



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 16 December 2025 to 17 June 2026. 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 [2815 \(2026\)](#), since the issuance of the reports of the Secretary-General on UNFICYP ([S/2026/8](#)) and on his Mission of Good Offices in Cyprus ([S/2026/9](#)).

2. As at 17 June 2026, the strength of the military component stood at 759 (659 men and 100 women, or 13.2 per cent women for all ranks, compared with the global peace operations target of 15 per cent women by 2028), while that of the police component stood at 62 (34 men and 28 women, or 44 per cent women compared with the overall global target of 30 per cent women by 2028) (see annex).

II. Significant developments

3. The Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy on Cyprus continued their efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Cyprus issue. The Personal Envoy travelled to Cyprus in January and June 2026, holding meetings with the Turkish Cypriot leader, Tufan Erhürman, and the Greek Cypriot leader, Nikos Christodoulides. She also continued her engagement with other key stakeholders and international partners in support of her mandate.

4. The situation in the buffer zone continued to be fragile, notably in the Pyla/Pile plateau. The authorities in the north have claimed that a part of the plateau falls under their authority. Since early February, Turkish Cypriot police have imposed access restrictions on civilians, and on one occasion they detained a Greek Cypriot individual, who was released shortly thereafter. In April, their presence in the area was further reinforced through the gradual deployment of static vehicles at key locations in the buffer zone.

5. UNFICYP took immediate operational measures to deter further Turkish Cypriot police incursions into this part of the buffer zone by augmenting its presence and monitoring capabilities on the plateau, including through increased patrols and a permanent deployment. Concurrently, the mission undertook a series of high-level engagements with the sides, aimed at preventing an escalation of tensions and



restoring the status quo ante. Tensions peaked on 15 April when Turkish Forces amassed a convoy of 15 armoured personnel vehicles on the northern ceasefire line, outside the buffer zone, overmanned a nearby observation post with approximately 20 soldiers and began deploying some uniformed Turkish Cypriot police personnel to conduct patrols in official cars in the part of the buffer zone that the authorities in the north claim is under their control. These developments occurred against the backdrop of a continued hardening of the Turkish Cypriot position with respect to the United Nations mandated authority, particularly concerning the delineation of this section of the buffer zone. As at the time of writing of the present report, the situation remained calm but delicate. Notably, on 11 June, a Greek Cypriot firefighter escorted by UNFICYP peacekeepers was briefly detained by Turkish Cypriot police in the same part of the plateau. He was subsequently released. The mission continues to engage with the Turkish Cypriot authorities with a view to de-escalating tensions and restoring the status quo ante.

6. As directed by the Security Council in its resolution [2815 \(2026\)](#), the mission is also reviewing options for a way forward on the understanding on arrangements for the Pyla/Pile plateau, which has been suspended since November 2023.

III. Activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

7. During the reporting period, contingency measures directed at reducing peacekeeping expenditure continued to be implemented. Against this backdrop, UNFICYP maintained its military and police presence in and around the buffer zone and conducted ground and air patrols to monitor the ceasefire lines and ensure that the integrity of the buffer zone is respected. To address the effects of a reduced workforce and improve operational effectiveness, the mission adjusted patrolling patterns and increased its use of joint intelligence-led patrols focused on recurring hotspots. The mission also continued to actively manage civilian activities in the buffer zone, to contribute to the maintenance of law and order and to support people-to-people contact across the island.

8. Liquidity constraints have had concrete impacts on UNFICYP, including a hiring freeze, temporary limitations on aviation use, the deferment of acquisitions, reduced training and constraints on official travel. The mission's ability to implement key infrastructure projects, such as perimeter fencing to enhance the security of United Nations personnel and premises, was also curtailed. Such measures were implemented to protect core mandated activities, notably ensuring safety, security and stability in the buffer zone. Liquidity-driven constraints on air assets affected the ability of UNFICYP to conduct comprehensive aerial surveillance. Rotary-wing aviation remains critical for early detection, situational awareness and the verification of violations.

