
UN EXTENDS MANDATE OF CYPRUS PEACEKEEPING MISSION

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Yeni Şafak (28 July 2017)

Weeks after the collapse of the latest talks on the islands future, the UN Security Council on Thursday extended the mandate of the UN peacekeeping mission on Cyprus until Jan. 31, 2018.

Unanimously adopting the resolution, the 15-member council said in a written statement that the extension would encourage "the divided island nations leaders to grasp the current opportunity of recent progress in negotiations to secure a comprehensive settlement of the dispute between them".

The Security Council also urged "the implementation of confidence-building measures" and "called upon the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to put their efforts behind reaching convergences on the core issues".

The UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), established in 1964, is one of the longest running peacekeeping missions assigned and operated by the global body.

The eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus was divided into a Turkish Cypriot state in the north and a Greek Cypriot administration in the south after a 1974 military coup on the island was followed by the peace operation by Turkey as a guarantor power.

There has been an on-and-off peace process over the last years, with the latest series in Switzerland under the auspices of guarantor countries Turkey, Greece and the U.K. collapsing earlier this month.

Turkey has blamed Greek Cypriot intransigence for the latest talks failure and also faulted the European Union for admitting Cyprus as a divided island into the union in 2004, after Greek Cyprus rejected a peace deal.

Kaynak/Source: