Turkey must apologise

Law expert says Ankara cannot have its way through force

Demetra Molyva

Turkey must apologise for what it did to Cyprus in 1974 and comply with its obligations under international law, an American former UN official and current professor of international law said this week. Geneva-based Alfred de Zayas said in an interview to The Cyprus Weekly: “Turkey has to apologise for raping Cyprus in 1974 and remove every single one of its troops from the island, return properties to their rightful owners and allow the Greek Cypriots to return to their homes and property as has been decided by the European Court of Human Rights many times. “If the Turks want to be taken seriously by the world, they cannot do it by force. “They have to show that they are willing to join a club like the European Union and that they are willing to accept its rules which include the treaty of the European Union and its principles of liberty, democracy, the rule of freedom, human rights and the principle of self-determination,” he added.

He was in Cyprus over the weekend to address an international conference on displaced Greeks, hosted by the Kyrenia refugees association “Adouloti Kerynia” and organised by Greeks from Pontus, Smyrna, the Caldeos, Assyrians and Armenians.

The problem with the Cyprus issue, de Zayas said, is not merely that Turkey refuses to cooperate but that the international community, including the US and Europe, tolerates it and no sanctions are imposed.

“If there is a concerted policy of disinvestment in Turkey, that is stop investing or sell any investments in Turkey, that would hurt and Turkey would realise that if it wants to play the game and be an economic partner of other countries it has to respect human rights and international law by clearing up the Cyprus problem.”

“De Zayas believes Greek Cypriots can afford to be patient a little longer and the outcome would be that Turkish Cypriots will realise they have more in common with the Greek Cypriots than with the Turks. “The unrest in the north, which has already begun, would expand and there would be a desire of the people of northern Cyprus to reach a settlement with the Greek Cypriots on their terms and not on Ankara’s.”

Curbing small arms proliferation

Nicosia conference sheds light on global security issue

Annie Charalambous

A two-day seminar in Nicosia on small arms and light weapons opens the way for pilot legislation to be drafted on this global security issue. “Legislation is the first step,” participant Dmyr MP Christos Stylianides, who is also the parliament’s representative at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), told The Cyprus Weekly over the weekend. “A resolution (adopted at the end of the seminar) on model legislation on small arms and light weapons within the EU and the rest of the world is the goal of this seminar,” he added.

But he also disclosed that Cyprus is still trying to get its way through force to comply with its obligations under international law. “With regards to the settlers, he believes the matter has to be addressed on a case-by-case basis because they are human beings and cannot just be thrown in the bin. “Those people were politically used and are victims like everybody else.”

Economic interests

He is convinced that the Cyprus problem is directed by economic interests that imply sacrificing principles and the law. “What I have noticed in the case of Cyprus is a manifestation of intellectual dishonesty on the part of international politicians, like the US and Britain,” de Zayas said.

“They are trying to reverse the roles so that the victims, the Greek Cypriots become the bad guys, because they don’t accept being raped and not being protected by the big guys.”

“Turkey wants like a thief to keep the fruits of the crime. It has illegally invaded Cyprus and they are still sitting there because they have had to come into existence of the US, the UK and the European Union. “So what we have here is a manifestation of intellectual political dishonesty at a level that is breathtaking,” he added.

Commenting on the Anan Plan as fundamentally flawed, he expressed concern that many international politicians want to revise it even though they do not actually say so. With regards to the settlers, he believes the matter has to be addressed on a case-by-case basis because they are human beings and cannot just be thrown in the bin. “Those people were politically used and are victims like everybody else.”