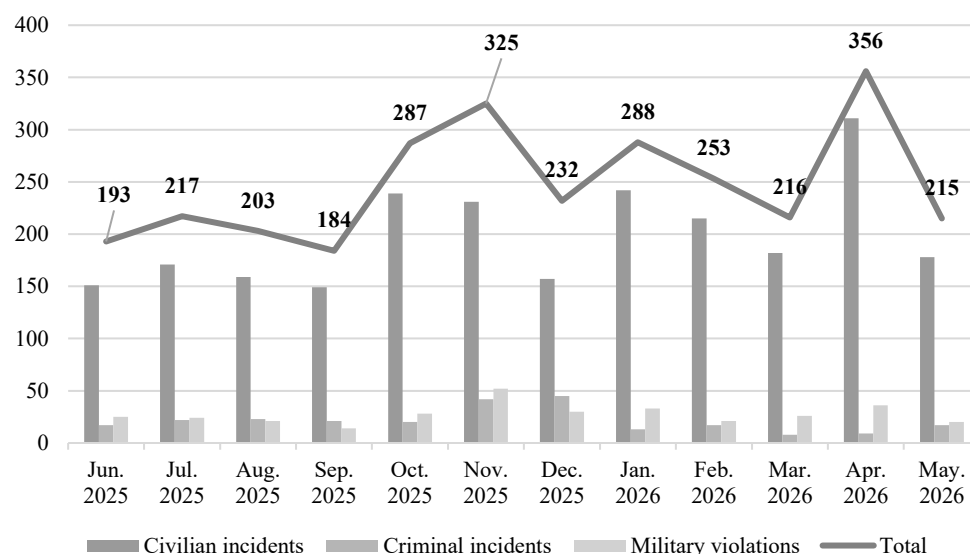
9. From 19 to 21 April, UNFICYP facilitated the visit of the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, to the island. He met with the leaders and authorities of both sides and encouraged them to continue working with UNFICYP to ensure a peaceful and incident-free buffer zone. He also engaged with other key stakeholders on the island, such as representatives of civil society, including women's and youth groups, and briefed members of the diplomatic community.

A. Prevention of tensions in and around the buffer zone

10. Further to Security Council resolution [2815 \(2026\)](#), UNFICYP pursued efforts at the political and military levels towards a de-escalation of tensions in and around the buffer zone. These efforts revolved around the request of the Council for the sides to establish direct military contacts and to unstaff military positions along the ceasefire lines where technology installations already exist or where they could be considered a reasonable replacement. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of UNFICYP met and briefed authorities at the highest levels on both sides, and discussions are ongoing on these issues.

Figure I

Number of incidents in the buffer zone (June 2025–May 2026)



Source: Unite Aware.

11. In Varosha, no steps were taken to address the call made by the Security Council in its resolution [2771 \(2025\)](#) 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, during the reporting period, UNFICYP observed renovations of facilities, roadworks, a growing number of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and the recurring use of commercial drone overflights. Visitors also continued to visit the parts of the town progressively made accessible to the public. Four prefabricated concrete firing positions have been added to the previously reported trench and berm system constructed by the Turkish Forces south of the built-up part of Varosha and stretching nearly 4 km along the northern ceasefire line, which remains a military violation.

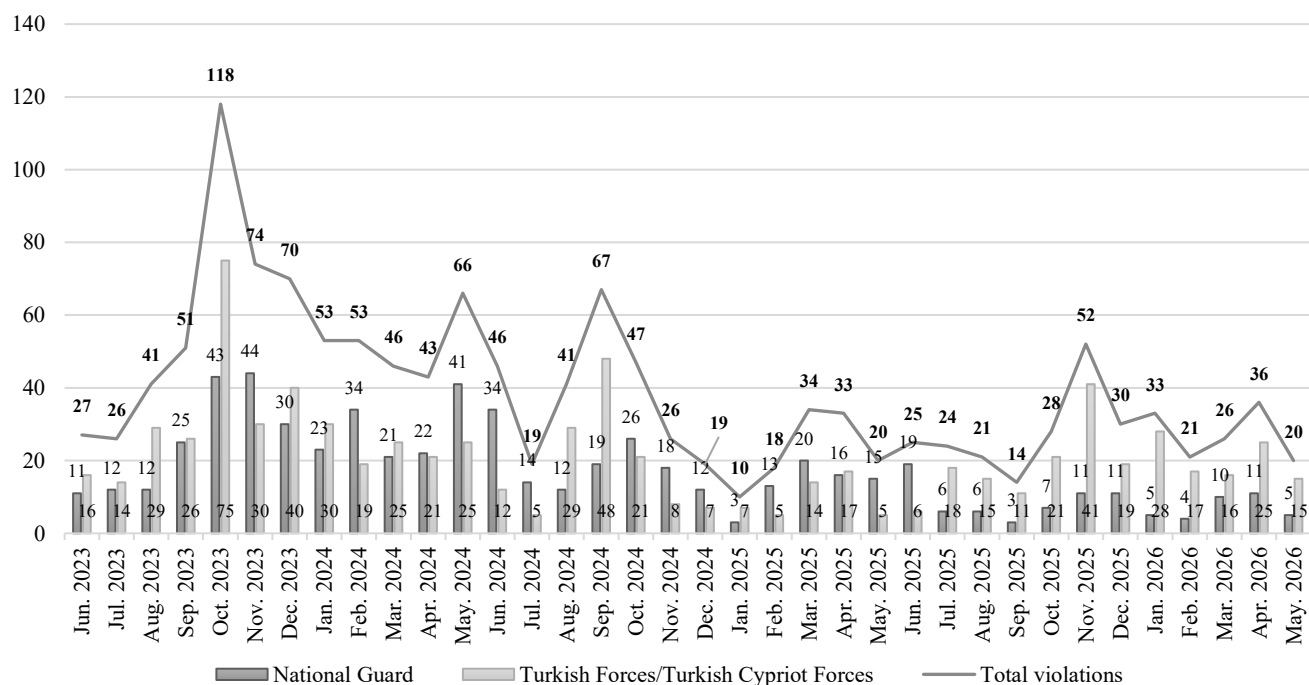
12. Access to the entire area of Varosha by UNFICYP patrols has remained significantly constrained since 1974. During the reporting period, the mission's freedom of movement was hampered by daily delays at the entrance of the town in granting access. In relation to the status of Varosha, UNFICYP continues to be guided by relevant Security 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.

