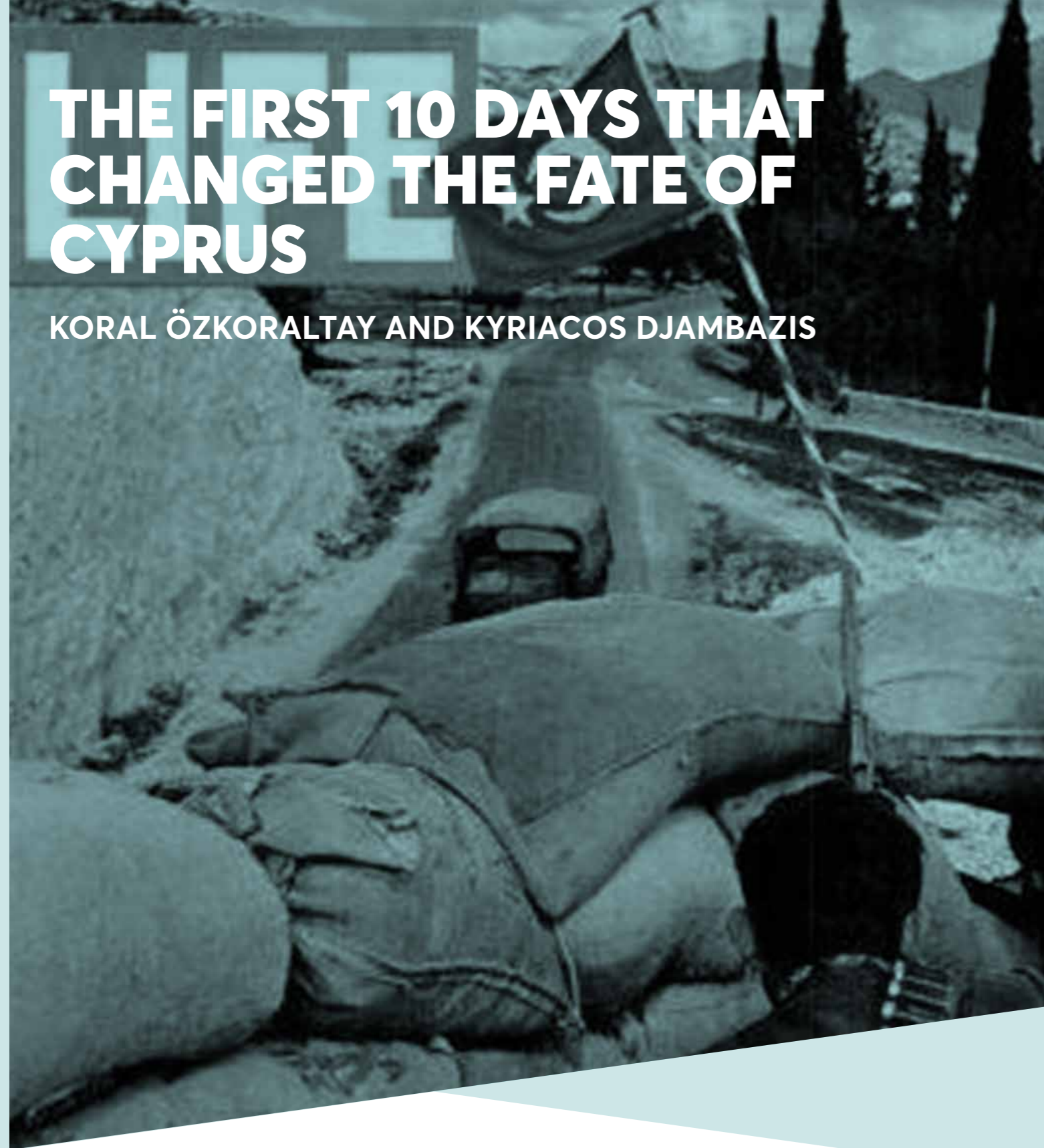


OBJECTIVE 03

To support reconciliation, dialogue, closer relationship and trust between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot communities

THE FIRST 10 DAYS THAT CHANGED THE FATE OF CYPRUS

KORAL ÖZKORALTAY AND KYRIACOS DJAMBAZIS



THIS ACTION INVOLVED

- Translation of the newspapers (Greek to Turkish and Turkish to Greek) from the first ten days of the 1963 inter-communal conflict in Cyprus.
- Creation of a Facebook page.
- Development of a communication strategy.

ABOUT KORAL ÖZKORALTAY AND KYRIACOS DJAMBAZIS

Koral Özkoraltaý has been a history teacher for more than twenty years and has been focusing on the oral history of Cyprus during the last decade. She participated in various bi-communal and international seminars and conferences, and shared her expertise on peace education and how history should be taught in post-conflict societies. Kyriacos Djambazis is a well-experienced lawyer and writer, who has been studying the Cyprus issue for many years. Some of his books have been translated into Turkish. They met through a common acquaintance and their friendship turned into a partnership for their Grow Civic action.

STORY OF THE ACTION

The action, as described by the implementers Koral Özkoraltaý and Kyriacos Djambazis, aimed to shed light on how the media covered the 1963 events. They wanted to contribute to the understanding of how each community saw and perceived the events. They wanted their work to be a step toward the emergence of a consensual, peaceful outlook, as opposed to a destructive one.

"The social upheaval of that period played an important role in shaping the subsequent decades of Cypriot societies. However, neither of the two communities fully knows what happened at that time, and the lack of a collective memory continues to shape the state of relations among the subject groups. People have the right to know, and we believe this study has been contributing to the Cypriots' right to know. The focus of our study was the question of how the Turkish Cypriot, Greek Cypriot, and Turkish newspapers regarded the conflict that occurred on December 21, 1963 in Cyprus, and how they viewed verbal negotiations on specific events that emerged throughout the Turkish Cypriot community."

Koral Özkoraltaý

Prior to the action, the team scanned all the Turkish Cypriot, Greek Cypriot and Turkish newspapers issued at the time, made annotations on hundreds of pages, and conducted oral interviews. However, to conclude their study, they needed financial resources to translate the documentation into Greek or Turkish. Grow Civic carried the project a step further and supported the translations.

The team believed their work could be used as a source to lead a more in-depth study of "documentation, time and memory". They shared their findings through various media channels. The action made an essential contribution to the communities' understanding and interpretation of how each community apprehended the incidents.

"The fact that the events of the past have been reflected on the respective communities in different ways, through the biased means of newspapers and politicians, deepened the gap between the communities. Throughout this study, we emphasize that the path toward a common consensus is possible by showing how the occurrence and perception of events have affected the communities."

Koral Özkoraltaý



RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The action was a part of a more prominent research and an advocacy project. The team acknowledges that political leaders rely on historical events for guidance as they shape policy. Therefore, their study, which emphasizes the right to know and learn the facts as they are, has been implemented to encourage the politicians to act in light of these facts, not against them as stories or myths. The Facebook page that was developed during the action has also raised awareness on what happened during the 1963 events.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The team has an ultimate goal of printing a book to reveal, acknowledge and disseminate their factual findings. They keep sharing their work and findings via the Facebook page. The followers of the page are expanding the scope of the results even further, by sharing photos and documents of the past.

TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE ACTION



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