



# Whose Africa?



By Imaobong Paul Ifum

The African society has been seriously misconceived in the past and continues to be in the present. There are so many misleading images that pop into people's heads when they hear "Africa" – and a lot of this misconception is due to the way media and ordinary people through word of mouth have portrayed the African continent. These misconceptions caused confusion and influenced the way that Africans have been treated.

The most bewildering notion for non-Africans is that it is a continent. Africans find this quite strange because they expect foreigners to be more educated. Tiesat, a Nigerian lady studying in a school in the US expressed her distress when her lecturer made the statement, "Africa, India and other third world countries . . ." When such statements are made by scholars, it points toward ignorance about Africa even among a cross-section of the educated, non-African world. The second misconception about Africa is

that it is generally a very dangerous and violent place. This is mostly the fault of the media and their depiction of Africa. The common saying, "bad news is good news" is one of the main reasons for the general view that Africa is generally violent. News stories with caption such as; 'Somali terrorists go after Westerners', and 'Americans warned of imminent Uganda terror attack', were used on the NBC news-online site and clearly show the dangerous side of the continent. It would not be very catchy news if Africa were to be depicted as a serene, beautiful place, so basically it seems that sensational and dramatic news content is more important than the more realistic image and conception of the continent and its people.

Another common image that pops into people's minds when they hear 'Africa' is that it is a poor, disease ridden continent, in general. Slums and low budget living quarters are attributed only to Africa in movies and other heavily circulated forms of media. Meanwhile countries like South Africa have a GDP that outranks that of Belgium and Sweden. It has many natural resources, a good education system, excellent universities, sparkling business districts as well as an advanced health system. Also, surprisingly, Egypt, Nigeria and Algeria are all richer on paper (as per GDP and PPP) than Denmark and Norway. Also Africa's collective GDP, at \$1.6 trillion in 2008, is now roughly equal to Brazil's or Russia's, and the continent is among the world's most rapidly growing economic regions. Despite all this, Africa (like all other economies) is ridden with economic inequalities that lead to the notions about mass

poverty in Africa. Also, a common theme attributed to Africa is corrupt politician in all nation-states: the negative is always more interesting to look at than the positive -- like Nelson Mandela, a former South African President who showed the world that honesty and politics can co-exist. Some of the political crises in Africa can be blamed on a colonial legacy but most of it reflects greed and corruption on the part of incumbent presidents and political parties.

Some other strange and alarming insinuations about Africa are that wild animals walk around freely and without constraints: this is evidently not the exact case! It is true that rhinos graze just a few miles from the centre of Nairobi, East Africa's biggest city. And there are golf courses in South Africa where the water hazards are home to crocodiles. Hyenas still appear in Malawi's capital city, Lilongwe, so it's best not to walk around at night. But, for the most part, Africa's wildlife is basically confined to national parks and reserves, including Nairobi's rhinos. Lastly, there is a crazy notion of a lack of technological development and innovation in Africa, which could not be further from the truth. What some African nations lack is access to education and resources: innovation is in plentiful supply.

Africa may be a continent that has lagged behind in most things, but in this century it has caught up. Perceptions of the continent are more often than not misguided and this is due in large part to the negative portrayal in the global media, among other things. Africa is moving forward and though there may be difficulties along the way, it is no different from any other continent that most probably has similar difficulties.

## Sexism and media

By Ayçin Eyidoğdu

When we look at the media carefully, we find that the most intense and widespread biases across genres are against women. From television series to the news programs, to films and music videos, we are continuously fed a variety of discriminator discourse. Media

present stories that include all forms of violence against women, sexual harassment and rape. Most often, these ways of representing women are "hidden" inside a fictional story, a situation comedy, a Hollywood film, a music video and even an advertisement.

Basically, women are used in

the media as objects: most commonly as sex objects. Furthermore, women are represented in the media in secondary positions and rarely, if ever, in top positions of power. This kind of discrimina-



tion and these sorts of inequalities can influence the way real people feel about each other. We have to be aware of these 'underlying stories' that are usually hidden by the main theme of the media story and we have to find ways to improve the visibility of real women with ability, intelligence and power. It is time for us to take the media seriously and realize that it has a big influence on how real people feel about themselves and each other.

