



Security Council

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United Nations operation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) covers developments from 13 June to 11 December 2024. It brings up to date the record of activities carried out by UNFICYP pursuant to Security Council resolution [186 \(1964\)](#) and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution [2723 \(2024\)](#), since the issuance of the reports of the Secretary-General dated 5 July 2024 on UNFICYP ([S/2024/527](#)) and on his mission of good offices in Cyprus ([S/2024/526](#)).

2. As at 11 December 2024, the strength of the military component stood at 800 (683 men and 117 women, or 14.6 per cent women for all ranks), compared with the global peace operations target of 12 per cent women by 2025, while that of the police component stood at 69 (38 men and 31 women, or 44 per cent women compared with the overall global target for the year 2025 of 25 per cent women) (see annex).

II. Significant developments

3. During the reporting period, military violations on both sides persisted, with a high number of unauthorized installations of military-grade surveillance equipment, and continued disregard shown by both sides towards the mission's authority in the buffer zone through repeated incursions and move forward violations.

4. Following the informal dinner hosted by the Secretary-General in New York on 15 October 2024 with the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, Nikos Christodoulides and Ersin Tatar, the two sides began to engage in Cyprus under the auspices the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Special Adviser to explore the possibility of opening new crossing points. More details are provided in the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus ([S/2025/7](#)).

5. A total of 142 asylum-seekers, including 35 children as young as nine months old, were stranded in the buffer zone following a decision by the Republic of Cyprus, since 15 May 2024, to deny them access to asylum procedures and force them back into the buffer zone. That emergency situation compelled the mission to provide emergency humanitarian support in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Cyprus. Throughout the



reporting period, the mission and UNHCR engaged with Republic of Cyprus authorities to bring an end to the pushbacks and to the related incursions of the Greek Cypriot immigration police unit into the buffer zone. Starting in September, Republic of Cyprus authorities began to gradually accept the asylum-seekers from the buffer zone into reception and accommodation centres, taking the last ones and resolving the situation on 14 November.

III. Activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

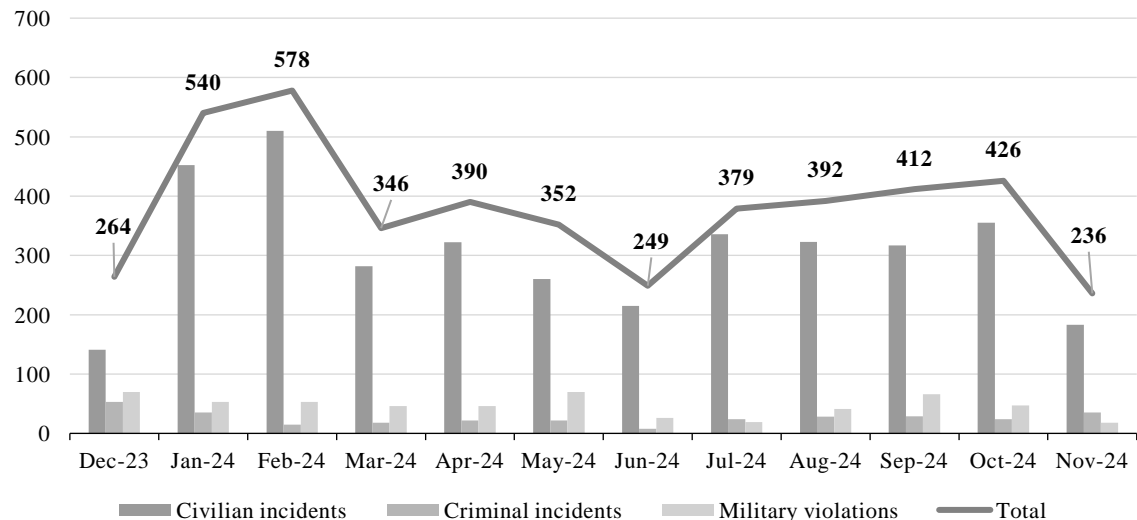
6. The mission addressed the situation of the asylum-seekers pushed into the buffer zone, which had an impact on the mission’s resources and capacities and occupied much of UNFICYP engagements with the Republic of Cyprus. Moreover, both sides showed disregard for the mission’s authority in the buffer zone as they pursued, unabated, their unauthorized constructions in and around the buffer zone, and as incursions by law enforcement authorities reached record levels. The mission’s usual preventive efforts, through liaison and engagement, contributed to defusing tensions that arose from a variety of incidents in and around the buffer zone, and the overall situation remained calm.

7. UNFICYP continued to support intercommunal engagements on a range of common issues and continued to foster connections between actors across the island. The period saw an encouraging broadening of civil society engagement.

A. Prevention of tensions in and around the buffer zone

8. While the implementation of the understanding on arrangements for the Pyla/Pile plateau has been suspended for more than one year, the mission sustained engagements with both sides to seek a way forward. In the meantime, while the situation on the Pyla/Pile plateau remained calm overall, incursions by Turkish Cypriot police into the buffer zone area on the plateau persisted on an almost daily basis.

Figure I
Number of incidents in the buffer zone



Source: Unite Aware.

