

Cyprus



While Turkish Cypriots were displaced in the 1950s and 1960s into ethnic enclaves, both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots were displaced in 1974 when groups backed

by Greece's military government ousted the Cypriot leader, and Turkey sent troops to the island in response. Greek Cypriots fled south while Turkish Cypriots sought refuge in the north. They have been living separately ever since, divided by the "green line" patrolled by the UN Peacekeeping Force.

Talks to find a diplomatic solution failed and in 1975 the Turkish Cypriots announced the establishment of their own state, later to become the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" (TRNC), which only Turkey has since recognised. With an estimated 25,000 to 43,000 troops from Turkey stationed in the north, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus considers this occupied territory, and the two sides have yet to reach a political solution.

While the TRNC authorities consider that displacement ended with the population movements achieved within the framework of the 1975 Third Vienna Agreement, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus maintains displacement persists as IDPs continue to be deprived of their right to property and return.

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Up to 201,000 (including children of male IDPs)
Percentage of total population	Up to 23%
Start of current displacement situation	1974
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	210,000 (1975) (entire island)
New displacement in 2008	0
Returns in 2008	0
Causes of displacement	International armed conflict, human rights violations, generalised violence
Human development index	28

Despite continuing assistance from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to most IDPs in areas under its control, there is still no mutually agreed mechanism for deciding property claims, and people's choice of residence is limited. The resolution of their outstanding problems depends on continued political will on both sides to reach a compromise and resolve the conflict. Involvement of the displaced people in the peace progress would improve the chances that an eventual agreement would hold.