Mrs. Federica Mogherini  
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy /  
Vice-President of the Commission  
European External Action Service  
1046 Brussels  

Brussels, the 12th of June 2015,

Dear HR/VP Federica Mogherini,

First of all we would like to thank you for your reply regarding the situation in Cuba. We highly appreciate the dialogue that we have been establishing with you on this topic over the last months. This is a very welcome change in comparison to the past. You have demonstrated since the beginning of your mandate determination and strong political commitment on various foreign policy matters and challenges we are facing literally around the world. For this reason, we would like to ask you further attention and commitment on Cuba.

Indeed, if we wish our dialogue to have a real meaning and overall a significant impact on the situation on the island, we believe it is necessary to give a stronger signal from the EU: the Human rights situation and the reiterated arrest of activists and artists in Cuba require a more effective reaction than any formal epistolary writing.

Madame High Representative, according to Human rights organizations, the repression have been growing on the island over the last months. A direct link with the policy of normalization between the Castro regime on one hand, and the United States and the European Union on the other, is clearly established by the activists in the country. Indeed, this process of rapprochement led without almost any conditionality as concerns human rights is offering to the regime a feeling of legitimacy, not to say "impunity". The dissident Elizardo Sanchez confirmed the arrest of "a hundred" people on the margins of a demonstration of the Ladies in White mid-May and the artist Tania Bruguera was once again detained in her Havana residence, after giving a reading in coincidence with the Havana Biennial.

In this context, Madame High Representative, we would like to remind you that any new step in the rapprochement with Cuba should be accompanied by a strong appeal towards the change of Cuban policies on restricting freedom of expression and jailing political dissidents. We also ask you to remain steadfast with the political principle you have so far demonstrated and thus to make a clear statement on the unacceptable repression in Cuba. Finally, we urge you not to forget Tania Bruguera, Ailer González, Antonio Rodiles, Angel Santiesteban, Danilo Maldonado and all the artists and activists and to call on the Cuban Government to urge the release of those arrested and drop all charges against those prosecuted by the regime. Bearing in mind that during your visit of Cuba you might have not been in touch with all relevant and truly representative civic organizations, we leave up to your consideration if a short informal meeting with us, especially with regard to our regular contacts with these entities, might not be mutually beneficial.
We certainly also hope so that the recent postponement of the plenary debate on Cuba was the last one. Please accept our assurances that we favour a rapprochement with Cuba, but every single positive step has to lead to real positive impacts for the Cuban people. We hope that you share our view as we are persuaded that the respect of human rights is our common priority in the relationship with Cuba.

We are looking forward to your response,

Yours sincerely,

Pavel TELIČKA
Fernando Maura BARANDIARÁN
Javier NART
Petras AUSTREVICIUS
Marian HARKIN
Petr JEZEK
Juan Carlos GIRAUTA VIDAL
Ilhan KYUCHYUK
Enrique CALVET CHAMBON
Urmas PAET
Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ
Maite PAGAZAURTUNDÚA
Dita CHARANZOVA
Hans VAN BAALEN
Jozo RADOS
Gesine MEISSNER
Martina DLABAJOVÁ
Jose Inacio FARIA
Beatriz BECERRA
Krystyna ŁYBACKA