9. The unauthorized concertina wire fence installed inside the buffer zone by the Republic of Cyprus in 2021, expanded to its current length of 14 km in 2022, notwithstanding the mission's protests, has not been removed, notwithstanding the fact that the Council of Ministers had approved its removal during the reporting period following an acknowledgment that the fence had had no impact on migrant flows.

10. In Varosha, no steps were taken to address the call made by the Security Council in its resolution [2723 \(2024\)](#) for the immediate reversal of the actions taken since October 2020. UNFICYP did not observe any significant change in the 3.5 per cent of the area of Varosha for which it was announced in July 2021 that the military status had been lifted in preparation for renovation; however, the mission has limited access to that area. During the reporting period, UNFICYP observed the installation of eight new cameras in Varosha, alongside one additional surveillance tower, which it protested. No change was observed to the previously reported trench and berm system established by the Turkish Forces south of the built-up part of Varosha and stretching nearly 4 km along the northern ceasefire line. Owing to its proximity to the buffer zone, this remains a military violation. Many visitors also continued to visit the parts of the town progressively made accessible to the public. The previously reported vegetation clearing, electrical work, road paving and fence building continued. UNFICYP again observed the repeated use of commercial drone overflights. Access to the entire area of Varosha by UNFICYP patrols has remained significantly constrained since 1974.

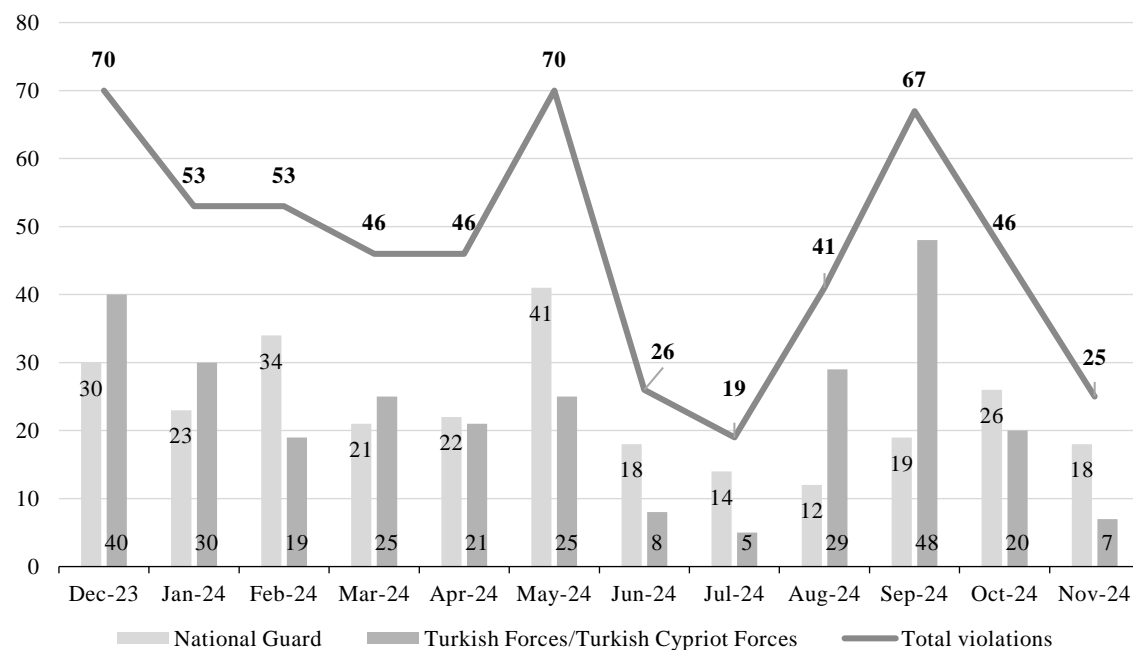
11. In relation to the status of Varosha, UNFICYP continues to be guided by relevant Council resolutions. Accordingly, the mission and the Secretariat have repeatedly expressed concern over any developments in the fenced-off part of the town. The United Nations continues to hold the Government of Türkiye responsible for the situation in Varosha.

12. In Strovolia, the mission's freedom of movement remains limited, and the liaison post continues to be overstaffed by Turkish Cypriot security forces.

B. Prevention of a recurrence of fighting and maintenance of the military status quo

13. From 13 June to 30 November, the mission observed 227 military violations, 118 by the Turkish Forces and 109 by the National Guard. While the number of violations decreased overall, unauthorized military constructions increased and represented 57 per cent of violations as both sides continued to reinforce and enhance their military and security infrastructure.

Figure II
Number of military violations



Source: Unite Aware.

14. The installation of military-grade surveillance systems along the buffer zone, which have the potential to be used in military operations, remains a significant concern for UNFICYP. As at the end of the reporting period, the Republic of Cyprus had a total of 31 surveillance towers installed since 2023, 8 of which were equipped with cameras (an additional 2 from the previous reporting period). The Republic of Cyprus also continued the installation of standalone surveillance cameras, which were added at 21 sites along the buffer zone, 2 of them inside the buffer zone.

15. Turkish Forces installed four additional camera sites, bringing the total number of camera installations along the northern ceasefire line to 114. In addition, Turkish Forces installed 49 new surveillance towers, nearly all within the span of eight weeks, bringing the total number of surveillance towers to 55 (53 of which are equipped with cameras) installed since 2023.

