

## AN OPEN LETTER ABOUT TURKEY'S OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

# Dear President Trump, Tell Erdogan to keep his #HandsOffVarosha.

The undersigned organizations and Greek and Cypriot Americans across America are outraged over Turkey's illegal reopening of the beach town of Varosha in Cyprus.

Varosha has been and should remain a symbol of potential peace. It has been kept a "ghost town" by Turkish occupation forces for 46 years – devoid of human settlement and activity. Varosha should only come back to life as part of a free Cyprus, one that ends Turkey's occupation.

Unfortunately, Turkey has snubbed its nose at multiple UN Security Council Resolutions and longstanding US and EU policy. Both through the UN Security Council and through Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, your Administration has called for "the reversal" of Turkey's outrageous and illegal actions in Varosha.

This habit of Turkey snubbing the United States cannot stand. Ankara's purchase of Russian S-400 missile systems contravenes American law. Last week Turkey tested those same S-400s despite your Administration laying such tests out as a red line.

During your Administration, Turkey has made it a habit of snubbing the United States when it comes to American interests in Greece, Cyprus, Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Israel, Libya, Syria, and Egypt. It has proven that it is not interested in peace anywhere – even opposing the historic Abraham Accords.

Mr. President, in the case of Pastor Brunson you held Turkey to account for human rights violation. It is time to do so again. Let President Erdogan know that if he proceeds with opening Varosha and his other destabilizing actions, you will proceed to #SanctionTurkey.

[www.pseka.org/varosha](http://www.pseka.org/varosha)

