



# CUBAVENNER.DK

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Copenhagen, June 15th. 2023

Dear President Joe Biden

I am writing this mail in the hope that you will correct a terrible mistake committed by your predecessor, Donald Trump. On his way out of the White House in January 2021, he put Cuba on USA's list of terrorist countries; a list, as you of course remember, from which Barack Obama had removed Cuba back in 2015, when you were Vice President.

During your campaign for office, you explicitly said that Trump's policy towards Cuba in general had "done damage to the Cuban people", and there can be little doubt that his last farewell greetings to the Cubans, has made their lives even more difficult.

Allegedly Trump's act had to do with Cuba's role as a mediator in the Colombian peace negotiations, which took place in Havana - The same peace process, which you recently expressed your wholehearted support to during your meeting with Colombian President Gustavo Petro in March this year.

The peace negotiations have been going on for some years now, and all through the process, Cuba and Norway have played very important roles as mediators.

The first Colombian president to obtain a break-through was President Juan Manuel Santos, who received the Nobel Peace Award in October 2016. His role in the negotiations of a peace agreement with the FARC-EP was decisive. The agreement contained among other things a decision to cease-fire, the surrendering of arms by the FARC-EP, a peace tribunal, and preparations for an agricultural reform.

In 2018 Ivan Duque took over the presidency in Colombia. He wished to renegotiate important parts of the peace agreement from 2016. Above all he had no wish for agricultural reform. This resulted in violent clashes, murders, and unrest in his country. Nevertheless, from 2018 - 2020 the first steps were taken to open peace

negotiations between Colombia's government and Colombia's second armed rebel group, the ELN in Havana.

Sadly, in 2020 the negotiators representing the Colombian government chose to walk away from the negotiations with the representatives of the ELN – leaving the latter alone with the mediators from Norway and Cuba in Havana. Moreover – shortly afterwards the Colombian government exiled the representatives of ELN from their country.

This was Donald Trump's excuse for calling the ELN-representatives terrorists and for putting Cuba back on USA's list of countries which harbor terrorists. A blatant injustice committed against a country mediating Colombia's difficult quest for peace.

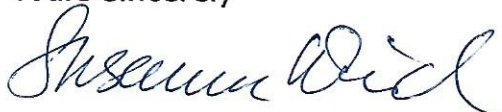
Nevertheless, Cuba still supports Colombia's complicated road towards peace, and with Colombian President Gustavo Petro in office since 2022 new efforts have been made.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> this year, negotiations were reopened in Havana, supported by mediators from not only Norway and Cuba, but also from other Latin American countries such as Mexico, Brazil, and Chile – and supported by the European Union and Switzerland. On June 9<sup>th</sup> these negotiations ended with an agreement between the Colombian government and ELN. - A significant step forward in the peace process, which should be celebrated by all of us.

To celebrate this, I appeal to you to use this opportunity to take Cuba off USA's list over countries that harbor terrorists. You have it in your power to do so. Cuba does not support terrorism: It provides medical aid, doctors, and health personnel to countries in need, a fact that we all have witnessed during the Covid-pandemic. And Cuba still supports the peace process in Colombia, a country which has suffered more than 50 years of civil war.

Hoping for a positive answer

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susanne Wind', written in a cursive style.

Susanne Wind

President of the Danish-Cuban Association