13. In Strovilia, 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

14. The number of military violations during the reporting period saw a slight increase compared to the previous reporting period but was significantly lower than 2023 and 2024. As at 31 May, UNFICYP recorded a total of 166 military violations – 46 by the National Guard and 120 by the Turkish Forces. Liaison and engagement with the opposing forces continue to be important channels for de-escalating tensions in the buffer zone. Military construction accounted for nearly half of the military violations during the reporting period, followed by overmanning and moves forward.

Figure II
Number of military violations (June 2023–May 2026)



Source: Unite Aware.

15. Over the past three years, both sides have embarked on a programme to install military-grade surveillance systems (towers with camera/sensor devices) along the buffer zone. During the reporting period, the rate of installation continued on a downward trend, suggesting that the sides are nearing completion. As at 31 May, the National Guard added 2 new camera/sensor devices, for a total of 30 devices on their 34 surveillance towers. The Turkish Forces installed 5 new devices, for a total of 71 devices on 64 towers. These surveillance systems remain a major concern for UNFICYP as they contribute to long-term militarization along the buffer zone and have a potential destabilizing effect.

16. Nine new CCTV camera sites were installed by the Turkish Forces, bringing the total number to 143. The National Guard made no new additions to its 132 CCTV camera sites, of which 2 remain inside the buffer zone. The Turkish Forces added

4 prefabricated concrete firing positions during the reporting period, for a total of 16 along the northern ceasefire line. The National Guard maintained a total of 340 such positions, 13 of which remain deep inside the buffer zone.

17. Other types of unauthorized military constructions were observed in the reporting period, primarily the fortification of certain observation posts. In the vicinity of Haspolat in the north, in the broader Nicosia area, the Mission observed the gradual build-up by Turkish Forces of large-scale defensive trench and berm systems.

18. No progress was made by the sides in implementing de-escalatory steps in and around the buffer zone, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution [2815 \(2026\)](#), or in addressing previously reported serious violations. This includes the camera and satellite dish installed in November 2023 by the Turkish Forces on top of an abandoned house inside the buffer zone known as Maria's House and the corresponding two camera sites installed by the National Guard in the same area, along with the 13 National Guard prefabricated concrete firing positions inside other parts of the buffer zone. Installations inside the buffer zone are of particular concern. In essence, the sides have moved forward from the ceasefire lines and, in so doing, undermine the neutral status and integrity of the buffer zone. 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. No action was taken by the Republic of Cyprus authorities to reverse the policy requiring civilian buildings along the southern ceasefire line to incorporate military positions. Not only are such installations violations of the ceasefire, but they also dangerously blur the distinction between civilian and military facilities.

20. UNFICYP followed up with the sides, without tangible progress, on the call of the Security Council in its resolution [2815 \(2026\)](#) for them to agree on "a plan of work to achieve a mine-free Cyprus" and to advance the finalization of the technical details of the political agreement reached in July 2025 within the framework of the 10 trust-building initiatives. The 29 suspected hazardous areas across the island remain uncleared, including four active minefields in the buffer zone: three under the National Guard and one under the Turkish Forces.

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

21. UNFICYP continued to manage authorized civilian activity and to curb unauthorized access and activity in the buffer zone to prevent possible security tensions. The mission intensified its outreach and held 154 meetings (compared to 35 during the previous reporting period) with local farmers and community leaders. Efforts to enhance public awareness of the sensitivity of the buffer zone and to deter unauthorized entry included the update and installation of signage in some sensitive areas and increased media outreach.

22. During the reporting period, farming activity in Avlona, in the buffer zone, resurfaced as a flashpoint and triggered tensions. In several instances, Turkish Forces moved forward in the buffer zone to protest against two Greek Cypriot farmers, who they claimed were cultivating land too close to the northern ceasefire line. Turkish Forces also challenged the delineation of the buffer zone and intervened when UNFICYP personnel requested Turkish Cypriot farmers to leave an area in the buffer zone that they had used to cultivate without the mission's authorization. Given the long-standing and recurring pattern of farming-related tensions, the mission has developed an internal action plan to address these challenges sustainably and

