

## Xikar vs Cuba's Castro

Last Updated Saturday, 07 February 2009

Dear XIKAR Friends,

This time of year makes us reflect upon the things for which we are truly thankful - good health, friends and family. This year, I am also thankful for democracy and rule of law.

You have probably heard by now of the recent attempt of the Cuban government to extend its totalitarian influence into the cigar accessories market. Under the guise of Corporacion Habanos, they are attempting to usurp XIKAR's private property and liberty by attacking our beloved Havana Collection.

Corporacion Habanos trademarked the name "Habanos Unicos Desde 1492" which translates "Unique Cuban Cigars Since 1492." The claim made in their trademark opposition is that the name, Havana Collection, might insinuate the items are made in Cuba. This is not what The Havana Collection is about. The collection, as its tagline states, is about "Capturing The Spirit Of Havana One Cigar At A Time." In reality it is no different than Tommy Bahama which promotes the atmosphere of the Bahamas rather than the origin itself.

What is most bothersome to me is that Cuba - a country which has no legal right to sell in the U.S., is using our own courts to impose the same bully actions that it had used on its own citizens since 1959.

It is in times of dispute such as this that am gracious to live in a country where I have a voice. I am thankful for the support of the customers and consumers who are rooting for me and am confident that with your support XIKAR will come out on top.

Kurt Van Keppel

President Xikar