

Díaz-Canel vows to resist U.S. threats of intervention



U.S. President Donald Trump threatens to “take over” Cuba (Source: [Trump White House Archived/Flickr/PD](#))

In the shadow of the war with Iran, tensions between the U.S. and Cuba continue to rise. President Miguel Díaz-Canel has sharply rejected threats from U.S. President Donald Trump. “Any external aggressor will face unwavering resistance,” Díaz-Canel [wrote](#) on Tuesday on the platform X.

Earlier, on Monday, Trump had [told](#) reporters at the White House that he expected to “have the honor of taking over Cuba.” Whether he “liberates” or “takes over” the country—he can do “whatever I want” with Cuba, Trump said. When asked, he hinted that the U.S. would intervene “in some form.” Cuba is currently “a very weakened nation,” he said. As early as the previous Friday, Trump had spoken of a possible “friendly” or “unfriendly takeover.”

In his response, Díaz-Canel rejected the U.S. justification for the pressure on his country. The U.S. government is using “an outrageous pretext: the harsh restrictions on the weakened economy that they themselves have been attacking and trying to isolate for more than six decades.” The U.S. has announced plans to “seize the country, its resources, and its property.” “This is the only way to explain the bitter economic war being waged as collective punishment against the entire people,” Díaz-Canel wrote.

The well-known singer-songwriter [Silvio Rodríguez](#) added: “I demand my Kalashnikov if they come. And I want to emphasize that I mean this absolutely seriously,” [he wrote](#) in a post on his blog Segunda Cita.

Rubio Denies Media Report on U.S. Plans

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio rejected a [report](#) in the *New York Times* claiming that Washington is pushing for Díaz-Canel's removal from power in ongoing talks. The article is "false" and relies on "charlatans and liars who pretend to know what's going on," [said](#) Rubio.

The *New York Times* had based its report on four independent sources familiar with the negotiations, including a U.S. official. According to the report, the U.S. government had signaled to Cuban representatives that it wanted Díaz-Canel removed from power, without, however, seeking a complete change of government. This is a strategy that is unlikely to go down well with Rubio's far-right voter base among Cuban exiles in Florida.

Trump issued his threat on Monday almost simultaneously with the start of the first nationwide power outage since the oil embargo in January. The outage paralyzed the entire power grid for more than 24 hours. Unlike in previous outages, no cause has been cited so far—though the power grid operator UNE was able to rule out a power plant failure, and generation capacity was not significantly lower than in the days prior. By 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, the grid had [been restored](#).

Just a few days before the U.S. threat, [Díaz-Canel announced](#) that formal diplomatic dialogue between Cuba and the U.S. had recently begun. ([Cubaheute](#))