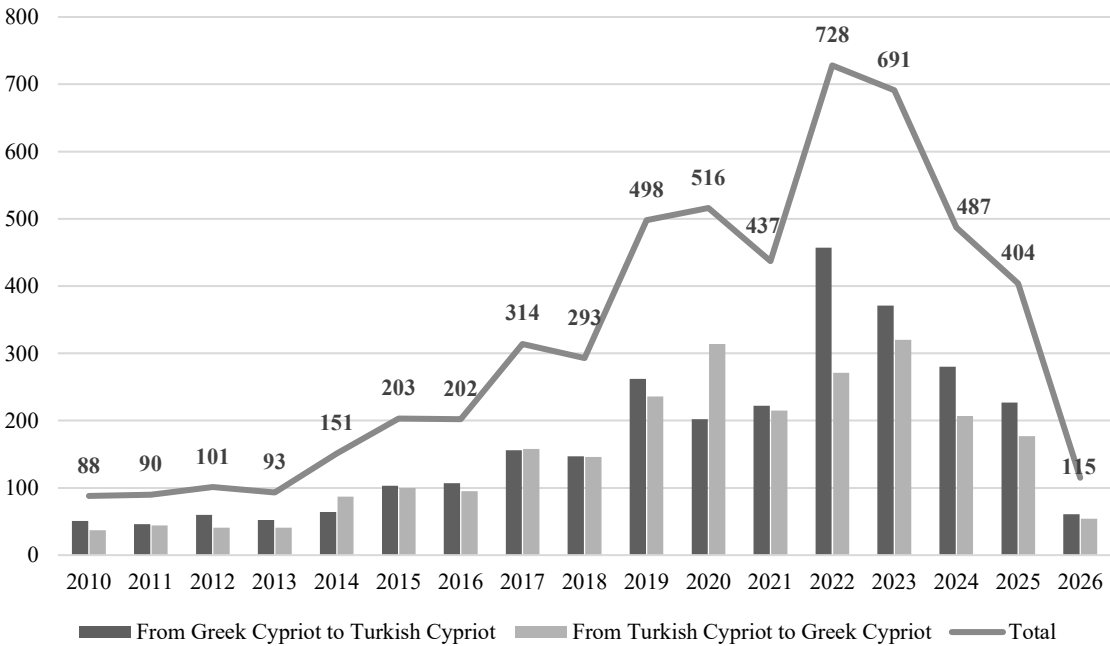
comprehensively. Central to this action plan is a comprehensive public information campaign designed to address misinformation and misperceptions concerning UNFICYP responses to tensions associated with farming activities.

23. Unauthorized hunting, particularly involving the use of firearms in the buffer zone, continued to occur with a high frequency despite the repeated protests by UNFICYP to the Republic of Cyprus. As at 31 May, 33 incidents had been recorded, including several occasions on which shots were fired in the presence of or in close proximity to United Nations personnel and premises. On 15 February, three Greek Cypriot individuals displayed intimidating behaviour and fired shots above peacekeepers, endangering their safety. Démarches made to the authorities to ensure accountability of those responsible have not been successful thus far.

24. On 1 May, the mission cooperated with both police services to successfully maintain public order during a large-scale bicommunal May Day march in the buffer zone organized by the trade unions, in which over 1,200 participants from both communities participated.

25. The Joint Contact Rooms, facilitated by UNFICYP under the auspices of the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters, continued to support regular information exchanges and to serve as effective coordination mechanisms.

Figure III
Number of information exchanges in the Joint Contact Rooms



Source: Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System.

26. In the bicommunal village of Pyla/Pile and its surroundings, criminality associated with the 11 illegal casinos and 1 nightclub persisted. To contribute to public safety, UNFICYP maintained its community-oriented policing foot patrols throughout the village.

27. The University of Central Lancashire in Pyla/Pile continued to operate in the buffer zone without authorization from UNFICYP.

D. Intercommunal relations, cooperation and trust-building

28. During the reporting period, UNFICYP organized and facilitated 170 activities that brought together 1,893 participants, nearly half of whom were young people. This represents an approximate 10 per cent decrease compared with the same period in 2025, attributable primarily to the effect of the peacekeeping contingency measures, alongside heightened security considerations stemming from the regional conflict in March 2026. Ledra Palace Hotel in the buffer zone continued to be an integral hub for promoting intercommunal relations and served as a neutral space for 122 activities.

29. UNFICYP, in close collaboration with local communities and leaders, continued its efforts to decentralize intercommunal activities beyond Nicosia and to strengthen people-to-people contact and trust-building in rural areas. For example, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots from Ambelikou/Bağlıköy, Léfka/Lefka and Kambos attended storytelling and traditional basket-weaving workshops celebrating their shared cultural heritage. Children from both communities also took part in wildlife conservation workshops and study visits organized with local stakeholders and non-governmental organizations.

30. Social cohesion in the bicomunal village of Pyla/Pile showed signs of resilience despite tensions on the plateau. In January, the mission partnered with teachers' unions from both communities to organize a traditional shadow theatre workshop for 40 children. In April, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot women came together for weekly sewing and crafts sessions. Following the success of the children's day event in 2025, a similar event was organized in June 2026.