16. The mission also observed during the reporting period a continued high number of “moves forward” violations by the military of both sides and overmanning, all of which indicated an erosion of respect of the mission’s mandated authority in the buffer zone. The National Guard, on four occasions, committed move forward violations to push back asylum-seekers into the buffer zone alongside the Greek Cypriot immigration police unit. Turkish Forces also committed six move forward violations in the vicinity of one of the temporary United Nations camps for asylum-seekers inside the buffer zone, claiming that the camp infringed upon the territory that they controlled. In one significant incident, approximately 30 armed Turkish Forces soldiers were observed advancing at night towards the temporary camp, although they withdrew when they were challenged by UNFICYP. As the Security Council has repeatedly made clear, UNFICYP, which drew the ceasefire lines in 1974, is the only entity competent to affirm their delineation, and the rules governing the buffer zone are set out in its aide-memoire that the Council has endorsed.

17. During the reporting period, neither side took any significant action to reverse the course of previous serious violations in and around the buffer zone. The camera

and satellite dish installed in November 2023 by the Turkish Forces atop an abandoned house inside the buffer zone known as “Maria’s House” remained in place, notwithstanding the mission’s protests. The National Guard also refuses to remove the two cameras that it installed inside the buffer zone in the same area. Installations inside the buffer zone are of specific concern because they create circumstances on the ground that undermine the neutral status of the buffer zone and may be perceived as a claim to parts of the buffer zone. While general access to the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery inside the buffer zone, known as Wayne’s Keep, improved during the reporting period, the mission’s freedom of movement has not been fully restored by Turkish Forces.

18. The mission continued to observe the disguising of military positions within civilian structures by the Greek Cypriots, the most recent example being a research institution on the edge of the buffer zone in Nicosia. The research institute explained having received instructions from the Ministry of Defence to incorporate reinforced firing ports into their perimeter wall to comply with standing regulations. UNFICYP continued to protest that policy with Republic of Cyprus authorities, which not only is considered a military violation, but also dangerously blurs the lines between civilian and military facilities. Similarly, the previously reported trench system comprising 11 concrete bunkers along the southern ceasefire line, installed by the National Guard in the middle of a civilian photovoltaic park located partly inside the buffer zone, has not been removed.

19. The National Guard installed 10 additional prefabricated concrete firing positions along the southern ceasefire line, in the vicinity of the Pyla/Pile plateau. This brings the total of such installations to 339 since 2019, 13 of which are well inside the buffer zone. Turkish Forces have 11 prefabricated concrete firing positions along the northern ceasefire line, which the mission first observed in 2020.

20. Both sides also pursued the excavation and maintenance of trench systems along the ceasefire lines, as observed in previous reporting periods and assessed to be part of efforts to harden the ceasefire lines.

21. Notwithstanding the high number of serious military violations in and around the buffer zone, during the reporting period both opposing forces showed a willingness to engage in more regular dialogue with the mission at the Force Commander and Military Chief of Staff levels. This provided an important channel for the de-escalation of tensions in the buffer zone, which has already been fruitful in several instances. UNFICYP continued to press both sides on the importance of establishing a direct mechanism for military contact and for the implementation of Security Council resolution [2723 \(2024\)](#), in which the Council called for a de-escalation of tensions in and around the buffer zone.

22. UNFICYP also continued to follow up on the call made by the Security Council in its resolution [2723 \(2024\)](#) for the sides to agree on “a plan of work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus”. The mission’s Mine Action Service continued to support the Force Commander in engaging with both sides regarding options for a new phase of clearance activities, with a special focus on the buffer zone and on remaining anti-personnel mines. No progress was made during the reporting period in clearing the 29 remaining suspected hazardous areas on the island, including the 4 active minefields in the buffer zone, 3 of which belong to the National Guard and 1 to the Turkish Forces.

23. In a letter dated 20 November addressed to the Secretary-General, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus called for a “serious appraisal of UNFICYP’s military size” to ensure that it could fulfil the requirements of its mandate.

C. Management of civilian activity and maintenance of law and order

24. The reporting period was marked by the forcible pushbacks of asylum-seekers into the buffer zone by the “Aliens and Immigration” Unit of the Greek Cypriot police. Regrettably, police officers of the Unit displayed aggressive behaviour towards UNFICYP personnel in their pushback actions. In all instances, the mission and UNHCR raised this concerning behaviour with the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus, who reported that investigations would be undertaken.

25. In 137 separate instances, the Aliens and Immigration Unit of the Greek Cypriot police committed incursion violations by entering the buffer zone without authorization, either to drop off asylum-seekers or to monitor them.

