



# Mike Freer MP

Member of Parliament for  
Finchley & Golders Green



## Media Release

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### **Greek Cypriots' religious human rights must be respected**

Mike Freer MP is supporting the Association of Rizokarpasso in Britain, based in Barnet, in calling for the Government to condemn the Turkish authorities' disruption of religious services in the Cypriot village.

Rizokarpasso, an enclave of 250 Greek Cypriots, has been under occupation by Turkish authorities since the 1974 invasion. On Christmas day, Turkish Cypriot police entered the Greek Orthodox church in the village and disrupted the Christmas mass service. The Turkish Cypriot police ordered the evacuation of the church, demanded that the priest remove his clerical clothing and then sealed off the church.

Speaking from Finchley, Mike Freer MP said, "The Turkish authorities must respect Greek Cypriots basic religious freedom, which is why I have joined with the Association of Rizokarpasso in Britain in calling for the Government to condemn these actions.

The Turkish authorities must be made to realise that such human rights abuses are unacceptable and undermine attempts to find a long-term settlement for Cyprus."

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For more information contact James Cox, Senior Parliamentary Assistant  
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Editor's Notes:

1. Link to the Rizokarpasso website -  
[http://www.rizokarpason.com/GB/press16.htm#David\\_Lidington\\_MP](http://www.rizokarpason.com/GB/press16.htm#David_Lidington_MP)
2. The President of the Association of Rizokarpasso in Britain, Mrs Mary Helen Karaolis OBE, can be contacted via [rizokarpasso@gmail.com](mailto:rizokarpasso@gmail.com)