# EMU Welcoming Night for new students

By Andrew Mpepo

Organized by Eastern Mediterranean University Social and Cultural Activities Directorate operating under the Vice Rector's Office for Student Services, Social and Cultural Affairs, a "Welcoming Night" for new students was organized at Atatürk Square which is also known as the CL Square at 7:30 p.m. on 21 September 2012. The event was organized during the fall semester, the main aim of the event was to welcome the new students and to give them a chance to join different clubs and as well as to get them know more about their departments. The welcoming night came with a very glamorous night and plenty of interesting things at the concert, students got to see shows such as dances, music performances, games and a lot more. During the event, along with the traditional dance shows of the EMU Cypriot Turkish Folk Dance group, dance performances by the International Center

students, a stage performance by the EMU Musical Club, a show by the American Football Club and a small concert by "Red Wine", one of the EMU music clubs, took place.

During the event, clubs operating under the Social and Cultural Activities Directorate opened stands and gave information regarding their activities. Most of the clubs received a considerable interest as a lot of new students wanted to become members during the event. Along with the club stands, various faculties' and departments' informative stands attracted great interest. Hundreds of new students got a chance to join different clubs that were inviting new members. The music club, photography club, film club and American football club prove very attractive to the new students.

Following the stage performances, coordinators at EMU Rector's Office, Tuncer Tuncergil and Derya Sabrilir, delivered the opening speeches which were followed by EMU Rector Prof.

Dr. Abdullah Öztoprak's address to the students, welcoming them and letting them know how much he appreciates having them at EMU.

After the opening speeches, a group of EMU students entertained the newly ar-

riving students with an interesting show called "Flash Mob". The Flash mob had a group of students dressing up as clowns in very color full clothes. The event ended with "Manavella" and "Nafiz Dölek Band" concerts.



Members of the Dance Club celebrating Welcoming Night

## "Shadows and Faces": One film, three reviews

By Deborah Amokele Ugbe

Cyprus use to be a lovely, wonderful peaceful and a tourist area for both the citizens and forgers in shadows and faces – as depicted in a movie produced by Dervis Zaim. Both the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot people lived as one – sharing with and supporting each other in times of need. All that changed in 1963.

The Greek Cypriots decided to take Cyprus for themselves (as they were the numerical majority on the island). Of course the Turkish Cypriot side refused and this resulted in a terrible conflict that led to the two sides fearing and hating each other. Even those Greek Cypriots who felt love and compassion for the Turkish Cypriot community, found it impossible to help as their own lives would have been threatened by the hard-liners in their own community. To help a Turkish Cypriot in need was seen as an act of betrayal.

This is shown so clearly when the Greek Cypriot neighbor Anna tries to help Veli (the Turkish Cypriot friend from next door) look for his missing brother "salih"(the Puppet Master). For her efforts, she was beaten harshly by the Greek Cypriot police and branded betrayer.

This conflict was so bad that they

where not allowed to even help the Turkish Cypriots in times of need. The Turkish Cypriots who were living in mixed villages with Greek Cypriots were under increasing threat to move out and into special areas with other Turkish Cypriot citizens.

The Greek Cypriots killed a Turkish Cypriot shepherd and this infuriated his Turkish Cypriot friends. In the heat of the moment, they decided to retaliate and they killed the Generals and two other people out of anger. In the midst of all the violence, Anna, the Greek Cypriot woman who had expresses so much compassion for all people regardless of their ethnic group or community, was killed.

Many lives were lost: children, women, the old and the young. The Cyprus disaster!. The result was that this lovely, wonderful, and peaceful nation of Cypriots with joyful people had to separate – one group heading north and the other south. The film director seems to want us to think: could there have been another way? Is there a lesson to be learned about our capacity as human beings? Can we embrace and understand the past but also overcome it—for the sake of both ourselves and for generations yet to come?

By Ugbana Benson

Shadows and Faces, a Derviş Zaim movie, is centered on the time frame of 1963 and depicting from the eyes of a young girl "Ruhsar" the conflict between the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots at that time. It was a time filled with unanswered questions, endless hunger and starvation, trouble and identity conflicts: a time parents never returned to their children and children cried to no end not knowing if they would ever see their parents again. There were days when sheep returned without their shepherd and nights when men slept with the nozzles of their guns resting on their chests.

