



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

March 23, 2018

Secretary General Luis Almagro
Organization of American States
17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006-4499

Dear Secretary General Almagro:

As the Eighth Summit of the Americas approaches and knowing of your commitment to the democracy requirement in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, I urge you to call for the exclusion of the Cuban dictatorship from the upcoming Summit of the Americas.

For six decades the sovereignty of the Cuban people has been held hostage by a brutal dictatorship that has incarcerated, tortured and murdered innocent people in order to preserve its reign of oppression and misery over the Cuban people. In recent days, we witnessed a fraudulent effort to carry out so-called elections as the dictatorship advances toward a dynastic succession.

Throughout Latin America, the Cuban dictatorship has long attempted to destabilize the region, it has harbored terrorist groups, and is currently directing the intelligence and repressive machinery of the Maduro dictatorship in Venezuela. The oppression we see in Venezuela today is orchestrated and led by the Cuban dictatorship and must be addressed accordingly.

The government of Peru rescinded its invitation to Venezuelan dictator Maduro from this year's Summit of the Americas, which is consistent with your guidance. You have spoken clearly about the need for the Venezuelan government to adhere to the norms of the Charter of the OAS and the Inter-American Democratic Charter in order for it to be able to participate in Inter-American Summits. **Therefore Cuba, just like Venezuela, should be denied participation.**

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As you know, Cuba's pro-democracy movement is united in calling on the international community to recognize the Cuban people's right to freedom and democracy. The Cuban dictatorship's participation in the Summit of the Americas would greatly undermine the admirable work of Cuba's courageous pro-democracy movement on the island and embolden the regime to continue its relentless repression.

As you discussed with our guests at the Latin American Summit I hosted in October, you have witnessed first-hand the lengths to which the Cuban dictatorship is willing to go to deny the Cuban people their right to self-determination. The Venezuelan people today live the cruelty of a Maduro regime that is completely directed by the same dictatorship that denied you access to meet with peaceful pro-democracy leaders in Cuba. For the sake of both the people of Cuba and Venezuela, and because of the vital importance of abiding by the principles of the Charter of the OAS and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, I ask that the Cuban dictatorship not be allowed to participate in the Eighth Summit of the Americas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a large, sweeping flourish at the beginning.

Rick Scott
Governor