31. The mission continued advancing youth-driven peacebuilding through capacity-building activities promoting dialogue, mutual understanding and joint action. The fifth United Nations Youth Champions for Environment and Peace programme, held between October 2025 and February 2026, involved 28 participants, who implemented seven intercommunal activities across the island, reaching over 200 people. Since 2020, the programme has empowered more than 140 youth champions and reached thousands more, demonstrating the power of collaboration and grass-roots leadership. In parallel, the mission continued supporting intercommunal youth groups formed through UNFICYP programmes, helping to extend trust-building activities beyond Nicosia. In May and June, UNFICYP encouraged intercommunal youth engagement through learning on innovation and partnered with local and international non-governmental organizations to introduce artificial intelligence tools for digital content creation and programming skills.

32. In March, the Technical Committee on Humanitarian Matters, supported by the Technical Committee on Youth, held a digital literacy workshop empowering Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot elders and, at the same time, fostering intergenerational dialogue (see also the report of the Secretary-General on his Mission of Good Offices in Cyprus ([S/2026/551](#))).

33. Regrettably, underlying mistrust and intolerance between the two communities were evident on 1 April, a sensitive anniversary. On that occasion, a small group of masked individuals threw rocks and fireworks at civilians in the north from the Greek Cypriot side of the civilian-use area of the buffer zone. During Greek Cypriot Easter celebrations, a Turkish Cypriot flag was burned. These incidents were further exacerbated by the dissemination of hate speech on social media.

E. Gender and women and peace and security

34. During the reporting period, UNFICYP organized 55 meetings, events and activities related to the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and the advancement of gender equality.

35. Increased focus was directed towards emerging partnerships among women's groups outside Nicosia to facilitate trust-building and engagement on issues of shared importance to both communities, such as the environment, the economy and cultural practices. UNFICYP focused on developing initiatives to support intergenerational exchange, thereby enabling intercommunal trust-building, experience- and knowledge-sharing and partnerships among women across different generations. Other avenues to foster interaction between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot women included raising their awareness of local production opportunities and providing spaces for them to practise cultural traditions and engage meaningfully with one another in various areas of Cypriot tradition.

36. UNFICYP continued to engage directly with youth on the women and peace and security agenda through two iterations of the ongoing Peacebuilding in Divided Societies programme. Now in its fifth year, the programme is aimed at creating a network of young peacebuilders and offers ongoing opportunities for alumni and newcomers to interact, develop partnerships and explore themes around gender-inclusive peacebuilding. UNFICYP also launched a global exhibition entitled "Through her lens: women rising for peace", featuring women peace activists from across the globe, including two Cypriot women from both communities.

37. While UNFICYP maintained specific activities geared towards women's participation, the contingency measures have impacted the level of seed funding previously available to civil society, which often supports women's groups. Lack of financial certainty also affected planning and support for women and peace and security activities.

38. UNFICYP strengthened internal mechanisms to ensure accountability and oversight regarding the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. Targeted capacity-building, an expanded gender focal point network and the establishment of a gender task force, chaired by the Special Representative, have all been employed to further embed the principles of gender responsiveness into the work of the mission.

F. Facilitation of access and humanitarian functions

39. UNFICYP continued to provide humanitarian assistance to Greek Cypriots and Maronites residing in the north and Turkish Cypriots residing in the south, and to carry out humanitarian deliveries, visits to detention facilities and monitoring of court proceedings. During the reporting period, UNFICYP continued to carry out deliveries of basic provisions to 283 Greek Cypriots and 45 Maronites in the north.

40. The mission facilitated access for 29 religious and commemorative events across or inside the buffer zone. However, access for religious services in the north declined for a consecutive reporting period, reversing the positive gains made over the past two years. The Turkish Cypriot authorities approved 21 of 54 requests submitted through UNFICYP for religious services in the north. A major sticking point was the pilgrimage to the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque requested by Turkish Cypriots to coincide with the end of Ramadan in March, which did not take place owing to the sides' differing positions on the role of the religious track, which previously served as the facilitation mechanism for this event. Following various

rounds of discussions facilitated by UNFICYP, both sides agreed on measures to allow 168 participants from the north to take part in an Eid al-Adha pilgrimage to the mosque. This important pilgrimage took place in a smooth fashion on 30 May with support from UNFICYP. It is hoped that the successful conduct of the pilgrimage will allow both sides to implement the agreement reached by the leaders on 8 May to work on a plan to facilitate religious services across the island on a six-month basis.