A battle between two communities where the Greek Cypriots seemed to have the upper hand with physical and financial means at their disposal. Turkish Cypriots tiptoed around, quietly supporting each other, sitting by their kerosene lamps waiting for the end of the terror. Turkish Cypriots were afraid as Greek Cypriot police searched for them in their own neighborhoods. A violent conflict in which Turkish Cypriots found themselves in a position of having to develop means of self-defense.

Derviş Zaim's Shadows and Faces concluded with the thought that "perhaps one day a balance will be struck between our ambition and reality – or so the puppet man thinks. It would be nice to believe it was possible.

By Emmelle Zoe Loungouala Banzouzi

The film Shadows and Faces is a drama written and directed by a Cypriot director and writer, Derviş Zaim. The movie tells us the story about the ethnic conflicts in Cyprus in 1963 through a story of a father named Salih, also called "The Puppet Man" and Ruhsar, his young daughter. The story focuses on how the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots who are two communities living together on the island, turn against each other. The Turkish Cypriots were forced from their homes by Greek Cypriots as the conflict spread from village to village. The Greek Cypriot police beat the Turkish Cypriots they caught and anyone attempting to help them. They were not able to get to the city of Famagusta as the Greek Cypriot police were hunting all over the place to catch them.

The conflict got serious after the killing of the first Turkish Cypriot, Cevdet the shepherd. He was caught because he was burying a puppet. When his friends learned that the shepherd had been killed they were angry and took their revenge by killing a Greek Cypriot (Dimitri). A vicious cycle began and Greek Cypriots retaliated.

Turkish Cypriots were no match for the Greek Cypriots who had more weapons and were well organized. The situation became desperate when one of the military members (Thanasis) was killed. The Turkish Cypriots had to run for their lives – men, women and children.

The killing continued until the Turkish Cypriots found refuge in Famagusta. It was there that they found Salih who, while waiting for the roads to open, was doing what he does best playing with his puppets for the Turkish refugees. Finally Salih is reunited with his daughter as they both walk toward an uncertain future.

# Disney dream or Disney nightmare?

By Meriem Cherraf

The world of Disney... Isn't it the dream of most of the kids living in this world? Isn't it the reason why many parents save money to take their kids at least once in their life? Isn't it the source of imagination and fantastic stories? Did anyone imagine a dark side of Disney before? The Disney Channel... broadcasting since 1983 and where the main characters are kids or teenagers. The Disney series actors are chosen after several castings and auditions to sign a working contract of a minimum of one year according to the series' shooting schedule. So those kids and teenagers start living alternative lives comparing to the rest of their classmates and friends, starting with their school classes which most of the time end up as home-schooling and then off to the shooting sets.

Few Disney actors continue acting in Disney productions after they turn 18 – they usually build a career in a different entertainment industries because pursuing stud-

ies is not always their favorite option. Fame, money and youth destroys a person who doesn't know how to use them. It can lead a person to difficult life experiences that they were not prepared for – this is the dark side of the “world of Disney” that influences many of the unsuspecting young female actors. Yes, female -- because for some unknown reason Disney's male actors do not seem to encounter the same difficulties.

Starting with Brooke Shields, the 17 years old Disney actress from the 1983 serie “ You and Me Kid”. Brooke Smoked Marijuana occasionally during parties, the picture bellow was taken years ago during a party with the members of “Bad Brains” Music band, published years later on Twitter by a person called David Hill.

Brooke was lucky to not be addicted because of her mother's supervision who made sure her daughter graduates from college and have a busy schedule so she can stop attending parties.

Brooke's mother was her best friend and manager who tried to make her daughter learn how to control the celebrity status giving her by Disney world.

Then we have the brightest trouble makers of the 1990s : Britney Spears and Lindsay Lohan. Britney Spears entered Disney World when she was 11 years old with “The Mickey Mouse Club”, gained the celebrity status and became a super star at 18 years old with her song (Baby one

more time)

