



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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ENDING ANGUISH FOR FAMILIES OF CYPRUS' DISAPPEARED

VIDEO

MESMUT AKAY AND FAMILY

PHOTO OF MOUSTAFA

MESMUT ON CAMERA

FAMILY ON TERRACE

ANDREAS ON CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

When Mesmut Akay was just a baby, his father disappeared. The year was 1964. For the next 45 years, his family desperately awaited news. (15.5")

MESMUT AKAY: (Turkish) **M**

"What my mother went through is beyond explanation. She waited for such a long time with the hope that he would return. (10.5")

NARRATION

On the other side of the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus, another family lost their son, Kyriacos Kallika. They last saw him in 1974 when he was just 19 years old. (14.5")

ANDREAS KYRIACOU: (Greek) **M**

"Until recently, we thought he was alive. We had the hope that he was alive somewhere." (11")

PHOTOS OF KYRIACOS AND
MOUSTAFA

NARRATION

Both Turkish Cypriot, Moustafa, and Greek Cypriot, Kyriacos, are two of the 2,000 people who disappeared without a trace decades ago, victims of the brutal years of ethnic conflict that tore Cyprus in two. (14”)

ARCHIVAL CYPRUS FIGHTING
60’s

Between the years 1963-64, a civil war raged between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. (7”)

ARCHIVAL WAR VIOLENCE 1974

Ten years later, in 1974, violence erupted again. Following a Greek Cypriot coup, the Turkish army intervened in Cyprus. These violent periods left some 1,500 Greek Cypriots and 500 Turkish Cypriots missing Kyriacos and Moustafa amongst them. (21.5”)

MESMUT ON CAMERA

MESMUT AKAY: (Turkish) **M**

“There was hearsay that the missing and prisoners-of-war had been found and were still alive. So like everybody, we built up our expectations that he could reappear too.”
(18.5”)

PHOTO MOUSTAFA

NARRATION

But he didn’t reappear. (1”)

KYRIACOS IN ARMY AND
ARCHIVAL PHOTOS

For the Greek Cypriot family, it was the same story. It was July 1974. Kyriacos, then a soldier in Greek Cypriot National Guard was listed as missing in action. (12.5”)

FAMILIES IN STREETS

For years, these and many other families waited for news of their loved ones. The uncertainty fuelled animosity between the two communities and created a stumbling block to attempts at reconciliation. Until recently. (15")

EXCAVATOR REMOVING LAND

Through a joint Turkish and Greek Cypriot endeavour, under the auspices of the United Nations, efforts are now underway to find the disappeared and to return the remains to their families. Burial sites are now being located and exhumed. The bones are pieced together and identified through their DNA. The head of the UN's political mission in Cyprus, Alexander Downer, recognizes the significance of this project. (29.5")

EXHUMING WORK

ALEXANDER DOWNER GREETES
LEADERS

ALEXANDER DOWNER ON
CAMERA

ALEXANDER DOWNER: (English) **M**
"That is a particularly heart-rending and important part of the UN's work because so many were killed here in Cyprus, both in the 60's and 70's and their bodies were deliberately disposed of so that they couldn't be found that easily and now they are gradually being found. This is enormously important to the families."
(21")

KYRIACOS' FAMILY AT
CEMETERY

NARRATION

The years of uncertainty for the families of the missing are finally coming to an end and bringing closure to tragedies long buried. Kyriacos' mother is now able to visit his grave every day. At last, she knows where her son is. (16.5")

MAROULA ON CAMERA

MAROULA KYRIACOU: (Greek) **F**

"We prayed for many years that God send us some message, whether good or bad, so that we could start accepting, one way or another." (9")

MAROULA CRIES AT SON'S GRAVE

NARRATION

Meanwhile, Moustafa Akay's family are also finally able to lay their father to rest. Just one week before we filmed, his remains were identified and the family informed. (14")

BURIAL OF MOUSTAFA

MESMUT AKAY: (Turkish) **M**

MESMUT ON CAMERA

"At least we now know where he is, and what happened. Before, we always had question marks." (7")

NARRATION

KYRIACOS' FAMILY AT GRAVE

Although many families are still waiting for news, it is hoped that as more remains are handed back, the grieving will pave the way for forgiveness. (8.5")

MOUSTAFA'S FAMILY AT GRAVE

MESMUT AKAY: (Turkish) **M**

MESMUT ON CAMERA

"If people mean well and can transcend their language, ethnic and religious differences and see each other as human beings, why shouldn't there be reconciliation?" (10")

NARRATION

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Gill Fickling for the United Nations