

Article by Sevgül Uludag, published in Yenidüzen, 01.08.2011

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*****We have spoken with German university students who came to Cyprus with the German-Cypriot Forum Youth Exchange Program...**

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We have spoken with German university students who came to Cyprus with the German-Cypriot Forum Youth Exchange Program on Tuesday, 26th July 2011 at Home for Cooperation, which is located in Nicosia on the Green Line. We have explained them 'missing persons' and 'mass graves' issues with photos and answered their questions. German-Cypriot Forum Youth Exchange Program is lead by a Turkish Cypriot, Coskun Tozen who is a lecturer in Germany. They are making various visits on both sides of the island.

The group is composed of undergraduate and postgraduate students from different universities in Germany. We have informed them about Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot 'missing persons' and the massacres done on both sides. We have told the stories of different 'missing persons' accompanied with photos. We gave examples from the Murataga-Atlilar-Sandallar, Dohni, Palekitre and Galatya massacres in our presentation. A relative of a Greek Cypriot 'missing person', Hristina Pavlu, also joined to the presentation. She explained how her father and brother got 'missing' in Galatya (Mehmetcik), what she and her mother have experienced afterwards in Komikebir, how they were forced to migrate from Karpaz and their life in Limassol (Leymosun). Hristina Pavlu Solomi said:

“My father and brother were kept with other Greek Cypriots in a school or a club building in Galatya. Maybe they were not going to be killed. However when the massacres done by EOKA-B in Murataga-Atlilar-Sandallar, that all women and children of those three villages were murdered, was heard they got very angry. Therefore they killed the war prisoners in Galatya in order to get 'revenge'. Now, whom should I blame for it? Should I blame those who killed my father, brother and the others? Or those Greek Cypriots who caused this? Or both? I have searched and thought about these issues a lot... I have brought up my kids with a culture of peace. I have told them the story as it is and did not hide anything. I did not create a pink 'picture' for them. I have told them only the truth. When I was a kid, I used to play with Turkish Cypriot kids from Komikebir. I told my kids my memories. We were a family that got along with Turkish Cypriots very well. At some point we should say no to hatred and establish our future with peace. Hatred creates more hatred... We should stop this...”

After this presentation we have answered the questions of the German students... They have particularly asked about the traumas of the relatives of 'missing persons' and if these issues are discussed in such families. They appreciated Hristina Pavlu Solomi for being a peaceful person and

congratulated her for the contributions that she makes for the establishment of a peace culture in the island despite of the catastrophe she had.