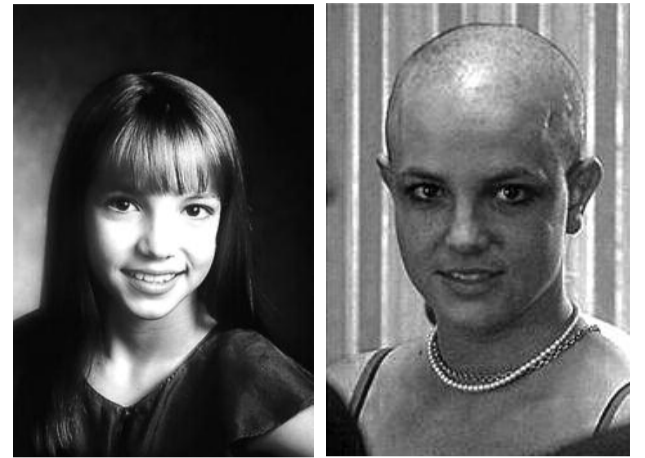
Lindsay Lohan entered Disney World when she was 11 years old with “ The parent Trap”, gained the celebrity status and became a super star at 18 years old with her MTV Movies award for a breakthrough performance from the movie “Freaky Friday”.

Britney and Lindsay have more in common than their age debut with Disney.

After their 18th birthdays, they both knew huge fame and became alcohols and drug addicts.

They were Disney girl best friends and the Paparazzi's favorites. However, once Britney became a mother she stayed away from parties and late nights out so she could focus on her family. On the other hand Lindsay couldn't stay away from trouble ( she had many car accidents, she's been to jail and often been treated at rehab ) until this 2013 year where she looked healthy for the first time on Oprah's web-show .

Disney Girls are still struggling about how to manage fame, money and youth and also how to get rid of the images their audiences remember from their childhood performances. The new Disney girls who are under the spotlights right now are Miley Cyrus from “Hannah Montana” and Amanda Bynes from “ She's the Man “. Miley wasn't only spotted smoking drugs by paparazzis but also during her new



Britney Spears before and after

music videos which is not something you should do while holding the title of “Teen idol”.

Amanda Bynes spent 1.4 Million Dollars in a month on useless things like taking a taxi from New York City to Los Angles just for fun! She spent days in a psychiatric hospital but she is taking her case to court to prove that she is not mentally ill. Disney world is not to blame alone: parents are strongly involved but Disney productions never offered any help to those young women once their working contracts were over .

Parents are still taking their children and teens everyday to Disney studios for auditions – hopefully the new generation will be smarter and stronger and able to resist the dark side of Disney.

Here are pictures of the actresses presented in this article when they started in Disney.



Lindsay Lohan before and after

## Help a child reach 5: Water or soap?

By Meriem Cherraf

A few years ago, Lifebuoy took the initiative to make people aware of the fact that every year, two million children fail to reach their 5th birthday because of bacteria carried on their hands.

Lifebuoy explained their saving mission through the media and through events organized in schools with kids and their parents. They then decided to choose an ambassador who could speak on behalf of their cause internationally.

The Bollywood actress Kajol was chosen as Lifebuoy ambassador because she is a mother and a celebrity loved by millions of people, she started with a video on youtube where she says: We love our kids so much that when they get even a slight scratch of start to sneeze, we feel like “oh my god, what happened?”. Sometimes when I call my doctor he says: “it's ok, he just got diarrhea”, and i'm like: “aahh, it's only diarrhea” But... it's not ONLY diarrhea! As the ambassador of Lifebuoy, Kajol decided to be part of awareness activities after her youtube video.

“Handwashing” is the magical activity that could save 2million children from death before age 5!

Kajol tries to make children and their parents aware of the Lifebuoy cause and also tries to make people donate in order to reach every corner of the

world.

Kajol had the occasion to build many connections during “Help a child reach 5” campaign and even found an “ambassador partner” in Mayank: Mayank is a child who can talk about the cause in ways that other children will understand better.

In 2013, the “Help a child reach 5” campaign was brought up at the United Nations in order to touch the international level. During her speech, Kajol explained that she got involved in this cause after watching a youtube video about Gondappa's story – the man who walked a long distance in his village using his hands to finally sit where everyone can see and hear him and say : Finally one of my kids lived to reach 5 years old . Kajol said that it is stupid and silly to have 2million kids dying every year from diarrhea just because they don't wash they hands with soap. “Help a child reach 5” campaign received many aids responses and Kajol is still working with Lifebuoy to spread the message. Recently she appeared with Mayank on the KBC show to collect more money for the cause.

I believe this is an amazing cause, but before Lifebuoy uses “Help a child reach 5 “ for advertising purposes, people should wonder about the location of the 2million kids who die every year and then consider whether there is clean water first before choosing the soap they should use!