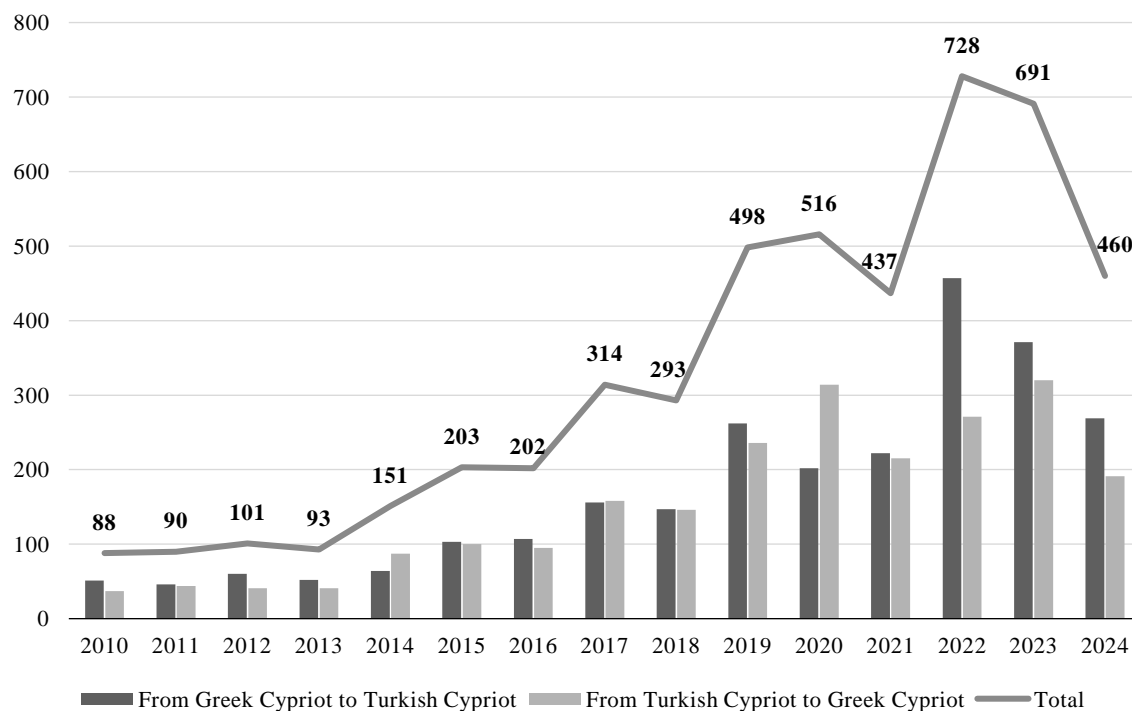
26. On the Pyla/Pile plateau, the Turkish Cypriot police continued to conduct daily incursions into the buffer zone, totalling 1,245 as at 30 November, the mission’s protests notwithstanding. The daily patrolling operations served only to heighten concerns about the integrity of the buffer zone on the plateau.

27. Repeated incidents of Greek Cypriot farmers defying UNFICYP warnings and farming lands too close to the northern ceasefire line created tensions during the period under review. On three occasions, Turkish Forces violated the buffer zone by moving forward to challenge the farmers. In all cases, the mission’s cross-component farming team mechanism intervened to deescalate tensions through liaison and regular dialogue with the farmers, local authorities, the military and law enforcement agencies on both sides.

28. Hunting is not allowed in the buffer zone for reasons of safety of both peacekeepers and the hunters themselves. However, the mission observed 43 incidents of hunters trespassing in the buffer zone during the reporting period, bearing weapons and often wearing camouflage gear, although this represented a slight decrease compared with the number of incidents observed in the same period last year. The Republic of Cyprus game and fauna services supported United Nations police in removing some of the contravening hunters, but maps produced by the Republic of Cyprus showing hunting zones inside the buffer zone contribute to the problem, and these have not been corrected, notwithstanding repeated requests from UNFICYP in recent years.

29. With the exception of the Greek Cypriot immigration police unit, the mission enjoyed a good level of cooperation with law enforcement agencies of both sides. The Joint Contact Rooms, facilitated by UNFICYP under the auspices of the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters, continued to serve as an essential channel for the exchange of information on crime and police matters between both sides of the island. The number of exchanges of information remained sustained, with a slight reduction attributed to the fact that a positive relationship in the Contact Rooms allowed for an increase in verbal information exchanges rather than written requests, in particular for minor cases. That cooperation led to the handover of eight suspected criminals. Good cooperation also allowed for smooth pilgrimage escorts on both sides of the island.

Figure III
Number of information exchanges in the Joint Contact Rooms^a



Source: Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System.

^a Figures may differ from those previously published owing to subsequent revisions of data based on newly available data and/or corrections of errors.

30. In the bicommunal village of Pyla/Pile, the number of illegal casinos and nightclubs remained the same compared with the previous reporting period (10 casinos and 1 nightclub). The Joint Contact Room in Pyla/Pile continued to serve as an avenue for the exchange of information regarding local issues, including exchanges beyond crime-related matters. UNFICYP also sustained its foot patrols throughout the village to increase its engagement with the local population.

31. The university in Pyla/Pile continued to operate in the buffer zone without authorization from UNFICYP. No progress was registered in resolving the matter of the large unauthorized construction project associated with the university.

D. Intercommunal relations, cooperation and trust-building

32. UNFICYP support for fostering contact between communities and enhancing cooperation focused on three priority areas during the reporting period: empowering local organizations working on bicommunal environmental matters, entrepreneurship, business and culture; sustaining youth engagement in peace efforts; and supporting gender-responsive approaches to intercommunal trust-building efforts (see sect. G below).

