



# Embargoed!

## Love Cyprus, Hate Racism

[www.embargoed.org](http://www.embargoed.org)



# Background to Cyprus

- ◆ The third largest island in the Mediterranean, 1 million people
- ◆ Significant geo-political location.
- ◆ An independent republic in 1960 – Greek & Turkish Cypriots share political equality
- ◆ Inter-ethnic conflict breaks out in December 1963 – Turkish Cypriots forced out of power
- ◆ Turkey intervenes July 1974 following a Greek-backed coup in Cyprus. The island is divided into two ethnic zones
- ◆ 2004 referenda on UN unification plan: 65% Turkish Cypriots vote “yes”, 76% Greek Cypriots vote ‘no’
- ◆ Both sides have suffered enormous trauma due to conflict – its negative fallout continues to be felt 44 years after its outbreak



# Living Under Embargoes

While Greek Cypriots have been able to rebuild their lives, Turkish Cypriots (TCs) continue to live under international isolation

- ◆ **Daily discrimination:** direct trade, travel & communication with rest of world is denied – everything must go via Turkey or South Cyprus – making everything take longer and cost more
- ◆ North Cyprus' **GDP one third of South Cyprus**
- ◆ **TC political representation barred** at UN, EU etc; only Greek Cypriots have a voice
- ◆ **Traditional industries such agriculture are crippled** (50% of fresh produce, such as lemons, rot away due to lack of buyers)
- ◆ **Students face education embargo** as North Cyprus institutions and diplomas not recognised under Bologna Process
- ◆ **TCs banned** from taking part in international sports such as the World Cup and Olympics (incl. under the Olympic flag!) – even friendly football matches are not permitted

# ΠΑΤΡΙΔΑ ΜΑΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ"/ "KILL TURKS" Graffiti on Limassol main road, Aug. 2007



Nov.06: Greek Cypriot kids  
in racist attack on  
Turkish Cypriot school boys

Greek Cypriot student  
website promotes  
*"annihilation of every single  
turk", March 07*



*"The best Turk is a dead Turk"*  
igreek petition, Dec. 06

# Tackling Intolerance

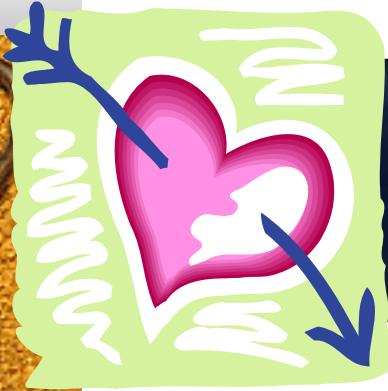


- ◆ *Series of 'Property Seminars' to strip out the myths & inform refugees from both sides*

*Campaigned for 'Bloody Map' to go – UK ads did not have this symbol of hate in 07*

- ◆ *Held historic Anti-Racism Seminar in London to tackle intolerance to and by UK Turkish Cypriots*
- ◆ *'Love Cyprus, Hate Racism' – plans in place to run a mixed Cypriot youth football tournament & anti-racism workshop with Kick it Out*





## Recommendations

1. Stop demonising 'The Other'
2. Promote universal rights
3. Celebrate cultural diversity
4. Stand up to racism and intolerance
5. Be balanced and truthful
6. Work together to preserve the 'best of Cyprus'



# Recommendations Cont../

- ◆ Embargoed will continue to work closely with OSCE to ensure these issues are brought to the attention of the international community
- ◆ Embargoed! demands that the republic of Cyprus makes it abundantly clear that any acts of intolerance or discrimination shall be condemned accordingly – more so we strongly recommend that the Greek Cypriots embark on ongoing capacity building projects promoting the dignity and respect of everyone.