Washing hands can save a life

## From Nigeria to Cyprus

By Adam Mohammed Ali

I'm proud to be from the heartbeat of Africa – Nigeria. Nigeria is a democracy with a fair economy but a low electricity supply. We have a private sector but it is still controlled indirectly by government. I was a student at the University of Abuja until I left due to the high rate of strikes effecting student education. As I searched universities online, I was fortunate to find the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU). As soon as I saw the webpage, my interest started to grow and pretty soon I had started the application process for admission.

It was so good that I was admitted and I was so glad to find myself here in the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies where I am focusing on public relations and advertising. So far, so good: all is going well!

I chose to study public relation and advertisement because I feel that I am a diplomatic person and love to attracting people and try to get them to see things from my point of view. Media literacy has enlightened me about some areas of my chosen field and hopefully when I graduate I will work independently as a consultant or councilor in the area of public relation. My dream is still to be a politician one day, but I am still very proud to be here and glad to be in such a great environment to study.

# Intercontinental Concerts

by **Shahed Mohseni Zonoozi,**  
**Sam Mosallaeipour**

## Philosophy and a brief history

It all started when a group of people in a multicultural community looked for how to connect and share cultural knowledge while having fun. We were at the Eastern Mediterranean University campus – a university that hosts international students who are in need to a medium to connect. As youths, we needed a vehicle for expressing our ideas in practice while participating in a the much larger community. As Nubi Kay, one of our friends in our early band says; “Our thinking affects our living, and our thoughts are shaped by association and activities”.

Our dream was to attract like-minded, talented people together to share a vision of making society better by uniting our talents and abilities for the common good. It worked! Talented, interested people found us and we began to think about how to get the most out of the rich associations that are available in such a community. We found art as the nexus and formed our first community as a small music band with only 4 members – we called it Y.E.N.I. That was 2009.

By 2011 we had developed the Idea of Intercontinental Concert. 2012 would see our first performanc

## Intercontinental Concerts

The program is based on a combination of scientific, artistic and technological infra-

structures – all developed by students. We produced our international program to express the beauty of Peace, Life and Love through the language of music and the performing arts. We shared all of our skills from composing music and dance to organizing, managing and documenting this big event at our university. Our first 2 programs took place with about 80 students from over 14 countries and three continents participating – giving us our reason for calling our program Intercontinental Concert.

In our program we covered Issues such as peace, love, environment, friendship, life, unity, interdependency and education. Among our artistic productions, we dedicated the piece “song of graduation” to the university as an appreciation for so much support. The outcome of these events was that we were well received and our music videos of the performances were officially released as the 1st and 2nd Intercontinental concert labels and are now world widely available on DVDs and as online streaming. Also, the details about the performances and the list of the participant in these events can be found on our website.

## Continuation

This year, in addition to our concert programs we used our experiences from our previous events to produce our first official Music Album as well. “The Journey” is an Album with various pieces with modern arrangements. In this Album, different pieces are composed in such way as to

cover the regions from Eastern Asia to the Mediterranean Rim and Africa. This Album benefits from our work with student artists from those regions as well. We also thought that the life of students is an important aspect of our life experience. Our short film, the fellowship of EMU, is an expression of the life-changing experiences of student life and of friends who met each other at Eastern Mediterranean University. It describes the powerful unbreakable connection between them. The idea of the song was born in respond to the sorrows these best friends experienced as they departed after their graduation. The lyrics of “Fellowship of EMU”, is about

the way a student has been known by his/her friends. This is the last common memory that they gifted to each other when everybody was still around. For more information please visit our webpage and Facebook account, moreover if you are interested in contributing in any of the following; (Music, Audio production, Dance, Design, Visual Effects, video recording and editing) we welcome and encourage you to register yourself at our website which enables us to contact you for future events.

www.Intercontinentalconcert.org  
<https://www.facebook.com/IntercontinentalConcerts>



Shahed Mohseni Zonoozi performs with rap and hip-hop band

## Game changing rules for some Turkish citizens in Germany

By **Abtin Badie**

There are several types of nationalities for Turkish citizens in Germany, namely Turkish, German, Turkish German or dual citizenship. The category “Turkish” refers to a Turk in Germany, who has only one nationality as a Turk. The “German” category can refer to a Turk, who has given up Turkish citizenship in order to have German citizenship. The “Turkish German” category is for Turkish people who have both Turkish and German nationalities but carry either a Turkish passport and an “extraordinary” German passport, or German ID card (indicating two nationalities on the German passport or ID card). Finally the “Dual citizenship” category means either owning two separate IDs and passports, or having two nationalities independent of each other – which

some Turks benefit from it in Germany. The rule-changes that caused this situation took place during a heightened period of immigration politic regarding the status of Turkish citizens in Germany and in fact some Turkish people benefit from the advantages of living in Germany. There is this saying: The right time, the right place, and the right people. Those who are fortunate enough to have all three of these combined are in the best position in contemporary Germany. Since quite recently,