33. As part of the first priority area, UNFICYP convened Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot non-governmental organizations to discuss pressing climate and environmental issues on the island and organized joint field visits to Lefke/Lefka and the Famagusta region. The groups committed themselves to enhancing knowledge-sharing and to cooperating in addressing those challenges. The organizations also contributed to the mission's United Nations Youth Champions for Environment and

Peace programme. During the reporting period, UNFICYP and the Secretary-General's mission of good offices, as part of their joint working group on environmental peacebuilding, launched a new round of the programme, involving youth participants from across the island in intercommunal environmental initiatives. Participants developed social actions to raise awareness on climate change to be implemented by March 2025. UNFICYP also supported the organization of the third youth-led intercommunal Local Conference of Youth on Climate Change, which focused on biodiversity. The results of the conference were presented at the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Baku.

34. The mission's working group on business, innovation and entrepreneurship organized an intercommunal business and networking fair, in partnership with local organizations from both communities, which brought together women designers, producers and artisans. The working group also supported a festival by the Fashion Heritage Network of Cyprus that facilitated discussions on the role of fashion in cultural preservation, innovation and sustainability.

35. Youth groups continued to exhibit an encouraging eagerness to sustain their engagement. UNFICYP facilitated a workshop with alumni of the Peacebuilding in Divided Societies programme on intercommunal dynamics in mixed villages, examining, in particular, gendered dynamics on the island and opportunities for collaboration. The experiential workshop was delivered in partnership with local researchers to provide insight into the drivers of and barriers to mixed villages, and how women and men experience those dynamics.

36. The mission also supported various events for youth groups, including the third youth-led intercommunal youth diplomacy conference, with the participation of more than 200 young people, who gathered to discuss global peace and security issues using the Model United Nations conference approach. UNFICYP also facilitated an exchange between young people and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on their perspectives on the Cyprus issue and the future of the island.

37. In that regard, the technical committees continued to serve as an avenue to address issues of shared importance across the island. The regular meetings between the Special Representative/Deputy Special Adviser and representatives of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, in support of the work of the technical committees and to address other issues of mutual concern, remained a fruitful avenue of communication. More details are provided in the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus ([S/2025/7](#)).

38. The European Commission continued to support trade across the Green Line from the Turkish Cypriot to the Greek Cypriot side, among other things, by assisting Turkish Cypriot producers in complying with European Union product standards and by promoting the admission of additional products to the trade. However, owing to the persistence of administrative barriers, Green Line trade performed at a slightly lower level compared with the corresponding period in 2023, when its total annual value reached 16 million euros.

39. Representatives of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political parties held monthly meetings under the auspices of the Embassy of Slovakia (see the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus ([S/2025/7](#)) for more information).

E. Facilitation of access and humanitarian functions

40. UNFICYP continued to provide assistance and ensure access to essential services for Greek Cypriot and Maronites residing in the north and Turkish Cypriots residing in the south, through visits to both communities, humanitarian deliveries, post-mortem transfers and visits to detention facilities and courts.

41. Weekly and biweekly deliveries of humanitarian assistance were provided to 275 Greek Cypriots and 47 Maronites in the north and the post-mortem transfers of 4 Greek Cypriots and 2 Turkish Cypriots were facilitated through the checkpoints. The mission liaised with both sides to provide logistical support for the Greek Cypriot schools at Rizokarpaso and a transfer of textbooks that remained pending. While all the teachers initially proposed by the Greek Cypriots were accepted by the Turkish Cypriots, the replacement of two teachers remained pending. A teaching position for the Maronite school at Kormakitis has yet to be filled owing to demands by the Maronite community for a Maronite teacher. Turkish Cypriot authorities rejected 42 of 118 textbooks for the primary schools in Rizokarpaso and Kormakitis, as well as 51 of 197 textbooks for the secondary school at Rizokarpaso, and alleged that the books had the potential to have “negative effects on the future relationship between young generations”.

42. Opportunities to visit and hold services at religious sites across the island remained essential for both communities. During the reporting period, UNFICYP facilitated the passage of people for 38 religious and commemorative events, which required crossings to the other side or were held in the buffer zone. A total of 47 per cent of requests channelled through UNFICYP for religious services in the north were approved by the Turkish Cypriot authorities, compared with 44 per cent in the same period in 2023.

43. During the reporting period, UNFICYP, together with the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, facilitated two pilgrimages to the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque in Larnaca, which saw more than 1,150 pilgrims from the north cross to the south. Law enforcement authorities on both sides facilitated the smooth passage, and the successful pilgrimages, resuming a pattern interrupted until earlier in 2024 by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, were a tribute to a cooperative attitude by all concerned. More details on the work of the Religious Track are provided in the report on the Secretary-General’s mission of good offices in Cyprus ([S/2025/7](#)).

44. The operations of the crossing points across the island remained smooth. The Technical Committee on Crossings, facilitated by UNFICYP, met regularly and finalized discussions on the enlargement project for the Agios Dometios/Metehan crossing point. More details are provided in the report on the Secretary-General’s mission of good offices in Cyprus ([S/2025/7](#)).

F. Refugees and asylum-seekers

45. Pushbacks of asylum-seekers across the Green Line, as well as at sea, continued during the reporting period. The action led to 142 persons being left stranded in the buffer zone during the period between 15 May and 14 November 2024, including 35 children aged 9 months to 17 years, 16 of whom were unaccompanied. An application for an interim order under European Court of Human Rights rule 39 was submitted to the Court on 7 November 2024 containing a request for the admission to the asylum procedures of the asylum-seekers who remained stranded in the buffer zone. All remaining stranded asylum-seekers were admitted to the asylum procedures by 14 November. Consequently, the request for an interim order was dismissed.

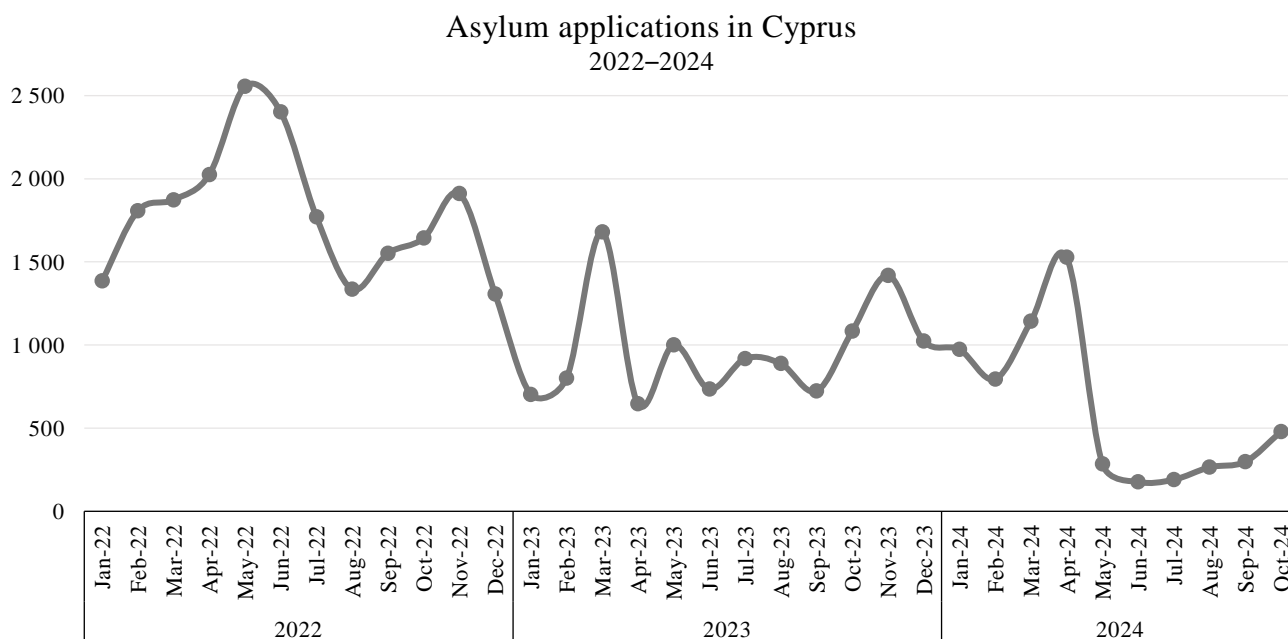
46. In addition, a boat that departed Lebanon on 21 August 2024 was intercepted by the Cypriot Coast Guard, resulting in Syrian passengers being returned and detained in Lebanon as well as their subsequent deportation to the Syrian Arab Republic, contrary to the principle of non-refoulement. An additional boat was forced to return to Lebanon by the Cypriot Coast Guard on 14 November, with 30 passengers on board (27 Syrians and 3 Lebanese nationals), including 5 women and 10 children (8 unaccompanied). All 27 Syrians were subsequently deported to the Syrian Arab Republic.

47. On 8 October 2024, the European Court of Human Rights issued its decision on the case *M.A. and Z.R. v. Cyprus* concerning the interception of Syrian nationals at sea by the Cypriot authorities and their immediate return to Lebanon. The Court found that the Cypriot authorities had essentially returned the applicants to Lebanon without processing their asylum claims and without all the steps required under refugee law, violating the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment, the prohibition of collective expulsion of aliens, the right to an effective remedy and the prohibition of torture.

48. A significant reduction in the number of registered asylum applicants was noted during the reporting period, owing to the Republic of Cyprus policy of restricting arrivals both at land and sea. A 37 per cent decrease was noted in the second quarter of 2024, when the pushbacks at sea intensified and simultaneously commenced across the Green Line. There was an additional 62 per cent decrease in the number of asylum applications lodged in the third quarter of the year. A total of 930 persons registered asylum applications from June to September 2024, bringing the total number of persons in 2024 who submitted an asylum application by end of September to 5,652.

49. The suspension of the processing of the asylum applications of Syrian nationals since April led to Syrian asylum claims amounting to 65 per cent of the 21,816 pending first instance applications. Nearly half of the applications remained pending for periods exceeding the mandatory examination deadline of 21 months.

Figure IV
Number of asylum applications registered in the Republic of Cyprus



Source: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

G. Gender and women and peace and security

50. Throughout the reporting period, the mission held a series of initiatives geared towards integrating gender-responsive approaches into intercommunal trust-building efforts. To draw visibility to the concerns that women have in relation to the peace process, UNFICYP supported two women's civil society organizations in organizing intercommunal events aimed at reaching out to wider civil society on issues related to gender-inclusive peace processes. The mission also supported advocacy efforts for an inclusive process and supported the Cyprus antennae of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network in organizing a workshop to develop capacities for effective mediation and negotiation skills and understanding of gender-inclusive peace processes.