G. Refugees and asylum-seekers

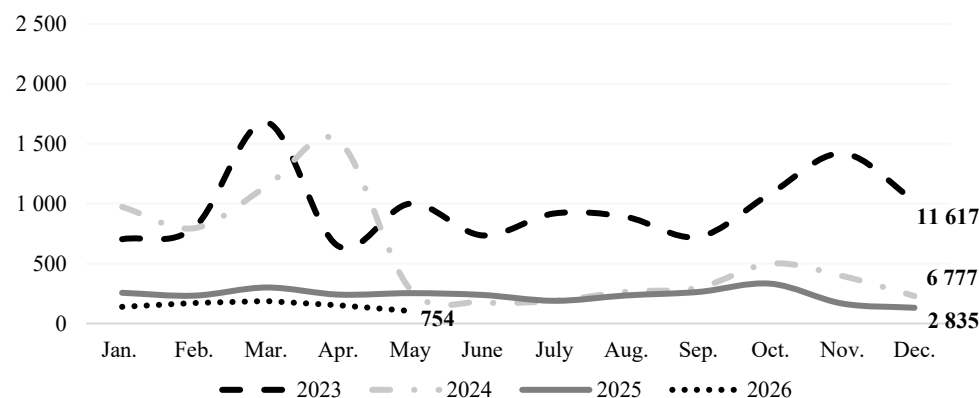
41. Between December 2025 and May 2026, new asylum applications were lodged by 885 people, 754 of whom, or 85.2 per cent, had crossed the Green Line irregularly. Additionally, 10 people arrived by boat at the Sovereign Base Areas of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and were subsequently transferred to the south based on the long-standing memorandum of understanding between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Cyprus. By the end of May 2026, 14,420 asylum-seekers were awaiting a first-instance decision, representing a 21.3 per cent decrease compared to May 2025. Syrians accounted for 70 per cent of the total backlog, with 10,071 cases, reflecting a 22.3 per cent reduction since May 2025, largely driven by the 2,512 withdrawals of applications by Syrians during that period. At the appeals stage, 6,685 cases remained pending before the International Protection Administrative Court at the end of April 2026.

42. The absence of a predictable, managed process for accessing asylum procedures at the crossing points heightens protection risks for people seeking international protection and increases their vulnerability to exploitation, including by smugglers and traffickers who exploit irregular movement through the buffer zone. A bill aimed at operationalizing the European Union Pact on Asylum and Migration was adopted by the parliament of the Republic of Cyprus on 23 April 2026. The bill incorporates, inter alia, the regulations of the European Union on screening and asylum procedures and guarantees access to asylum procedures for all third-country nationals regardless of their mode or point of entry.

43. In the north, further to amendments to the regulations applied by the local authorities, the stay of persons granted refugee status is no longer tolerated if they are deemed by the local police to be threats to public order or public security. As a result, five recognized refugees were deported to Türkiye, one of whom was subsequently forcibly returned to his country of origin.

Figure IV

Number of asylum applications registered in the Republic of Cyprus (2023–2026)



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

IV. Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus

44. The bicommunal teams of scientists of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, supported by the United Nations, are mandated to recover, identify and return the remains of persons who went missing during the periods of 1963/64 and 1974, as well as during the intervening period. Eight teams of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists carried out bicommunal excavations throughout the island and identified seven individuals as missing persons during the reporting period. Since the start of its operations in 2006, the Committee has exhumed or received the remains of 1,718 persons on both sides of the island.

45. To date, of the 2,002 missing persons on the Committee's official list, 1,076 have been formally identified. During the reporting period, 14 missing persons were identified, of whom 13 were on the official list. In addition, the remains of two missing persons were returned to their families for dignified burials.

46. On 16 February 2026, the Cyprus Peace Council awarded the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus the 2025 Cyprus Peace Prize in recognition of the Committee's outstanding work on the investigation of the fate of missing persons in Cyprus.

47. The Committee continues to receive many requests for briefings, the sharing of best practices and participation in its programmes from countries with missing persons cases, including Armenia, Colombia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

48. 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 maintained a military or police presence in Cyprus between 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.

V. Conduct and discipline and sexual exploitation and abuse

49. UNFICYP maintained its efforts to ensure strict adherence to the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. 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, fraud and prohibited conduct in the workplace.

50. The mission received no allegations of sexual exploitation and/or abuse. Three allegations of possible unsatisfactory conduct cases were recorded and are being thoroughly investigated.

VI. Financial and administrative aspects

51. The General Assembly, by its resolution [79/303](#) of 30 June 2025, appropriated the amount of \$57.3 million for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, inclusive of the voluntary contribution of one third of the net cost of the Force, equivalent to \$19.9 million, from the Government of Cyprus and the voluntary contribution of \$6.5 million from the Government of Greece.

52. As at 8 June 2026, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNFICYP amounted to \$20.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$2,823.2 million.

53. Reimbursement of troop costs has been made for the period up to 31 December 2025 and contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 1 July 2025.

VII. Observations

54. I welcome the recent positive engagement by the leaders with regard to the political process. The regularity with which the leaders met during the reporting period is also encouraging.

