

Stockholm, 16th of november, 2024

We are standing here today outside the US embassy, to bring a message to the American president Joe Biden, before leaving office.

President Biden. I was recently in Havana. What I saw there, is a people who are standing up, who have their backs straight and their head up, and who know what the joy of life means, but who are struggling due to the inhumane and illegal US blockade. I saw a man whose hands were shaking uncontrollably due to high blood pressure but couldn't get the medicine as the US will sue anybody who sells medicine to Cuba. I saw an electrical power grid in desperate need of replacements, but the US will sue anybody who sells them to Cuba. I saw women using face masks as pads, because the US will sue anybody who sells tampons to Cuba.

I saw a blockade that was inhumane. Ridiculous. I saw, economic violence.

And that the US also has put Cuba on a terrorist list is absurd, when we know, all that they export is doctors.

Cuba is a country that doesn't invade other countries or topple their governments. Cuba is a country that doesn't sell weapons, but that tries to help negotiate for peace – which was the very effort that got them on this list in the first place.

When Cuba volunteered, alongside Norway and Venezuela, to host the peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC guerilla, Trump saw his chance. He added Cuba to the terrorist list because the guerilla leaders were physically present in Havana. This is ludicrous, this is what peace talks are about. You must meet to have the talks. It didn't help that the present government in Colombia has asked you to remove Cuba from the list.

I didn't see that you put Norway on the list for their participation in the peace talks. Was this not just another way to punish Cuba because they want to be independent? Because they refuse to be your back yard? Because they want what you have – freedom to decide their own future?

The US is becoming increasingly isolated in its stance on Cuba. In the last UN vote, there was only one country besides the US that voted to keep the blockade, and it was Israel. You didn't even get the small islands with you on this. You don't even get your allies with you on this. You don't even get Ukraine for all the money you give. You are alone.

President Biden, your time is soon up. Former U.S. President Donald Trump separately designated Cuba a state sponsor of terrorism just prior to leaving office. You can reverse this. Do the right thing. Lift the blockade. Take Cuba off of the terrorist list. Let the women have their tampons, the children have their milk, and the old people have their medicine.

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