

**Question for written answer E-001699/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Costas Mavrides (S&D)

Subject: Allegations of exhumations and desecration of cemeteries in occupied Kyrenia

According to recent reports and complaints, there have been repeated cases of cemeteries being desecrated in occupied Kyrenia.

Specifically, the legitimate mayor of the occupied city of Kyrenia has complained about graves and religious symbols being destroyed and about sacrilegious bone exhumations. Meanwhile, according to the same allegations, foreign persons who were illegally residing in the occupied territories are being buried in spaces where graves had existed, raising serious issues of disrespect and grave robbery. Religious monuments are also being destroyed and desecrated, cases in point being the removal of symbols from historic temples and the removal of the cross from the bell tower of the historic Archangelos Michael Church in occupied Kyrenia.

All this amounts to the destruction of European cultural and religious heritage. Reminiscent of jihadist behaviour, these acts are being carried out in the occupied territories of the Republic of Cyprus and constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it aware of the allegations about the desecration of cemeteries and illegal exhumations in occupied Kyrenia?
2. What specific actions could it take to help repair the damage, to ensure that the cemeteries are respected and to prevent similar incidents in the future?

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