55. I regret that no progress has been made to heed my repeated calls for the sides to de-escalate the growing military modernization along the respective ceasefire lines and to reverse their actions in and around the buffer zone. I continue to urge both sides to cease their military construction violations, which, in effect, seek to permanently alter the military status quo of the buffer zone. The policy of deliberately blurring the distinction between military and civilian by concealing military positions within civilian structures remains a serious concern. Equally concerning are actions that seek to advance military positions or otherwise alter facts on the ground. Invoking the imbalance of forces on the island cannot justify violations. I reiterate my call and that of the Security Council to both sides to explore mechanisms for direct military contact and encourage them to actively pursue avenues for dialogue with the facilitation of UNFICYP.

56. The situation on the Pyla/Pile plateau remains of deep concern. I reiterate the need for all parties to respect and abide by the United Nations impartial delineation of the buffer zone – the only delineation recognized by the Security Council. While UNFICYP plays an essential role in de-escalating tensions and safeguarding the integrity of the buffer zone, its ability to curb unauthorized activity is limited without the full cooperation of the sides. I firmly echo the call made by the Security Council in its resolution [2815 \(2026\)](#) and stress that the sides have the responsibility to respect the integrity of the buffer zone and the mandated authority of the United Nations therein. I encourage the sides to engage with UNFICYP with an open mind as the mission redoubles its efforts to find a possible way forward on the arrangements for the Pyla/Pile plateau, as called for in resolution [2815 \(2026\)](#).

57. The reporting period was marked by renewed contestation over the buffer zone, particularly regarding access and land use within it. In discharging its mandate, UNFICYP carefully balances security considerations and the maintenance of the military status quo with the facilitation of reasonable and legitimate civilian activities within the buffer zone. The mission will continue stepping up its engagement with the sides to prevent tensions from escalating. I urge the sides to fully utilize existing liaison mechanisms with UNFICYP.

58. Threats towards UNFICYP peacekeepers are unacceptable, and I call on the Republic of Cyprus to investigate the incident of armed hunters jeopardizing the safety and security of peacekeepers, as well as to follow up on accountability measures regarding the actions of the Aliens and Immigration Unit towards United Nations personnel during the pushbacks of asylum-seekers into the buffer zone in 2024.

59. Beyond the buffer zone, I have repeatedly underscored the importance of the parties refraining from taking unilateral action that could heighten tensions and undermine 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 its resolutions [550 \(1984\)](#) and [789 \(1992\)](#), and the importance of adhering fully to those resolutions, reiterating 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 Varosha, in Strovilia and elsewhere, and I reiterate my expectation that the ability of the mission to patrol and implement its mandated activities be restored in full. I recall that the mandate provided by the Council to UNFICYP is not limited to the buffer zone but extends to the entire island.

60. I welcome the announcement by the leaders of the establishment of a consultative body for civil society engagement in the political process. I hope that this will lead to further progress on inclusivity in facilitating reconciliation and supporting intercommunal contacts to advance a culture of peace, including in schools. I urge all concerned to refrain from divisive narratives that perpetuate mistrust, lend credence to hate speech, polarize communities and undermine efforts towards a shared and peaceful future.

61. The sides' efforts to achieve greater economic and social parity and to broaden and deepen economic, cultural and other forms of cooperation remain limited. Crossing points should facilitate the movement of people and goods, and the full implementation of the Green Line Regulation would go a long way towards helping increase the volume of intra-island trade. This, together with deeper economic, social, cultural, sporting and other ties and contacts, would help enhance intercommunal contacts and trust, address the long-standing concerns of the Turkish Cypriots regarding their isolation and act as a catalyst for a peaceful settlement.

62. 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 is unchanged and decisions of the Security Council on the matter are strictly upheld, I reiterate that concerns about recognition should not in themselves constitute an obstacle to increased cooperation.

63. As previously stressed, the mission has effectively addressed the effects of the contingency measures directed at reducing peacekeeping expenditure. However, it is essential that relevant intergovernmental organs of the United Nations continue to support the mission with adequate and predictable resources to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

64. I would like to express profound gratitude to the relevant partners, particularly the European Commission, that have provided support for the work of both United Nations missions in Cyprus. I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme and the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, which contributed to the implementation of important confidence-building measures. I thank the 45 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.

