

**Մելկոնեան Սանուց Միութիւն - Կիպրոս**

**Melkonian Alumni Association of Cyprus**

**Σύνδεσμος Αποφοίτων Σχολής Μελκονιάν**



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### **Announcement**

Following intense lobbying and persistent work by the Melkonian Alumni Association of Cyprus, our initiative first taken in September 2004 to secure government grants for 11 Armenian Cypriot students “exiled” from the Melkonian and now enrolled at other private schools has been concluded successfully.

After the unilateral and illegal decision of the AGBU to close the Melkonian Educational Institute, the AGBU decided to selectively provide a tuition subsidy to students enrolled only in the top two classes before the closure, leaving all other students financially exposed and at the risk of losing their education because of their inability to pay the new fees at private schools.

The Alumni Association petitioned the Government in September 2004 to provide aid to all the students affected by the closure, but the Ministry of Finance only considered the case of 11 Armenian Cypriot students. The issue was successfully resolved following a Council of Ministers decision notified to us in October 2006.

We would like to thank Dr. Vahakn Atamyan, the former Armenian Representative at the House, and Mr George Perdakis, MP and General Secretary of the Environmentalists Movement, for their support.

We would like to express particular thanks to Mr. Vartkes Mahdessian, the present-day Armenian Representative, for his help and support throughout the past seven months, and specially for the speed and effectiveness with which he helped to overturn a negative opinion within the Finance Ministry and his subsequent lobbying at the Ministry of Education and the Council of Ministers Secretariat, which paved the way for the successful conclusion of this matter.

The Melkonian Alumni Association of Cyprus would also like to thank the Government of Cyprus, President Tassos Papadopoulos, the Ministers of Education, Finance and Interior, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Interior officials and all the political parties for their continued support at the present juncture of the ongoing court case as well as throughout the struggle in Cyprus and abroad to overturn the unjust decision of the AGBU to close the Melkonian.

Nicosia  
November 6, 2006