

**Question for written answer E-000036/2024/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Demetris Papadakis (S&D)**

**Subject:** Violations of the rights and freedoms of Turkish Cypriots by the illegal regime in occupied Cyprus

The illegal regime in occupied Cyprus, a vassal of Türkiye, continues to violate the human rights and freedoms of Turkish Cypriots. The prosecution of Mustafa Hürben, who is to be tried before a military court in the occupied territories on 18 January 2024 for refusing to serve in the occupation army as a reservist, adds to a long list of acts of political persecution and intimidation against Turkish Cypriots.

The illegal regime forces Turkish Cypriots, who are legal citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, to serve in the Turkish army, initially as conscripts and later as reservists. Refusal to serve is considered desertion and carries a prison sentence. Three Turkish Cypriots, Murat Kanatlı, Halil Karapaşaoğlu and Haluk Selam Tufanl, have already taken their cases to the ECHR.

In view of this:

1. What steps could the Commission take to ensure that Turkish Cypriot citizens of the Republic of Cyprus are not forced to serve in the occupation army?
2. What does it plan to do to protect the rights of legal residents of the Republic of Cyprus who are living under the illegal regime of the occupied territories?

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