



Kassos, 15 April 2024
Protocol Number: 2404.41

To: Mr. Dimitris Sois

Subject: Letter to CLEOPATRA SHIPPING AGENCY/DELTA NAVIGATION regarding support for the Heroic Island of Kassos.

Dear Mr. Dimitris Sois,

With 2024 marking the 200th anniversary of the Holocaust of Heroic Kassos Island, an island with a rich history, modest recognition, and publicity, we seek your collaboration to develop our island and create a community capable of facing the challenges of the future. Kassos is an island in the southern Aegean and the southernmost of the Dodecanese, with a total area of 66.4 square kilometers. The population of Kassos had been on a declining trend for years, parallel to that of most Greek islands, but in recent years, there has been a trend towards population stabilization and growth. At the peak of the island's prosperity, during the period of the Greek War of Independence, its inhabitants were said to have reached 12,000. After the Holocaust and during the occupation of Kassos by the Italians in 1911, the inhabitants - all Greek Orthodox - had greatly diminished. The unofficial count of its inhabitants from the 2001 census shows a slight decrease in its population to 990 residents. The latest official census in 2021 showed a significant increase in the island's permanent residents, reaching 1,223.

As part of your corporate social responsibility, we would like you to consider the possibility of providing support to our island, either in whole or in part (or collaborating with other companies or organizations), as follows:

1. Adoption and support of the schools on our island.

Our island's schools are as follows:

Agia Marina Kindergarten with 6 children

Fry - Arvanitochori Kindergarten with 6 children

Primary School (2 buildings in Fry and Agia Marina) with 50 children

Gymnasium / Lyceum in Fry with 50 children

The needs of our schools are as follows:

- Maintenance of buildings:
 - Agia Marina Kindergarten:
 - The required works will be covered by the Municipality and voluntary work from the Army.
 - Fry - Arvanitochori Kindergarten:
 - The required works will be covered by the Municipality and voluntary work from the Army.
 - Fry Primary School:
 - Repair or replacement of windows as they let in water and lack insulation.
 - Maintenance of the basketball court.
 - Repairs and maintenance of electrical installations.
 - Installation of safety flooring in the courtyard.
 - Additional works (electrical and minor building repairs) will be covered by the Municipality and voluntary work from the Army.
 - Agia Marina Primary School:
 - Removal of roof tiles and roof insulation.
 - Toilets need repair.
 - Fence repairs.
 - Staircase repairs.
 - Installation of safety flooring in the courtyard.
 - Installation of a new basketball hoop in the courtyard.
 - Additional works (electrical and minor building repairs) will be covered by the Municipality and voluntary work from the Army.
 - Fry Gymnasium / Lyceum:

- The building's needs are quite significant and serious, requiring a structural study of the building, scraping of the building, and plastering.
- Electrical repairs / Lightning rods / Structured cabling for interactive boards.
- Installation of iron gates on stairs to lock floors and protect equipment (interactive boards) from damage or theft.
- Painting and maintenance of existing ironwork in ground floor rooms.
- Courtyard maintenance (tree pruning, cleaning, etc.)
- General needs for all schools:
 - Creation of a traffic education park and botanical garden with aromatic and beekeeping plants at a central point of the island so that children can go there on educational trips.
 - 4 air conditioning units.
 - 10 Desktop Computers / Monitors.
 - 5 Laptops.
 - 15 UPS-Voltage stabilizers.
 - 5 Multifunctional A3 Color Printers (Scanner, Photocopier, Printer).
 - 6 projectors.
 - 10 tablets.
 - 3 sets for robotics / STEM (Microbit / Lego).
 - 1 3D printer.
 - Stationery / consumables.
 - Books for school libraries.
 - Scholarships.
 - Remote seminars and training.
 - Provision of free distance learning courses for Gymnasium and Lyceum students from an organized Secondary Education Tutorial Center.

As you can see, the needs of our schools are quite significant, and any effort you make to support us will be crucial in improving the quality of life and education for the young people of our island. Additionally, you will provide incentives for families to return to their birthplace where conditions forced them to leave in search of a better quality of life for their children.

Furthermore, for the enhancement of the standard of living, it would be quite beneficial to provide FREE Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning to the citizens.

2. Actions with your volunteer team in cooperation with the local community or other entities:

- 2.1. Tree planting
- 2.2. Beach cleanups
- 2.3. Painting buildings / churches
- 2.4. Painting - Maintenance of picturesque village alleys

3. Participation in infrastructure projects:

- 3.1. Sports facilities
- 3.2. Event venues
- 3.3. Maintenance of trails and creation of points with kiosks, benches, and shaded areas with tree planting
- 3.4. Creation of an Ecological Fish Market
- 3.5. Installation of electric vehicle charging stations
- 3.6. Equipment and support for the Polydynamic Regional Clinic (PPIC) of Heroic Island Kassos.

4. Sponsorship collaboration to cover Holocaust events:

In the context of the 200 years since the Holocaust of Heroic Island Kassos, we are seeking sponsorship collaborations to support the memorial and honor events scheduled in Kassos, Athens, Rhodes, Syros, Karpathos, in the parish of America, and in eight other cities in Greece. The content of the events will be of historical interest, cultural meetings and activities, as well as events for the youth of our island. The primary purpose of these events is to highlight the historical event of the Holocaust and to place Kassos in its rightful place in history. We also aim to promote our island and its development, assisting the small local community in facing future challenges. Our allies in this effort already include the Hellenic Parliament, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, the Coast Guard, the Bank of Greece, the Naval Museum, ERT as a communication sponsor, and other significant entities.

Due to the unique historical significance of this event for Kassos and Greece, we ask for your assistance - in whatever way you choose - in supporting and participating in our efforts. Any participation and support you provide to our efforts will be duly recognized by our Municipality. In return, there will be acknowledgments of your brand name/logo at each event, interview, in upcoming printed materials (posters, flyers, banners, invitations), in any electronic material produced (promotional newsletters, videos, websites, etc.), with a thank-you press release to national media, and in our advertising listings. Our events began in January 2024 and will conclude on 31/12/2024.

BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE HOLOCAUST OF KASSOS - JUNE 7, 1824:

Kassos, due to its geographical position and its naval power, was a significant asset of the Greek revolutionary forces in the Aegean Sea and a mainstay of Crete, whose uprising the Kasians successfully defended. For this reason, and because our ships had carried out a series of aggressive actions against Egyptian and Turkish ships and had also attacked the coasts of Rhodes and the beaches of Asia Minor, our island became the first target of the Ottoman authorities after the suppression of the revolution in Crete, for reasons of revenge and punishment.

On June 2, all the ships of the Egyptian fleet appeared on the island, equipped with four thousand troops under the general command of Hussein Bey, on which Turks, Egyptians, and 3,000 - 4,000 Albanians were embarked. The island was not well fortified, except for a few cannons placed on the coast to cover possible landing points. The Egyptian commanders, moreover, planned to deceive the Kasians and started to bombard heavy artillery fire for two days towards the northern end of the island. From this point, on the second night, 18 large landing craft broke off and advanced to the front, giving the impression that they intended to land there, covered by many musket fires. The Kasians did not realize that simultaneously, 24 boats with 1,500 Albanians were hiding behind the village of Agia Marina, secretly towards the position of Antiperatos, where they disembarked on a difficult path. The point was indicated by the traitor Zacharias, whom the Kasians had previously exiled for some offense he had committed and who wanted to take revenge in this way.

What followed was the destruction of the island, the massacre of the Kasians, and the capture of women and children. The captains Marcos Maliarakis, Nikolaos Grigoriadis, Nikolaos Julius

(Bourekas) with the heroic inhabitants of the island resisted. Around 2,000 Kasians were killed, and an equal number of women and children were captured. Of the 2,000 captives, a small percentage were ransomed by their relatives, but most were later sold in the slave markets of Egypt and Crete. Kasian ships were confiscated, and many of their owners were forced to join their crews to save their families.

