



# TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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## U.N. IN ACTION

### SOLVING A DELICATE ISSUE IN CYPRUS: THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE ISLAND'S 2000 MISSING PERSONS

#### VIDEO

ERMINE POINTS AT  
PHOTOGRAPH OF HUSBAND /  
WEDDING PHOTO

EMINE DEGIRMENCIOGLY, WIFE  
OF MISSING PERSON, ON  
CAMERA

NICHOLAS LOOK AT PHOTO OF  
HIS BROTHER

NICHOLAS THEODOSIOU,  
BROTHER OF MISSING PERSON,  
ON CAMERA

PHOTOS OF PROTESTS  
ARCHIVE TAPE PRISONER  
EXCHANGE (1974)

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

In Turkish controlled Nicosia, Emine  
Degirmenciogly still misses her husband... (6")

##### EMINE DEGIRMENCIOGLY: (TURKISH)

*"I hope to get the bones back. I want to bury them  
according to my religious beliefs. And I want my  
children to know where their father's grave is..."*  
(12")

##### NARRATION

On the other side of this divided capital, Greek  
Cypriot Nicholas Theodosiou looks affectionately  
at the photograph of his missing brother... (7")

##### NICHOLAS THEODOSIOU: (ENGLISH)

*"Everybody is looking forward to a closure, to bring  
the issue to a closure..."* (4")

##### NARRATION

The issue Nicholas is referring to is a highly  
charged one. Some 1500 Greek Cypriots and 500  
Turkish Cypriots are officially registered as  
missing. They disappeared during the

inter-communal clashes that occurred during the 1960's and during the partition of the island in 1974. But after many decades, this thorny issue could finally be solved. (24.5")

UN CONVOY / ABANDONED FARM UN peacekeepers patrol an abandoned farm, inside a buffer zone that divides the entire island of Cyprus. Some of those who lived and worked here went missing in 1974... (11")

DIGGING Nearby, a group of Greek and Turkish Cypriot scientists, working alongside international forensic experts, carefully dig out human bones. They've already found one complete skeleton here and expect to find 5 more at this mass grave. (15")

CHRISTOPHE GIROD: (ENGLISH)

CHRISTOPHE GIROD, UN MEMBER OF THE CYPRUS COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS, ON CAMERA *"Witnesses have come forward and told us that there should be human remains in this place and that's why we're digging..."* (6")

NARRATION

GIROD TALKS TO SCIENTIST AT SITE Christophe Girod is the UN member of the Cyprus Committee on Missing Persons. The committee also has representatives of both Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities and is tasked with overseeing exhumations of suspected graves throughout the island.

LABORATORY

Remains are painstakingly reassembled in a laboratory for DNA testing. Forensic anthropologist Oran Finnegan... (23”)

ORAN FINNEGAN: (ENGLISH)

ORAN FINNEGAN, FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST, ON CAMERA

*“It’s basically like a jigsaw. There are a lot of pieces and we are trying to get as many of those pieces as possible, to give ourselves a clearer picture as to what we have...” (7”)*

NARRATION

WORKING TOGETHER AT LABORATORY

For the first time in three decades, Cypriots on both sides of the island’s divided line have come together. As work progresses and long-buried memories are re-awakening, it’s likely that more people will come forward with information on the missing. (14.5”)

GREEK CYPRIOT CEMETERY / TURKISH CYPRIOT CEMETERY

Confirming the identities of hundreds of missing persons and returning the remains to their long-suffering families, will help to heal society and lessen the bitterness that still remains in this Mediterranean nation. It’s widely hoped that the cooperation between Greek and Turkish Cypriots would lead to more joint projects that will equally benefit the still divided communities. (21”)

UN LOGO 20”

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.