

# BLUE BERET

## International Day of Peace candle-lighting ceremony

Members of the World War II Cyprus Veterans' Association gathered alongside young Cypriots and UN officials outside Ledra Palace Hotel on 21 September 2015 to observe the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus's (UNFICYP) annual International Day of Peace candle-lighting ceremony.

Opening the ceremony, UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Kristin Lund stressed the role of the Cypriot veterans in winning peace for all. "I am honored by your presence here this evening. I am inspired by your service and reminded of the sacrifices your generation made to pave the way for the creation of the United Nations with a promise to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," she said. "Greek and Turkish Cypriots alike fought side by side to win peace for us all; you exemplify how together Cypriots can unite for the greater good."

Speaking on behalf of the Cyprus Veterans Association, the Secretary-General Mr. Nikos Christodoulides said: "It is my great honor and privilege to address, once more, this wonderful meeting organized by the United Nations in order to celebrate the International Day of Peace. This day is a constant reminder of the need to respect and protect peace for all the people of the world."

"We, the Cypriot Veterans – both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots – are very proud that we joined the millions of people who fought on the Allied side in order to safeguard world peace and prosperity for future generations," he added.

Force Commander Maj. Gen. Lund also highlighted the important role of the youth in promoting peace on the island.

"Let us rekindle our commitment to the reunification of this beautiful country. Let us take inspiration from the words of the young generation. Let us take counsel from the wisdom of the Second World War veterans. And let our presence here this evening serve as a rededication to the cause of peace," she said.

Eleni Partaki, a young Greek Cypriot activist said: "I do not consider peace just something we as humans want but as something we need and deserve. When I say act like a human, I expect human like acts like love, compassion, care and kindness. Now if we all acted or functioned as humans, then there would be peace."

"I become more hopeful for peace in our island. As teens, I know that we have a big role in this progress and we will work for it until the day that we will all celebrate peace together," said Ismail Ozgenc, a young Turkish Cypriot activist.



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