

# Stephen Day's dual standards

I MUST take issue with the dual standards displayed by your columnist Stephen Day.

In your April 25 issue he quite rightly champions the cause of British pensioners who have paid into a system and then been abandoned by the government they have paid their dues to.

However on the same page he denigrates a person who pays legal dues to the TRNC government as an entertainer and champions the cause of those breaking the law.

As in many cases, laws are not perfect, but they ARE the law, and we have to work with what we have available.

Our artists have chosen to abide by the law in order to work legally. They pay for work permits, Social Insurance, taxes, VAT etc and are well within their rights, legally and morally, to be incensed by the flagrant

flouting of the law by illegal entertainers and venues.

Some of our artists moved to the TRNC purely because they could obtain work permits. They appreciate the ability to work without constantly looking over their shoulders for the fear of fines and deportation.

As we move into the "season" the media at all levels is flooded with illegal artists. The fact that the artist and the venue are each liable to fines of 8,500TL if caught does not seem to bother them.

Many of the illegals come from outside the TRNC, pay nothing into the system and then leave with the money they have earned. They are a drain on the TRNC economy. Maybe they believe that past custom has been to turn a blind eye to this. If that is the case we must ask why the government ever bothered to pass a law to enable entertainers to work legally.

It may be so, but I hope that the illegal performers carry on blatantly advertising in the media and social media so that their activity can be monitored for incorporation in an official letter to the Labour Ministry in the very near future.

As the law stands there is no allowance for a part-time work permit. Entertainers must have a full work permit or not at all. Mr Day can champion the cause of changing the law, perhaps, but please do not denigrate legal workers.

His comments about folk coming on holiday and wanting to get up and sing, or play an instrument miss the point that this would be totally abused by unscrupulous illegals. If someone wants to get up and sing, there is karaoke available.

**Ken Hibbitt,  
Manager,**

**All Stars Agency Promotions**

## The volatile and oddly forgotten frozen conflict

REPORTS in the media of late are replete with ominous predictions related to frozen conflicts across the globe. However, one frozen conflict rarely reported upon will likely boil over if not addressed: Cyprus.

Simply framing the Cyprus conflict as a Turkish occupation is exceedingly misrepresentative. It is extensively documented by the UN and other international organisations that the Cyprus conflict began in 1963 when Greek Cypriots attempted the ethnic cleansing of Turkish Cypriots. As a child, I experienced the horrors of those very massacres.

By 1974, Greece engineered a coup to topple the Greek Cypriot government with the goal of annexing the island. The plight of Turkish Cypriots had deteriorated to such a point that Turkey was forced into military action to forestall the unfolding humanitarian crisis and protect its own security. As Greece and Greek Cypriots were in violation of the international agreements on which the Republic of Cyprus was founded, Turkey's intervention was legally justified.

In contrast to the 650-mile expanse of sea that divides Greece and Cyprus, Cyprus lies just 40 miles south of the Turkish coast, hence posing a clear security concern for Turkey.

several proposals for joint decision making on the exploitation of the hydrocarbon discoveries, but each was rejected. In reciprocity to unilateral Greek Cypriot actions awarding exploration rights to foreign oil companies, Turkish Cypriots awarded exploration rights in their economic zone to a Turkish company. Turkish Cypriots are simply, and legally, exploring for hydrocarbons in their own maritime zone. Turkey is not trespassing the Cypriot waters.

Recent negotiations of Cyprus began in February 2014 with a joint communiqué providing the framework for reunification through the efforts of both the US and Turkey. It was agreed that one side cannot impose authority over the other. Turkish Cypriots were joint holders of ownership rights of the resource of Cyprus. Therefore, by acting unilaterally on the hydrocarbons issue, the Greek Cypriots are violating both the letter and the spirit of the agreed-upon framework.

Last week, with an overwhelming majority, Turkish Cypriots voted for European future by electing Mustafa Akıncı as president. Mr Akıncı is a moderate, strongly in favour of vigorous resumption of the intercommunal talks for reunification. Greek Cypriots

## Big thanks to everyone who supported cause



Raziye Kocalsmail (centre) with members of the committee and Ersin Tatar (right)