

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 26, 2011

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chair  
U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Howard Berman, Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Congressman James P. McGovern, Co-Chair  
Congressman Frank R. Wolf, Co-Chair  
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

Leonard A. Leo, Chair  
and Members  
US Commission on International Religious Freedom

Congressman Trent Franks, Co-Chair  
Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver, II, Co-Chair  
Congressional Int'l Religious Freedom Caucus

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, Co-Chair  
Congressman Christopher H. Smith, Co-Chair  
Commission on Security & Cooperation in Europe  
United States Helsinki Commission

Suzan Johnson Cook, Ambassador-at-Large for  
International Religious Freedom  
U.S. Department of State

Samantha Power, Director of Multilateral Affairs  
National Security Council

**Concerning The Turkish Occupation Of The Republic of Cyprus.**  
*Incident Dated May 2, 2011 – Demolition of Orthodox Church in Occupied Cyprus*

Dear Madam/Sir:


We bring to your attention that on May 2, 2011, Turkish occupation authorities demolished the 200-year old Chapel of Saint Thekla located in the village of Vokolida that is in the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus.

The demolition of this Chapel is the latest example of the systematic repression and destruction of the Orthodox Christian faith that has been ongoing since the Turkish military invaded and occupied the northern third of the small island republic. For more information regarding this incident, you may review the statement of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

<http://uscirf.gov/news-room/press-releases/3627-5122011-cyprus-uscirf-concerned-over-demolition-of-200-year-old-church-in-northern-cyprus-.html>

We ask that you make this incident part of your record regarding the Turkish Occupation of the Republic of Cyprus and that you give it appropriate weight in the ongoing formulation of policy towards Turkey.

Sincerely,

  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

  
Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress