
CYPRUS

Kypriaki Dimokratia/Kibris Cumhuriyeti

Area: 9251 sq. km

Population: 645,500

Capital: Nicosia [Levkosia/Lefkosa]

Head of State: Spyros Kiprianou (President)

Minister of the Interior: Roes Nicolaides

Emergency Services: 199

INTRODUCTION

Prior to 1878 Cyprus was policed by the Turks. The island was subsequently ceded to the British who formed the Cyprus Military Police (in fact a gendarmerie). In 1935 this became the Cyprus Police Force – at the same time reorganizing its structure in accordance with the organization of the British Colonial Police. After achieving independence, in August 1960, the Cypriot government authorized two police forces: the Cyprus Police, basically a municipal force which was also in charge of the Port and Marine Police, the Fire Service and the Criminal Records Office; and the Cyprus Gendarmerie, for policing rural areas.

ORGANIZATION

The police have five divisional headquarters (Famagusta, Kyrenia, Limassol, Nicosia and Paphos); Famagusta and Kyrenia are now in Turkish-held territory. The main police units are the Criminal Investigation Service, the Central Information Service and the Police Mobile Immediate Action Unit, a riot control unit based in Nicosia. There was a paramilitary Tactical Reserve Unit at Famagusta before Turkish occupation. Personnel strength is estimated at about 3000.

Always the theatre of bitter Greek-Turkish rivalry, Cyprus is now divided. In July 1974, in response to a military coup in Nicosia, Turkey invaded Northern Cyprus, and in February 1975 a Turkish Federated State of Cyprus was proclaimed in that area (Turkey is the only foreign government to have recognized it so far). The situation is so delicate that the mandate of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has been successively renewed. UNFICYP has since taken over several of the duties of both the police and the gendarmerie.

Cyprus Police Headquarters, Nicosia (403535)

Police Training School, Nicosia (403351)

PRIVATE SECURITY

There is one private security company in Cyprus:

Chris & Chris Security Service Ltd, Corner Gladstone and Messolongi Streets, Flat 24, Limassol (65491)