65. Lastly, I express my gratitude to my Special Representative and Head of UNFICYP, Khassim Diagne, for his dedicated leadership of the United Nations presence on the island. I also extend my thanks 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 17 June 2026)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of military personnel</i>
Argentina	234
Austria	3
Bangladesh	2
Brazil	2
Canada	1
Chile	6
Ecuador	2
Ghana	1
Hungary	9
India	1
Mongolia	0
Pakistan	2
Paraguay	2
Russian Federation	4
Serbia	6
Slovakia	232
Slovenia	6
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	246
Total^a	759

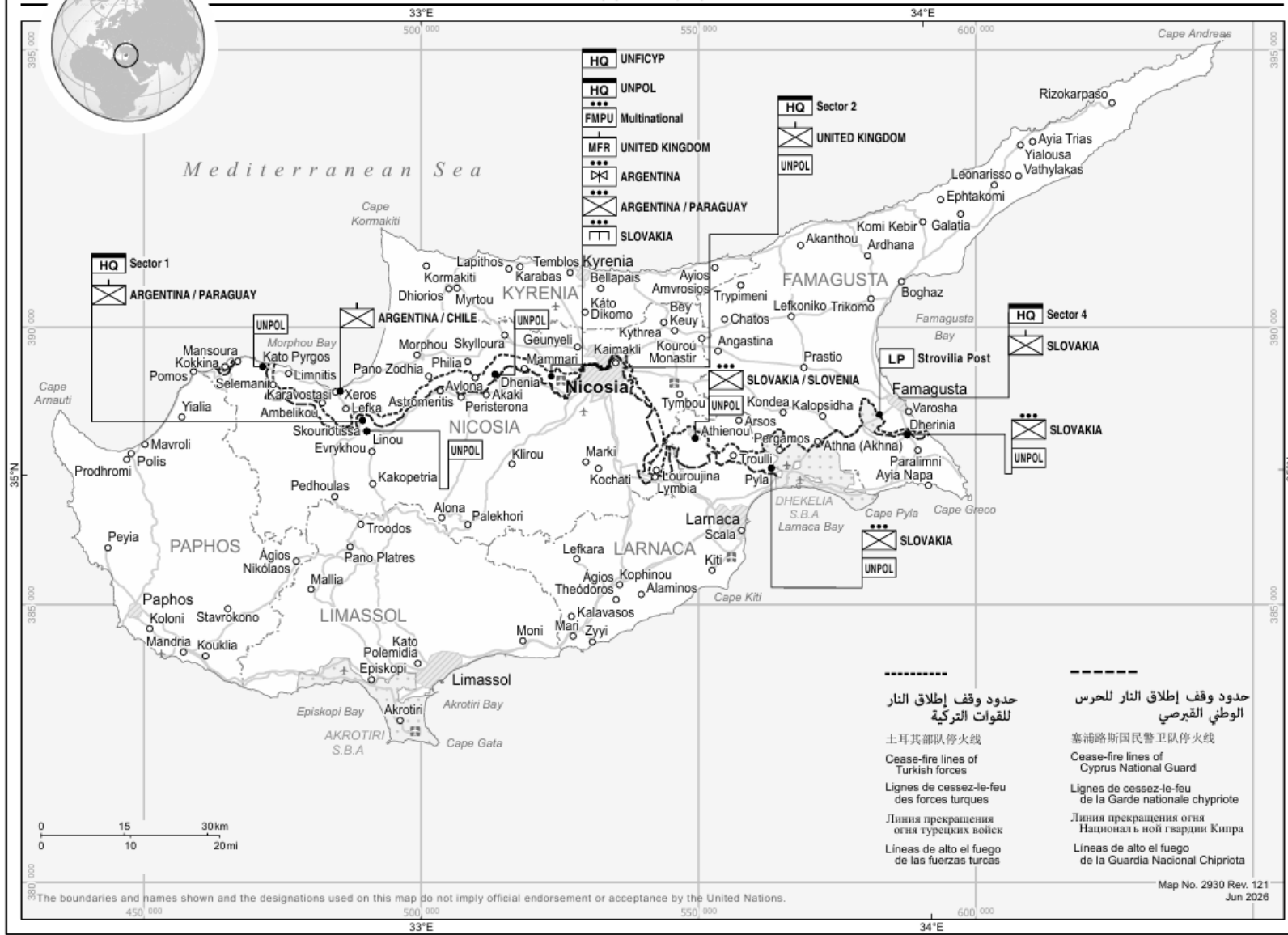
<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of police personnel</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7
China	6
Germany	3
Finland	3
Indonesia	6
Ireland	13
Italy	4
Jordan	3
Montenegro	2
Nepal	3
Portugal	2
Russian Federation	4
Serbia	4
Slovakia	2
Total^a	62

^a Of the military personnel, 659 are men and 100 are women. Of the police personnel, 34 are men and 28 are women.

UNFICYP

JUNE 2026

UNITED NATIONS
Geospatial



حدود وقف إطلاق النار
للقوات التركية

土耳其部队停火线

Cease-fire lines of
Turkish forces

Lignes de cessez-le-feu
des forces turques

Линия прекращения
огня турецких войск

Líneas de alto el fuego
de las fuerzas turcas

حدود وقف إطلاق النار للحرس
الوطني القبرصي

塞浦路斯国民警卫队停火线

Cease-fire lines of
Cyprus National Guard

Lignes de cessez-le-feu
de la Garde nationale chypriote

Линия прекращения огня
Национальной гвардии Кипра

Líneas de alto el fuego
de la Guardia Nacional Chipriota

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