



CYPRUS ARMY  
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



Members of EUROMIL



NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION

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### **Joint Announcement by the Cyprus Army and Non-Commissioned Officers Associations**

We are very disappointingly watching the position, statements and counter statements of the Minister of Defence about the "Legislation regarding the working hours of the National Guard members"

- The Minister of Defence handed the Legislation to the House of Representatives, circumventing in this way the Cyprus Army and Non-Commissioned Officers Associations' lasting efforts and stating that any acts of injustice and arbitrariness will be terminated, yet he himself withdrew the proposed legislation "for reasons related to operational readiness", referring the Chief of the National Guard.

- A matter of great significance that preoccupies the Army, its members and, in turn, their families, has been treated as a matter of communicative exploitation and promotion.

Considering everything mentioned and all the false impressions that are currently made, the Cyprus Army and Non-Commissioned Officers Associations specify the following:

- Maintaining a regulation regarding working hours in an organized and disciplined group in 2015 is a necessity and not a luxury.

- Under the existing circumstances, apart from a number of exceptions, the members of the National Guard serve as an example of working conditions without specified working hours, limits or accountability, which illustrate the prevailing arbitrariness that the Minister himself referred to.

- "Operational readiness" is accomplished through proper planning, responsible management, mutual respect, morale, the utilization of staff members, justice, transparency, meritocracy and certainly not through intimidation.

- The security of our country is something we do not cede or negotiate with anyone or for anything.

Finally, for the regular and proper functioning of the National Guard, the Cyprus Army and Non-Commissioned Officers Associations consider that the leadership of the

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Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of the National Guard should proceed to resolve substantive, lasting problems such as the institutionalization of working hours, the establishment of a specialized system for the officers' transfer (corresponding system for conscripts) and of basic health and safety standards for the National Guard members, their health care, the distribution of positions according to the Bureau's needs, the interchange of duties, and the reorganization and rehabilitation care of the members.

Regarding the regulations in terms of promotion and retirement issues in the National Guard, whose delayed submission to the House of Representatives turned out to be a "scandal", we consider that the Minister and the Chief should urgently proceed to any acts regarding their duties so as to finally submit them to the House of Representatives for vote, since the limits under the guise of discipline have been exceeded.

Hence, we would like to thank the Chairman of the Defence Committee and those members of the Defence Committee who have supported with their stance the institutionalization of working hours in the National Guard.

The Councils of the Cyprus Army and Non-Commissioned Officers Associations.