Turkish people who became German nationals would have lost their Turkish nationality as a general rule. For many Turkish people in Germany this would have been a great disadvantage for their relationship with Turkey -- for example in the buying and selling of properties, in

the case of the death of family members or in their relationship with government agencies. A new governmental rule, which could solve this issue, is already available and this is the establishment of the “blue card” or the “Mavi Kard” in Turkey.

The “Blue Card” is for former Turkish citizens and is issued for those with Turkish ancestry who live abroad. This should improve the quality of live for Blue Card holders – encouraging more Turkish citizens in Germany to apply for German citizenship and thus be integrated into German society.

Approximately twenty six thousands Turkish citizens nationalized themselves in Germany in 2011. For most of them this meant the loss of their Turkish citizenship because Germany no longer accepts dual citizenship as a general rule. The threatened loss of Turkish citizenship is the main reason that many Turkish people in Germany did not apply for German citizenship

Maybe one day there would be a new rule about the global citizenship, “one day”.

## Jennifer Lawrence: a Hollywood sweetheart

By **Meriem Cherraf**

She is taking over Hollywood by storm, the 23 years old actress Jennifer Lawrence won almost all the 2013 awards, she is not only loved because of her amazing acting skills but also for her spontaneous sens of humor. Jennifer Lawrence had, what must be, an unforgettable moment during the 2013 Oscars when she fell while climbing the stairs to receive the “best actor” academy award. No less forgettable

must be later in the evening when her idol Jack Nicholson saluted her.

Whether calculated or not, Jennifer is developing her celebrity image through increased visibility at various events and TV shows where she always leave a strong impression. For example: During the 2013 Oscars ceremony red carpet Jennifer was asked by a TV reporter to talk about the piece she was wearing and she answered: “What do you mean? Like this is the

top . . . and this is the bottom?”

Then during her last interview with David Letterman she was sitting on the sofa with a pink blanket on because she was feeling cold. Finally, during the premiere of her last movie she started screaming – mimicing the photographers – and posing behind some celebrities. Jennifer Lawrence was also chosen by Dior to be the face of their new campaign which required that she release a photoshoot and wear

gowns from their last collection during red carpet events. Jennifer’s new movie “The Hunger Games Part 2” is in movie theaters right now and here is what she says about it : “I couldn’t be happier about being a part of ‘Hunger Games’ and to play Katniss. I have a huge responsibility to the fans of this incredible book and I don’t take it lightly. I will give everything I have to these movies and to this role to make it worthy of Suzanne Collins’ masterpiece.”

# The Cyprus dream, steps for peace!

By AbtinBadie

There was a positive event on Friday evening, 11th of October in Famagusta in the area of the closed district of Maras (in Turkish) and Varosha (in Greek), which has been closed since 1974. Although Maras/Varosha is famous today as a ghost town, it was once one of the best places in Cyprus – visited by tourists from all over the world. The event drew both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots and there was live music and a strong feeling of solidarity between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot attendees.

During the event, I interviewed a number of participants among who was one very interesting 18 year-old Greek Cypriot man. I have to admit that I was very impressed as I reviewed the interview later at home. This young man spoke very well with a kind of logical persuasion as he showed himself to be a master at awaking emotions.

**Please tell me a little bit about yourself first, where are you from and in which city in Cyprus you live.**

Well my name is Orestis Agisilaou, I come from Larnaca, I was born in Cyprus, when I was five years old I moved to Greece for some years, so I returned back to Cyprus for studying in universities, I studied the tourism and hospitality management in the south part of Cyprus.

**Can you explain the meaning of this event today and what is it about?**

Well it is a communal event about opening the closed area of Varosha to its local residents, it is very nice here and I met many Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots and it is really good feeling when you meet many Cypriots from all parts of Cyprus and have conversations. It is a nice experience I think, you can learn a lot from the people generally.