51. UNFICYP also organized a series of activities to engage with various constituencies on the basis of areas of mutual interest. As part of these efforts, UNFICYP facilitated an intergenerational workshop, in a formerly mixed village in the south, in cooperation with Larnaca 2030, which brought together 150 Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot women from local organizations to reconnect with former neighbours, share their traditions and cook traditional foods in a bid to further enhance mutual awareness and understanding of the experiences of both Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot women. The mission also strengthened collaboration and trust-building among women's groups in Fyti (Paphos area) and Lefka/Lefke in their locally driven cultural and entrepreneurial activities, by facilitating the active participation of Turkish Cypriot women from Lefka/Lefke in a traditional festival in Fyti.

52. UNFICYP marked the 16 days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence with a film screening on femicide and the facilitation of a discussion in Lefka/Lefke, to foster initial dialogue among women in the region on the issue.

53. UNFICYP also continued to hold capacity-building workshops on gender-responsive operations, unconscious gender bias and other targeted sessions with uniformed gender focal points during the reporting period, in order to enhance awareness on and accountability for the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

IV. Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus

54. The bicomunal teams of scientists of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, supported by the United Nations and mandated to recover, identify and return the remains of persons who went missing during the events of 1963/64 and 1974, exhumed the remains of four persons during the reporting period, and seven teams of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists were carrying out excavations throughout the island at the time of writing. Since the start of its operations in 2006, the Committee has exhumed or received the remains of 1,689 persons on both sides of the island. The European Union remains the Committee's main financial contributor.

55. To date, of 2,002 missing persons on the Committee's official list, 1,051 have been formally identified and their remains returned to their families for dignified burials, including the 4 during the reporting period. In addition, during the reporting period four other persons were identified who were not on the official list of missing persons, and their remains were also handed over to their families.

56. The Committee continued its efforts to gain access to additional information on the location of the burial sites of missing persons from the archives of countries that

had maintained a military or police presence in Cyprus in 1963/64 and 1974. The Turkish Cypriot office of the Committee continued to have access to Turkish army aerial photos taken in 1974 and the Greek Cypriot office of the Committee continued to research the Republic of Cyprus National Guard archives of 1974. The Committee is also using a shared web-based geographic information system application that allows for the visualization and sharing of information among the Committee's three offices and is accessible to field- and office-based employees.

V. Conduct and discipline and sexual exploitation and abuse

57. UNFICYP pursued its efforts to ensure strict adherence to the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. In close coordination with the Regional Conduct and Discipline Section based at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the mission implemented activities related to prevention, enforcement and remedial action regarding misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraud and prohibited conduct in the workplace.

58. During the reporting period, UNFICYP did not receive any allegations of sexual exploitation and/or abuse, or sexual harassment.

VI. Financial and administrative aspects

59. The General Assembly, by its resolution [78/300](#) of 28 June 2024, appropriated the amount of \$56.4 million for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, inclusive of the voluntary contribution of one third of the net cost of the Force, equivalent to \$19.4 million, from the Government of Cyprus and the voluntary contribution of \$6.5 million from the Government of Greece.

60. As at 3 December 2024, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNFICYP amounted to \$14.6 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$1,797.3 million.

61. Reimbursement of troop costs and contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 June 2024.

VII. Observations

62. I note that little concrete progress was made by the sides to halt the militarization and to reverse their actions in and around the buffer zone. The ongoing and large-scale installation of military-grade surveillance equipment, the mission's protests and engagements notwithstanding, indicates a concerning disregard for maintaining a stable status quo in the buffer zone. I call upon both sides to cease their violations and reverse their actions, in particular unauthorized constructions, which are intended to permanently alter the military status quo of the buffer zone.

63. At the same time, the policy of deliberately blurring the lines between military and civilians by disguising military positions within civilian structures raises serious humanitarian concerns, given that it may put civilians at risk. I reiterate my call to both sides to engage in a direct military contact mechanism, with the facilitation of the mission, and encourage them to pursue actively the recently improved avenues for dialogue.

64. Similarly, I am concerned by various incidents on both sides in which the delineation of the ceasefire lines was contested. In the same vein, I am concerned by

the disregard shown by law enforcement agencies on both sides towards the mandated authority of the United Nations in the buffer zone, which was reflected in a record number of incursions into the buffer zone, as well as “move forward” violations by the military of both sides, notwithstanding the mission’s protests. I call upon both sides, once again, to respect and abide by the United Nations impartial delineation of the buffer zone – the only delineation recognized by the Security Council. I also once again urge Turkish Cypriot authorities to fully restore the mission’s access to Wayne’s Keep cemetery, in line with the mission’s mandate.

65. I welcome the fact that all individuals stranded in the buffer zone over the course of six months have finally been accepted into the asylum procedures of the Republic of Cyprus and provided access to reception centres. However, I regret the continued forcible pushbacks of asylum-seekers into the buffer zone by Republic of Cyprus authorities. Acts of ill-discipline towards UNFICYP peacekeepers by the Greek Cypriot immigration police unit are of concern. I stress the importance of the Republic of Cyprus following up on its undertaking to investigate the actions of this unit. I reiterate that the safety and security of peacekeepers remains an utmost priority for the United Nations and cannot be compromised. I commend the extensive efforts of UNFICYP and UNHCR to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable individuals throughout the reporting period, notwithstanding their limited capabilities and resources.

