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PRESS RELEASE

**Commemoration Event for the National Martyrs of Cyprus and Pontus,
Evagoras Pallikaridis and Nikos Kapetanidis – Two Heroes, One
Message: Freedom, Justice, Dignity**

Thessaloniki, 6/4/2026

In the presence of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, a concert by the Music School of Paphos took place yesterday, Sunday, April 5, 2026, in the Ceremonial Hall, dedicated to the national martyrs of Cyprus and Pontus, Evagoras Pallikaridis and Nikos Kapetanidis.

The event, titled: *“In the Footsteps of the Heroes: Evagoras Pallikaridis – Nikos Kapetanidis from Trebizond to Paphos and Thessaloniki,”* was organized by Aristotle University, the Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus in Thessaloniki, and the Action Association “Nikos Kapetanidis.”

At the event, greetings were delivered by the Rector of Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, and the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides.

In his address, **the Rector of Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis**, emphasized that this event was not merely a formal tribute to memory, but a meaningful *“bridge”* connecting places and eras of Hellenism.

As he characteristically noted, Pontus, Cyprus, and Thessaloniki form *“three geographies with one soul: Pontus reminds us of the power of memory, Cyprus reminds us of the cost of freedom, and Macedonia reminds us of the continuity of Hellenism through education. For this reason, Aristotle University is not simply a place of knowledge. It is a place where history becomes consciousness and memory becomes responsibility.”*

The Rector placed special emphasis on the role of the University, noting that Aristotle University is not only a space for the transmission of knowledge, but also a field for cultivating historical awareness. Mr. Anastasiadis underlined that memory is not a passive process, but a responsibility passed from generation to generation. At the same time, he stressed that education constitutes the most stable bond between Greece and Cyprus.

Evagoras Pallikaridis: The Symbol of a Young Man's Sacrifice

Referring to Evagoras Pallikaridis, the Rector particularly highlighted the fact that he was a young man of just 19 years old. He stressed that his figure embodies the concept of self-sacrifice, while also underlining his dual identity as an EOKA fighter and a poet.

By referring to his moving verses shortly before he was led to the gallows in 1957 by the British colonial authorities, the Rector highlighted the timeless message of freedom and dignity, noting that his words continue to inspire.

Nikos Kapetanidis: A Principled Journalist and Intellectual Fighter

The Rector also emphasized the significance of Nikos Kapetanidis's personality, noting that he stood as a model of journalistic integrity and courage.

He referred to his activity in martyred Pontus and his unwavering stance in favor of justice, even at the cost of his life. As he pointed out, his sacrifice in the courts of Amasya in 1921 stands as an example of moral greatness.

Two Figures, One Timeless Message

The Rector stressed that, despite their different geographical and historical origins, the two honored figures are united through shared values: freedom, justice, and dignity.

He underlined that such figures remind us that history is not written only by great personalities. *"It is also written by people who believe in values greater than themselves."*

Message to the Younger Generation: The Responsibility of Continuity

Addressing the students, the Rector emphasized that Pallikaridis was of their age, underlining that responsibility toward history concerns not only the past, but also the present.

He noted that courage, as taught by Aristotle, represents the balance between fear and boldness. *"It is the strength of a person to do what is right even when they know the cost. Therefore, tonight's event is not only a moment of remembrance. It is a reminder that the history of Hellenism continues every time education meets ethos and conscience."*

The event took place with the support of the Cypriot Home of Northern Greece and the Union of Cypriots of Northern Greece.

Photographs are attached.

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media