**What is the goal of this event and what is your personal opinion?**

I am not optimistic that Varosha will be taken back, but the most important goal is to bring the people of Cyprus closer and to meet each other. You know, it was forty years ago that the division took place, leaving the Greek Cypriots in the south and the Turkish Cypri-

ots in the north. Every event that brings all Cypriots closer together is very important to me.

**Do you know many Turkish Cypriots here?**

Yes, I know many Turkish Cypriots anyway, but some Turkish Cypriots are for me as more than my own family, I have especial feeling for them and when I go to their house it is as if it is my house so it is very comfortable for me to be with them.

**What is interesting for me is that how you communicate with this Turkish Cypriots, because your language is Greek and their language is Turkish?**

Many of them know Greek and the others do not know it but the language is not a problem for us, if we want to speak together we will find a way to communicate with each other.

**Maybe because the friendship is so strong between you and if you cannot speak with them in a certain language, you can do or use some gestures and is it enough maybe, because of the strong friendship it doesn't matter to you, if you cannot communicate with them well in a verbal language?**

At the present time I haven't faced any problem with communication, but I started to learn Turkish and in my opinion Cypriots, both Turkish and Greek Cypriots should know the each others' languages, it is very important to know the other language to communicate better with each other.

**Ok, you mentioned your ambitions for the future and how both communities should come together: Since Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots have different language, different religion and different culture, how would influence the process?**

In my opinion Cypriots, Greek and Turkish don't have different cultures – we

share many things. However, respecting each others' language and religion is important and then if you are an optimistic person, you follow a dream. I believe in peace between Cypriots and I don't care about whether Turkish Cypriots are Muslim and I am a Christian, is not a problem! We have to feel the other side of Cyprus as Cypriots, and if we feel them like us as Cypriots, it isn't any problem. In my mind Cyprus is like a mosaic, one part is bigger and the other one is smaller, it is a multi cultural country, I think that is why Cyprus is an interesting country, because you have many different things to learn.

**To which city in north Cyprus do you come often to visit your friends, is it Lefkosha or is it Famagusta?**

I have friends at Lefkosha, Nicosia and others here in Famagusta, but we have a team with Greek and Turkish Cypriots also a group in Facebook and we are organizing meeting around Cyprus, last week we went to Kyrenia, generally I explore all Cyprus, I have gone to many places, to Karpas, Kyrenia, Guezelgurt, Morfu, Menifilejis.

**Because I have heard, that Famagusta was the place, in which the war was very intense and many people were killed in Fam-**

**agusta and because this event is in Famagusta today, do you have any special feeling about this place or, what do you think?**

All around Cyprus many people were killed, for example in Kyrenia, many people from Evlatisinos as well as villages in Famagusta areas and Famagusta districts and many people are missing from that villages and also village near my town Larnaca, Tokhny, the Greek Cypriots killed many Turkish Cypriots there, I can say I have not any special feeling about Famagusta, but I can say I have this special feeling for the whole Cyprus because many people have been killed all over Cyprus.

**One very interesting thing is that some of the older generation of Turkish Cypriots don't like the Greek Cypriots because of the war, which was in the past. What can be done about this?**

It is a very nice question; I will give you first an example of my family. When I told my family that I met some Turkish Cypriots, they became very angry, they told me about the invasion, how many Greek Cypriots have been killed by Turkish soldiers and Turkish Cypriots militants. I think it is a mistake for Greek Cypriots to have this very general opinion because, in my opinion, every person is unique – so for example I will not judge a Turkish Cypriot just because he is Turkish, no this is a mistake. For me each person has their own personality with their own opinions. To overcome the conflict of these silly opinions we must meet each other in better ways. If you get to know somebody better, you realize that people are not the same.

**Because we know this term "the American dream", can you please explain to me what is "the Cyprus dream", since this is a new term and who actually invented this term?**

Cyprus dream is a team on Facebook, which consists of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. I was one of the first members of this group and our aim

is to bring the Greek and Turkish Cypriots together, we started talking about many things – like about Cyprus – and generally started getting to know each other better. Since July 2013 we started to have communal meetings. The first one was in Nicosia, then in Kyrenia, and now Famagusta. Membership is growing and this is very encouraging for us. I found the name "Cyprus Dream" very clever because life is a dream, you dream something and you try so that your dreams become true. Cyprus dream is our dream to see Cyprus united and the Cypriots are united and my opinion is that the key for this solution is the people of Cyprus – not the negotiation with the politicians and silly things like that. If our politicians finally agree to a solution when the people of Cyprus are not ready, we will make the same mistakes again! Our responsibility is to rebuild the relationship, to start again our life together this time, also not divided!

