral Bay, Paphos District to the named Executor of the Will of the above deceased, ALASTAIR ST JOHN NIVEN GORDON-TAYLOR, of Coral Bay.

Loucas Mavrikios
Evanthia L. Mavrikou
Advocates of the named
Executor of the Last Will
of the aforesaid deceased

The minister advised the media to "be patient" and to avoid reporting information that might derail the sensitive talks.

"Achieving our goal is paramount," he noted, evidently alluding to securing an agreement on developing the gas reservoir.

The joint venture with the concession on Aphrodite would save an estimated €1 billion by not building an FPU. For its part, Nicosia says having the platform would allow for greater gas recovery, thus maximising revenues for the Republic of Cyprus. In May the joint venture submitted a revised development plan for the gas field. The Cypriot government rejected the amendments at the end of August, with the contract providing for 30 days of negotiations to resolve the dispute. The negotiation period was extended for another 30 days with a deadline on November 5, which was then pushed back again.

The joint venture also proposed building three production wells, instead of five as stipulated in the development plan agreed in 2019.

New university hospital

THE American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Ahepa) announced on Monday plans to open a new university hospital in Nicosia.

Once completed, the hospital will fall under the umbrella of Gezy.

The hospital, which will be known as the Ahepa University Hospital Cyprus and will be located on the site of the ICM building near the Mall of Cyprus, is scheduled to open in 2025.

The construction of the hospital is a joint project between Vivant Medical Investments and Ahepa. The university side of the project will be linked to the medical school at the European University of Cyprus. The announcement was made at the site on Monday

at an event attended by the chairman of Vivant Medical Investments Christakis Parasidis, associate dean of the European University of Cyprus' medical school Dr Ioannis Patrikios, Ahepa University Hospital Thessaloniki board member Alfred Barich, and president of Ahepa Savvas Tsivikios.

At the event, the vision for the hospital was set out. Current plans foresee a total of 100 doctor's offices and examination rooms on the site, as well as 200 beds.

Patrikios described the hospital plans as a "truly postmodern health experience" for all those set to be treated there, explaining that the hospital will operate as a "digital smart hospital".