

United States Senate

February 8, 2019

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
Clarence House
London
SW1A 1BA

Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention that you are planning a trip to Cuba, the first of its kind for the Crown since Fidel Castro established the communist state. A trip of this magnitude by the Crown provides unwarranted legitimacy to a dictatorship with a decades-long history of persecuting and imprisoning its defectors and repressing its people. While you may be able to travel freely to the island as a foreigner, Cuban nationals are treated as second-class citizens, unable to enjoy the same freedoms on their own island, creating a reprehensible apartheid system.

In Florida, we stand in direct opposition to ruthless dictators like the Castro regime and its crony successors. Throughout Latin America, the Cuban dictatorship has long attempted to destabilize the region. The Cuba regime harbors terrorist groups and is responsible for propping up other ruthless dictators, like Maduro in Venezuela. Right now, Maduro is terrorizing the people of Venezuela by blocking vital humanitarian aid from entering the country. This horrendous act of terror is orchestrated and supported by the Cuban dictatorship.

I urge you to reconsider this trip for another alternative. I invite you to visit Florida to learn firsthand about the past six decades of atrocities, oppression and misery inflicted on the Cuban people by the regime. In Florida, you will be met by a vibrant Cuban population dedicated to putting an end to the decades of torture, repression, incarceration and death the people of Cuba have endured.

By visiting Florida, you have the opportunity to stand with the people of Cuba and fight for a new era of freedom and opportunity. Conversely, a visit to Cuba signals your support for a ruthless dictatorship that has denied Cubans their basic rights for far too long.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
February 8, 2019
Page Two

As the heir to the throne, your visit to Cuba or Florida will send a clear message. Spending time with Floridians from Cuba will help you see why a new era of freedom and opportunity for Cuba is so vital. For the sake of standing up for democracy and freedom, I hope you will accept my offer and reconsider a visit to Cuba.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a prominent "S".

Rick Scott
United States Senator