



UK couple lose north Cyprus land fight

A London court ruled Tuesday that a British couple must demolish their holiday home in northern Cyprus, a decision that could have implications for thousands with property on the disputed land.

Turkey's foreign ministry criticised the verdict, warning it could compromise the possibility of reunification and long-lasting peace for the island, divided since 1974.

President Demetris Christofias, the Greek Cypriot leader, said the ruling was "legally and politically" important.

It is "an answer to the (Turkish) side which wants to reject the right of ownership or the use of one's property," he told reporters.

Cyprus has been split since Turkey occupied its northern third in 1974 in response to an Athens-engineered Greek Cypriot coup aimed at uniting the island with Greece.

Following the court ruling, David and Linda Orams must now hand the land back to the original owner of the property in Lapithos, Meletios Apostolides, and pay him damages.

Apostolides' family fled to the south of the island in 1974 and he launched a court action in Cyprus, which was followed by a string of subsequent legal hearings amid disagreements over the case.

But Tuesday's judgement by the Court of Appeal in London backed the Cypriot court and the European Court of Justice (ECJ) and could set a precedent for thousands of other people who have built holiday homes in northern Cyprus.

"This creates a new legal framework in those cases where foreigners are trespassing on such properties," Constantis Candounas, Apostolides' lawyer, said afterwards. "But each case must be decided on its own particular facts."

The Orams had argued at the latest court hearing that the president of the ECJ, Vassilios Skouris, could have been biased when his court ruled that British courts should enforce the Nicosia court's decision.

Their lawyers alleged that Skouris had links to the president of Cyprus, who had awarded him an honour.

But appeal court judge Malcolm Pill rejected this, saying: "There was no real possibility that the resident (of the ECJ) would be influenced by the honour he received or by his other contacts."

"The judgement of the court is in no way tarnished by those contacts, considered either individually or cumulatively."

(source: AFP)

Digital Guitar Takes the World By Storm

Nicola Zarimis

Greek-Australian software engineer, Michael Zarimis has released the progressive "Misa Digital Guitar" on YouTube, opening the eyes and dropping the jaws of over 100,000 people on the web after only three days of being featured. The video shows the inventor playing his futuristic technology, exhibiting the guitar's stringless, digital hardware that is completely powered by the Linux operating system and is touch pad orientated.

However, the Misa guitar is not to be compared to the electric guitar; each is a different instrument with a unique sound. The instrument atypically plays electronic music, where the hand does not pluck strings, but rather controls the sound. It is just a matter of time until we see the greatest guitarists in the world playing Misa's innovative sensation for fanatical crowds and shiny black cameras. After they learn how to play it, of course.



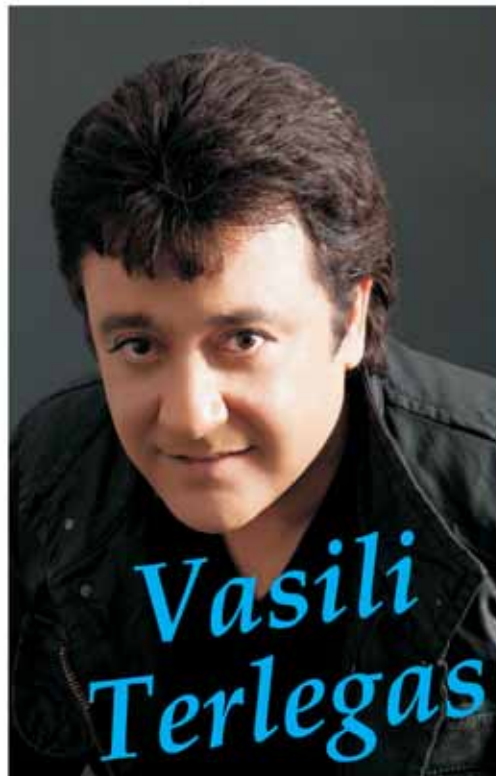
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