66. Beyond the buffer zone, I have repeatedly stressed the importance of the parties refraining from taking unilateral action that could raise tensions and compromise a return to talks, while also calling upon all parties to engage in dialogue to resolve their differences. In that respect, I reiterate my concern over the situation in the fenced-off area of Varosha and the lack of response to the Security Council’s call for a reversal of the actions taken since the announcement of the partial reopening of the fenced-off town in October 2020. I further recall the Council’s decisions related to Varosha, notably in its resolutions [550 \(1984\)](#) and [789 \(1992\)](#), and the importance of adhering fully to those resolutions, underscoring that the position of the United Nations on this matter remains unchanged. I also deplore the restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNFICYP imposed in the area and elsewhere, as in Strovilia, and reiterate my expectation that the ability of the mission to patrol and implement its mandated activities will be restored in full. I recall that the mandate provided by the Council to UNFICYP is not limited to the buffer zone but, rather, extends to the entire island.

67. I also note that one year has passed since an understanding regarding arrangements for the Pyla/Pile plateau was reached. I reiterate my call to both sides to continue constructive engagement with the mission to find a way forward and resume the implementation of the agreement. UNFICYP remains committed to the preservation and implementation of the understanding.

68. While UNFICYP continues to play a crucial role in managing civilian access to the buffer zone, it is regrettable that some unauthorized activities have led to tensions. I call upon community leaders and local authorities to work with their communities to abide with the rules and regulations of the buffer zone. I also ask the Republic of Cyprus to provide more support to the mission to prevent dangerous and unauthorized civilian practices in the buffer zone. I am nevertheless encouraged that the de-escalation efforts of UNFICYP have mitigated these challenges and allowed the situation to remain calm.

69. I welcome the commitments made by the two Cypriot leaders on 15 October to explore the possibility of opening new crossing points, which have resulted in the two sides discussing this specific issue under the auspices of my Special Representative/Deputy Special Adviser.

70. The year 2024 marked several unfortunate anniversaries on the island, including during the reporting period. I regret that, in recalling the tragic history of the island, divisive narratives on the island were louder than voices of peace. I am nevertheless buoyed by the sustained engagement of civil society organizations, in particular of youth groups, in deepening intercommunal relations and seeking to work together on issues of shared interest. However, without the proper resources and support, including from the political leaders, these efforts cannot bear long-lasting and island-wide results. I therefore reiterate once again my message to the leaders to translate their pledges of inclusivity into genuine concrete steps towards facilitating reconciliation and supporting intercommunal contacts, while also ensuring that the voices of civil society organizations are meaningfully included at the political decision-making level.

71. Notwithstanding my repeated calls and those of the Security Council, efforts in Cyprus to achieve greater economic and social parity between the two sides and to broaden and deepen economic, cultural and other forms of cooperation remain limited. Crossing points should facilitate the flow of traffic, and the full implementation of the Green Line Regulation would significantly help to increase the volume of trade and should be pursued with renewed vigour. Increased cross-island trade, together with deeper economic, social, cultural, sporting and other ties and contacts, would help to enhance intercommunal contacts, address the longstanding concerns of the Turkish Cypriots regarding their isolation and promote trust between the communities.

72. In their efforts to promote closer cooperation between the communities, local and international actors continue to be confronted with challenges and obstacles linked to the status of the north and concerns relating to “recognition”. While the United Nations policy on Cyprus is maintained and decisions of the Security Council on the matter are upheld, I reiterate that concerns about recognition should not in themselves constitute an obstacle to increased cooperation.

73. Considering the continued contribution of UNFICYP to peace and stability and to the creation of conditions conducive to a political settlement, I recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the mission for 12 months, until 31 January 2026.

74. I would like to thank the partners, in particular the European Commission, that have provided support for the work of both United Nations missions in Cyprus, the United Nations Development Programme and the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, and that have contributed to the implementation of important confidence-building measures. I also thank the 44 countries that have contributed troops, police or both to UNFICYP since 1964 and pay tribute to the 187 peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the service of peace in Cyprus.

75. Lastly, I express my gratitude to my Special Representative in Cyprus, Head of UNFICYP and Deputy Special Adviser on Cyprus for his leadership of the United Nations presence on the island. I also express my appreciation to all the women and men serving in UNFICYP for their steadfast commitment to the implementation of the mandate of the mission and the cause of peace on the island.

Annex

Countries providing military and police personnel to the United Nations operation in Cyprus (as at 11 December 2024)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of military personnel</i>
Argentina	261
Austria	3
Bangladesh	1
Brazil	2
Canada	1
Chile	6
Ghana	1
Hungary	11
India	1
Mongolia	3
Pakistan	3
Paraguay	–
Russian Federation	4
Serbia	8
Slovakia	240
Ukraine	–
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	255
Total	800

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of police personnel</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5
Brazil	1
China	3
Finland	3
Germany	4
Hungary	1
Indonesia	4
Ireland	12
Italy	4
Jordan	7
Montenegro	6
Nepal	4
Russian Federation	5
Serbia	3
Slovakia	5
Total^a	67

^a Of the military personnel, 683 are men and 117 are women. Of the police personnel, 37 are men and 30 are women.

Map

