

Global criticism of oil embargo against Cuba



*Demonstration against US military action against Venezuela on January 3 in Havana
(Source: Presidencia)*

On January 29, the US government under Donald Trump [issued a](#) new executive order classifying Cuba as a “threat to national security” and imposing punitive tariffs on countries that supply Cuba with oil and petroleum products. The measure, which is seen as an escalation of the economic blockade against the socialist Caribbean state that has been in place for over six decades, has been met with international criticism.

“As everyone knows, including the US government itself, Cuba poses no threat whatsoever to the United States, its national interests or the well-being of its citizens,” the Cuban Foreign Ministry wrote in a recent [statement](#). “Cuba does not threaten or attack any other country. It is not subject to sanctions by the international community. It is a peaceful, supportive, and cooperative country that is willing to help and cooperate with other states.”

The Mexican government had already [spoken out](#) on Friday, condemning the measure and [announcing](#) its solidarity. However, the country had already stopped oil deliveries on Tuesday, officially citing economic reasons.

In addition to [China](#), Venezuela also strongly condemned the order. In a statement released on Friday, the Venezuelan government described it as a “flagrant violation of international law.” Foreign Minister Yván Gil [said](#) the measure was aimed at “restricting legitimate trade between sovereign states.” Venezuela also condemned the classification of Cuba as a threat to US national security as ‘absurd’ and warned of “real dangers to the existence” of the Cuban nation.

The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry called on the international community to take collective action to counter the “humanitarian consequences of these aggressions.” The government in

Caracas emphasized that the punitive measures were part of a “strangulation strategy aimed at breaking the will of the peoples.”

The Foro de São Paulo, an alliance of left-wing and progressive parties and organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean, [condemned](#) the US measure as “absurd coercion.” The organization called on all “defenders of the sovereignty of the peoples” to “act immediately to protect Cuba.”

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova [described](#) the US measures as a “relapse” into a “policy constantly applied by the United States against Havana.” Russia “strongly condemns the illegitimate and restrictive steps,” Zakharova said.

The diplomat also [criticized](#) the fact that Russia, along with other “full-fledged partners” of Havana, was classified as a “hostile” and ‘malicious’ state in the “new anti-Cuban document” from Washington. “This kind of labeling does not contribute to the stabilization of Russian-American dialogue, nor does it increase the effectiveness of the United States’ mediation efforts in resolving crises in various regions of the world,” she emphasized.

The Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA) [condemned](#) the executive order “in the strongest terms” as a “cruel and illegal escalation of the 65-year economic war against Cuba.” The party described the measure as an “act of economic terrorism” and accused the Trump administration of seeking to inflict “maximum suffering” on the Cuban people through the blockade.

The Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB) also [assessed](#) Trump’s order as a “new level of economic warfare” against Cuba. In a statement released on Friday, the party said the measure was part of a “revival of the Monroe Doctrine” in its “more aggressive 21st-century version.”

The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Cuba also expressed its opposition to the measures. “The latest news, which among other things announces the elimination of any possibility of oil imports into the country, is causing alarm, especially among the least privileged. The danger of social chaos and violence among the children of the same people is real. No Cuban of good will would be happy about this,” reads the [statement](#), which will be read in all Cuban parishes during Mass this weekend.

A spokesperson for the United Nations [reaffirmed](#) the organization’s position when asked by the Cuban news agency *Prensa Latina*: “As you know, the General Assembly has repeatedly called for an end to the blockade against Cuba.” He called on all member states to “implement the resolutions of the General Assembly.”

The UN General Assembly has called for the lifting of the US blockade against Cuba in 33 consecutive resolutions. It has been in place for over 65 years and is considered one of the longest unilateral sanctions in history. ([Cubaheute](#))