Kassos, by a resolution of the Hellenic Parliament from November 2018, is called **Heroic Island Kassos**. The Greek state recognized its contribution to the Liberation Struggle of the Nation in 1821. Kassos, 200 years after its Holocaust in 1824, is trying to retain on the island its approximately 1,000 permanent inhabitants. After the destruction and dispersion of the Kasians in many parts of Greece and the world, Kasian sailors, from the time of the Trojan War to the present day, emerge as a strong naval force and contribute significantly to the development of Greek Merchant Shipping. Kassos has strong immigrant communities in the USA, Australia, various cities in Europe, as well as in Athens, Rhodes, and elsewhere.

Kasians maintain active ties with their native land and are present wherever and whenever they can. The vibrant musical tradition is a connecting link for all Kasians that is maintained and passed down from generation to generation. Festivals, dances, serenades, and the amazing cuisine make it stand out from many places.

The Municipal authority, collective bodies, and citizens of Heroic Island Kassos honor our ancestors, fight for the development of our island, and look to the future with optimism!

ACTIONS FOR THE 200 YEARS SINCE THE HOLOCAUST OF KASSOS

The Organizing Committee for the 200 years since the Holocaust of Kassos has approved the implementation of the following actions and events.

No	Date / Place	Title	Budget
1	29/3/2024 Eugenides Foundation Athens	Seminar on Kasian seamanship.	1000 €
2	April 2024	Issuance of a brochure with historical references to the 200 years.	1000 €
3	April - May 2024	Creation of emblems, large posters, and banners for the decoration of public spaces and buildings.	5.000 €
4		Creation of banners for use in various events.	3.000 €
5		Creation of memorabilia for the 200 years of the Holocaust.	5.000 €
6	Kassos	Erection of the Antiperato Monument.	60.000 €
7	Kassos	Highlighting the Lagka monument.	5.000 €
8	June 2024 Kassos	Planting symbolically 200 trees for the 200 years or alternatively the formation and creation of a botanical garden in the area of the former zoo.	5.000 €
9	27-30 June Kassos	Shelter of Letters and Arts Conference of the Dodecanese.	5.000 €
10	July 2024 Kassos	Music and dance event with the participation of local and Dodecanese bands.	6.000 €
11	Aug. - Sept. 2024 Kassos	International Lyre and musical instruments meeting with a parade in Kassos.	85.000 €
12	September 2024 Athens	Musical-theatrical performance at the Herodion.	30.000 €
13	November- December 2024	Exhibition of Painting with works by the Kasian Painter Mayo at the Piraeus Art Gallery.	3.000 €
14		Announcement of scholarship by the Kapodistrian University for the completion of a doctoral thesis on the History of Kassos.	6.000€/year x 3 years
15		Creation of a historical documentary about Kassos.	25.000 €
16		Publication of a book with testimonies about the Holocaust.	3.000 €
17		Creation of a music album with Kasian music.	12.000 €
18	Summer 2024 Kassos	Concert with famous Greek artists.	30.000 €
19	Hellenic Parliament, October 2024	Seminar and Exhibition of historical treasures at the Hellenic Parliament.	3.000 €

With your support, we aim to enhance the quality of life for the residents of a small island while also significantly boosting its tourism promotion. We kindly request an opportunity to meet with you, along with Mayor Michalis Erotokritos, to further discuss this collaboration. Your assistance will not only help us achieve our goals but also demonstrate your commitment to making a significant impact on our community.



Best regards,
Emmanouil I. Pepis,

Municipal Councilor

Member of the Organizing Committee
for the 200 years Anniversary of the
Holocaust 1824 - 2024

Municipality of Heroic Island of Kassos

6974794393

manos@pepis.gr

Kassos@mazigiathnkaso.gr