

## **A Cuban Warning**

*Klassekampen, 5.19.2009*

The Cuban Embassy in Norway has circulated an email about the Oslo Freedom Forum, which will be held this week. The Embassy claims that Thor Halvorsen and Armando Valladares are CIA agents with a long record in Latin America. The Cubans believe that the forum was arranged to attack Bolivia, Cuba, Venezuela, and “all of the positive change that has recently happened in Latin America.”

“Be aware, and warn those who are friends with Cuba and Latin America,” urges the Embassy.

Thor Halvorsen is not surprised when he is confronted with the content of this email. He is familiar with the allegations, explaining that “of course, this is a simple way to tarnish me.”

“The idea that I am a CIA agent is ridiculous. They believe I have worked for the CIA in Nicaragua and El Salvador, but I have never been to either country. And when it comes to Ambassador Valladares, remember that he was Amnesty International’s first prisoner of conscience from Cuba. Amnesty does not usually protect CIA agents.”