**My last question, do you have any personal message for people in north Cyprus, especially for Turkish Cypriots?**

Turkish Cypriots first of all are Cypriots, I have to and want to tell them, that it is a pity, very pity to live separated. We have to get closer to each others, to meet each others, to have relationship, to go out together, to have fun; because we are living under the same sky, we are the same. We are at the same time so close together and so far from each other! We have to be only close, "only close".

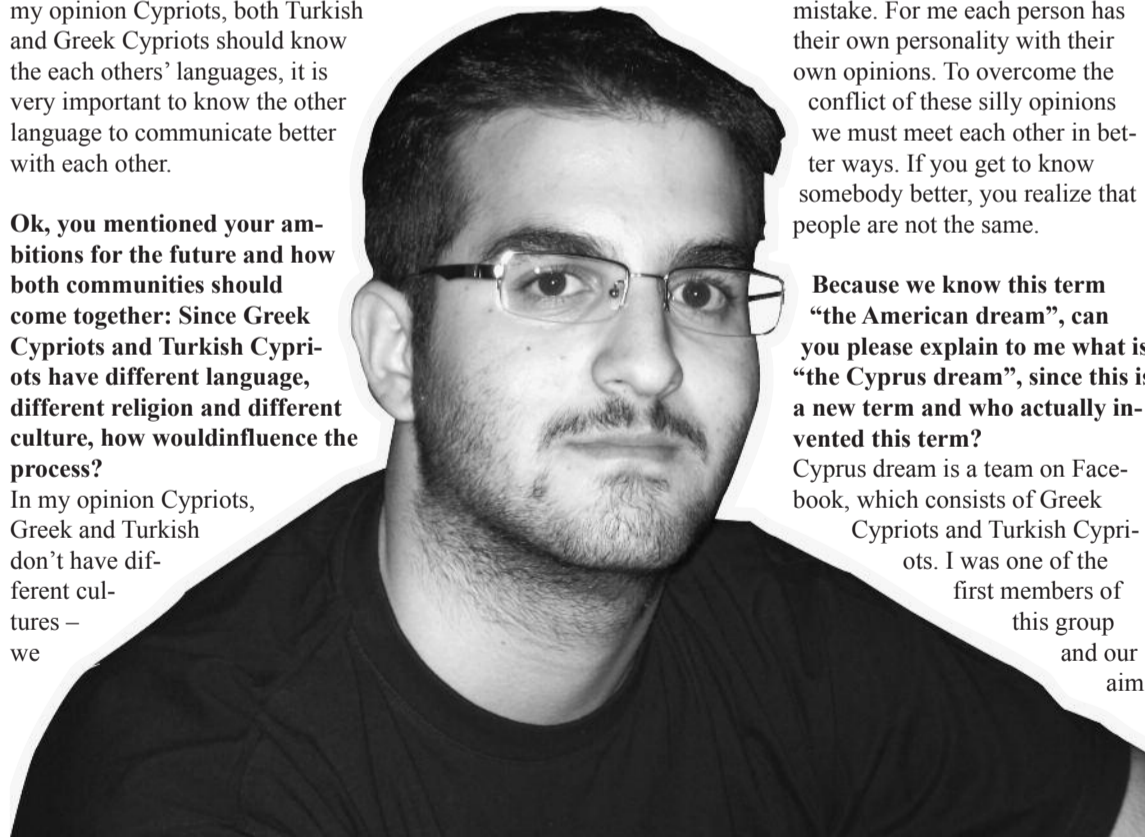
**Do you want self to add something?**

I would like to say something in Turkish, but because I started recently to learn the Turkish language I don't know if I say it correctly: Kibrisli Rumlar ve Kibrisli Türkler Kibris geliyor ve arkadaş olmalı!

**Ok, I didn't understand it well, but I think it was plenty enough to be understood for the Turkish Cypriots.**

I said that Greek and Turkish Cypriots come from Cyprus and they have to be friends only this.

**Thank you very much.**  
Rica ederim.



Orestis Agisilaou dreaming of an island of peace