

Ahead of UN vote on blockade: Cuba accuses US of targeted intimidation campaign



Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez (Source: [BrunoRodríguezX](#))

Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez has accused the US of conducting a targeted campaign to force countries to change their position against the US economic blockade. At a [press conference](#) in Havana on Wednesday, he presented a report based on US State Department documents as evidence for the allegations.

"We have reliable information about the intimidation attempts and deception tactics used by the US government to pressure several countries, particularly in Latin America and Europe, to force them to change their traditional and historic position against the blockade," the Cuban chief diplomat said.

Alleged military support from Russia

As evidence, Rodríguez cited a [Reuters report](#) based on US State Department documents that revealed Washington's active strategy to influence governments. He described the full State Department document as a "false and defamatory communication that lacks respect for the sovereignty of independent states" and contains "crude pressure and threats."

Washington's central new argument is Cuba's alleged military support for Russia's war in Ukraine. According to US sources, between 1,000 and 5,000 Cubans fought alongside Russian forces. Havana vehemently denies this. "Cuba is not part of the armed conflict in Ukraine and is not participating there with military forces," the Cuban Foreign Ministry [said in](#) an official statement on October 10.

At the same time, the government acknowledged that Cuban nationals may have participated in the conflict. "Our authorities do not have precise information about Cuban nationals who have participated or are participating on their own initiative in the armed forces of either side of the military conflict," the statement said.

However, the Foreign Ministry emphasized that none of these individuals had the support, commitment, or approval of the Cuban state for their actions. Under Cuban law, mercenary activity is a serious criminal offense. Between 2023 and 2025, nine criminal proceedings for mercenary activity were brought against 40 defendants in Cuban courts, the ministry said.

Cuba's foreign minister accused Washington of diverting attention from the real issues: "It is a way of shifting the focus to other matters in order to distract from the main point: the abuse committed by the US government, a great superpower, against a small, noble, hard-working, united, and peaceful people."

UN vote looms

Rodríguez said the blockade was "the main obstacle to Cuba's economic development" and constituted "a violation of the human rights of the Cuban people." He pointed out that the US "is trying to prevent our people from continuing to denounce that behind the power outages and the fragility of our national power system is the US persecution of fuel supplies."

On October 28 and 29, the UN General Assembly will vote on the Cuban resolution "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba." For over 30 years, the international community has supported the resolution. In 2024, 187 countries voted in favor, with only the US and Israel voting against and Moldova abstaining.

"I am absolutely certain that the overwhelming majority of member states will once again vote for the truth," Rodríguez said. "The US government will stand isolated, with at most a few lackeys."([Cubaheute](#))