

## Cyprus

### UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

• Authorization and Start Date	4 March 1964 (UNSC Res. 186)
• SRSG and Head of Mission	Michael Møller (Denmark)
• Force commander	Major-General Rafael José Barni (Argentina)
• Senior Police Advisor	Carla Van Maris (Netherlands)
• Budget	\$48.1 million (1 July 2007–30 June 2008)
• Strength as of 31 October 2007	Troops: 860 Police: 62 International Civilian Staff: 38 Local Civilian Staff: 107

*For detailed mission information see p. 254.*

The UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) continued to oversee a largely stable cease-fire between Greek Cypriots (in the south) and Turkish Cypriots (in the north) during its forty-third year of operation. While the parties maintained diplomatic communication, which resumed in 2006, lack of significant progress on substantive issues placed renewed emphasis on UNFICYP's role and signaled no anticipated change in the mandate of the mission over the next year.

Established in March 1964, UNFICYP was initially mandated to prevent violence between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. Following the resurgence of hostilities and intervention by Turkish military forces, a de facto cease-fire was established in 1974 and UNFICYP's duties were broadened to include cease-fire monitoring, buffer zone administration, and humanitarian activities. In

March 2003 the UN Secretary-General, at the request of the Security Council, submitted a comprehensive peace plan to the parties, initiating the resumption of talks in April 2004. The Turkish Cypriots accepted the plan in a referendum, but the Greek Cypriot electorate rejected it. In the absence of a political settlement of the underlying conflict, the Security Council continued to extend UNFICYP's mandate at six-month intervals, most recently on 15 June 2007.

UNFICYP fulfills its mandated tasks through investigating cease-fire violations and buffer zone infringements, ranging from minor military position enhancements and stone-throwing to the more serious discharging of weapons. Between November 2006 and May 2007, UNFICYP reported 473 such violations, up from 330 in the previous six months. However, UNFICYP has helped to preserve the status quo along the cease-fire lines and has worked to promote law and order and the resumption of normal civilian activity in the buffer zone. Presently, some 8,000 Cypriots live and work in the UN-administered zone, where there is a steady flow of both people and trade. UNFICYP's humanitarian work facilitates farming, ensures the supply of basic services, and encourages bicomunal contacts in the buffer zone. UNFICYP also assists Greek Cypriots, the small Maronite community in the north, and Turkish Cypriots in the south, in maintaining contact with their relatives.

During September 2007, Greek and Turkish Cypriot authorities resumed their UN-assisted negotiations on technical issues aimed at working toward the resumption of peace

talks; however, for the second consecutive year, no decisions were made on substantive issues. At the conclusion of the talks, the parties reiterated their commitment to continue in the future, prompting both the Secretary-General

and his Special Representative to pledge support to the process, while stressing that the onus for settlement lies in the hands of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots.