

May Day rally makes a comeback on Revolution Square



The demonstration, which lasted a good hour and a half, began at seven in the morning in Havana (source: [MMCrux/X](#)).

Several hundred thousand people took part in the Cuban Workers' Union (CTC) central May Day march in Cuba's capital today. For the first time since 2022, the state-organized mass demonstration, considered the world's largest May Day rally, took place again [in Havana's Revolution Square](#). In other provinces across the country, several hundred thousand people also gathered in streets and squares to celebrate Labor Day under the slogan "For Cuba, we build together."

President Miguel Díaz-Canel was joined on the podium in Revolution Square by 93-year-old revolutionary leader Raúl Castro. This year marked the 25th anniversary of Fidel Castro's "[concept of the revolution](#)," which he proclaimed on May 1, 2000, at the same location. The march was led by healthcare workers and employees of the biotechnology sector.

"We are celebrating the festival of the world proletariat in the midst of a complicated international situation," said Ulises Guilarte de Nacimiento, president of the trade union confederation, in his speech, in which he interpreted the number of participants as confirmation of the need to continue the "struggle to consolidate our freedom, independence, and social justice."



May Day in Santiago de Cuba, the country's second largest city (source: [Luis Alberto Portuondo Ortega/FB](#))

The May Day rally is the most important mass demonstration in socialist Cuba and is considered an indicator of the political system's ability to mobilize. Buses and factory transport were organized for the participants, who were mainly organized in factory blocks, and several important streets in Havana were closed the evening before. In 2023 and 2024, the demonstration was significantly smaller due to the economic and energy crisis.

At that time, it was moved to the Malecón waterfront promenade. Instead of organizing buses, only residents of neighborhoods within walking distance were called upon to participate. Last year, the organizers counted around 200,000 people.

"We are aware that there is still a lot to do," said de Nacimiento, commenting on the country's current economic crisis. It is important to eliminate "distortions and negative trends, including quite a few bureaucratic attitudes." Increasing food production to replace expensive imports with domestic production is "crucial," according to de Nacimiento. He called for the lifting of the US economic blockade, which was tightened by the [re-inclusion of Cuba](#) "in the notorious and unilateral list of alleged state sponsors of terrorism" on January 20, one of the first acts of US President Donald Trump. The aim of these tougher sanctions is "to cause shortages, destabilize the country, and realize the failed dream of ruling Cuba."

"We also condemn the perfidious US campaign against the medical cooperation programs that Cuba offers in more than 50 countries, with which they are trying in vain to wipe out this genuine example of humanism, solidarity, and cooperation," said de Nacimiento. He reaffirmed Cuba's rejection of the Gaza war and its solidarity with the Palestinian people and workers worldwide "who suffer exploitation due to the multidimensional crisis of the capitalist system and its neoliberal policies." The demonstration, which lasted a good hour and a half, ended as usual with the singing of the "Internationale" on Revolution Square.

According to [information](#) from the party newspaper *Granma*, around 600,000 people took part in the central rally in Havana, with 5.3 million people taking to the streets nationwide. In the province of Cienfuegos, 250,000 people were [counted](#) gathering in the streets and squares of the city on May 1. In the provincial capital of Pinar del Río, 100,000 people took part in the rally, with 360,000 participating across the province as a whole. In Guantánamo, 80,000 participants were counted. Once again this year, international delegations from trade unions and left-wing and communist parties from various countries were among the participants. From Germany, a brigade from the Left Party and the Left Youth, as well as members of the DGB trade unions, attended the rally in Havana. ([Cubaheute](#))