



PRESS RELEASE

**REGARDING THE ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ENCLOSED CITY OF
FAMAGUSTA**

The threatened illegal transfer of population into the enclosed city of Famagusta finds the entire law society and especially the members of the Bar Association of Famagusta in great concern, but also fully vigilant.

As servants of justice originating from the City and District of Famagusta, we have a duty to fight for justice in all its perspectives, and above all in relation to the continuing and flagrant violation of human rights, the European Union acquis and international law in the occupied City and District of Famagusta.

In case Turkey proceeds with the implantation of settlers in the enclosed city of Famagusta, this shall constitute a war crime in breach of **Article 49 paragraph 6 of the Fourth Geneva Convention 1949** – which has been ratified by Cyprus in virtue of Law 40/1966 – and Article 8(2)(b)(viii) of the **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998** – which has been ratified by Cyprus in virtue of Law 8(III)/2002.

The International Criminal Court has jurisdiction to try cases concerning violation of the Statute's provisions by individuals in the territory of the member-states of the Statute.

The Bar Association of Famagusta monitors and carefully notes the developments in the occupied area of Famagusta. If for any reason it is decided that the Cypriot authorities do not have the capacity to prosecute those responsible (Article 17 (1) (a) of the Treaty of Rome), we are ready to assist the competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus to refer the case to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court by virtue of **Article 14 of the Treaty** in order for her to initiate investigation with respect to the commission of war crimes and bring those responsible, officials and non-officials, to justice and before the International Criminal Court.

FAMAGUSTA BAR ASSOCIATION