**Adolf Ludvig Gustav Fredrik Albrecht Couschi honoured with memorial stone**

**Today, a memorial stone for Adolf Ludvig Gustav Fredrik Albrecht Couschi was unveiled at the cemetery of Katarina kyrka in Stockholm. The initiative to raise a memorial stone was taken by The National Organisation of Afro-Swedes, in cooperation with the City’s Cemeteries Department and the parish of Katarina kyrka.**

**The unveiling took place in the presence of HRH The Crown Princess.**

After the unveiling ceremony, a reception was held with a few invited guests in Katarina parish hall. Her Royal Highness The Crown Princess was present as well as representatives from the City of Stockholm, The National Organisation of Afro-Swedes and the bishop of Stockholm Andreas Holmberg.

”The erection of the memorial stone for Kwasi was preceded by a decade-long campaign by the National Organisation of Afro-Swedes. But it is only today that circumstances have developed in a way that has led to Kwasi being honoured in this way in the presence of the Crown Princess. Neither Kwasi nor slavery should be forgotten. The memorial stone will be a reminder for future generations,” says **Kitimbwa Sabuni**, spokesperson for The National Organisation of Afro-Swedes.

Couschi (circa 1747–1822) was brought as a slave child from the Danish colony of Saint Croix in the West Indies to Sweden and the Swedish royal couple Adolf Fredrik and Lovisa Ulrika in 1760. He grew up at the Royal Court and became part of the Swedish Royal Family.

Couschi was buried in St Catherine's Cemetery in 1822 in a grave of which there is no trace of today and now two hundred years later he is honoured with a memorial stone. Following an initiative by the National Organisation of Afro-Swedes, the Stockholm City Cemetery Board decided last spring to draw up a proposal to erect a memorial stone to Couschi in Katarina Cemetery.

”I am very proud that the City of Stockholm have been able to contribute to getting this memorial stone in place. What we have done today is not only to honour Couschi but also to highlight an important part of Afro-Swedish history,” says **Clara Lindblom**, vice mayor for Cemetery issues

Today's date is a historically important day. Frihetsdagen (Freedom Day) on 9 October was established to commemorate the victims of the slave trade and celebrates the abolition of slavery in the Swedish colony of Saint-Barthélemy on 9 October 1847.

”For me, the Couschi memorial is an opportunity to recognise both him as a person and this part of our country's history. It is also a reminder of the importance of the daily defense of human dignity in our time. Human dignity is a perishable commodity. We need to think about how we treat our fellow human beings and the memorial stone gives us the opportunity to make the life of Couschi visible,” says the bishop of Stockholm **Andreas Holmberg**.

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