Open letter Let Cuba Live addressed to Joe Biden appears as Full Page Ad in New York Times



LET CUBA LIVE

Dear President Joe Biden,

July 23, 2021

It is time to take a new path forward in U.S.-Cuban relations. We, the undersigned, are making this urgent, public appeal to you to reject the cruel policies put into place by the Trump White House that have created so much suffering among the Cuban people.

Cuba – a country of eleven million people – is living through a difficult crisis due to the growing scarcity of food and medicine. Recent protests have drawn the world's attention to this. While the Covid-19 pandemic has proven challenging for all countries, it has been even more so for a small island under the heavy weight of an economic embargo.

We find it unconscionable, especially during a pandemic, to intentionally block remittances and Cuba's use of global financial institutions, given that access to dollars is necessary for the importation of food and medicine.

As the pandemic struck the island, its people – and their government – lost billions in revenue from international tourism that would normally go to their public health care system, food distribution and economic relief.

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New York, July 23 (RHC) -- More than 400 personalities hailing from all corners of the world signed an open letter to US President Joe Biden with the title Let Cuba Live.

The text appeared as a Full Page advertisement in Friday's edition of the New York Times. Its signatories include former heads of state, politicians, intellectuals, scientists, clergy members, artists, musicians, leaders, and activists worldwide.

The text urges the Biden administration to take a new path forward in US Cuba relations and made an open appeal to the President to reject the cruel policies put into place by the Trump White House.

After recalling that Cuba is living through a difficult crisis, due to the growing scarcity of food and medicine, they said they find it unconscionable, especially during a pandemic, to intentionally block remittances and Cuba's use of financial institutions.

The document, available on the Let Cuba Live platform, includes signatures from former Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, former Ecuadorian president Rafael Correa, and American artists Danny Glover, Susan Sarandon, Jane Fonda, and Mark Ruffalo.

Likewise, the call against the blockade has the support of the British Jeremy Corbyn; Reverend Jim Winkler, of the United States Council of Churches; Brazilian theologian Frei Beto; Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel; and organizations such as People's Forum, the ANSWER coalition, and CODEPINK.

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