

Mexico sends aid supplies to Cuba



Government Palace in Mexico City (Source: [Cbl62/Commons/CC-BY-SA 3.0](#))

Mexico will send humanitarian aid to Cuba this week, President Claudia Sheinbaum announced at a public event on Sunday. The shipment will include food and other basic supplies, she said. At the same time, her government is working diplomatically to “settle everything related to the delivery of oil for humanitarian reasons.”

Sheinbaum: “Never discussed the issue of oil for Cuba”

Mexico had become an important oil supplier for Cuba after Venezuela stopped its deliveries as a result of the kidnapping of President Nicolás Maduro by the US.

Last week, US President Donald Trump [threatened punitive tariffs](#) on all countries that supply Cuba with oil. Sheinbaum then instructed her foreign minister to contact Washington to clarify “the exact scope” of Trump's order.

Until a diplomatic solution is found, Mexico will “supply other essential products that the Cuban people urgently need,” said the left-wing president. She also denied having spoken to Trump about oil supplies to Cuba.

The US president had previously claimed that he had asked Sheinbaum to stop the deliveries. “We have never discussed the issue of oil for Cuba with President Trump,” Sheinbaum clarified.

Mexico finds itself in a difficult position: the country is dependent on good trade relations with the US, but at the same time has a tradition of solidarity with Cuba. Since Trump's return to the White House in January 2025, Mexico has repeatedly faced customs threats. This year

also marks the review of the North American Free Trade Agreement (T-MEC), which links Mexico, Canada, and the US.

No formal dialogue

Trump recently increased the pressure on Cuba. “Cuba will fail pretty soon,” Trump told reporters in Iowa on Tuesday.

On Saturday, Trump announced aboard Air Force One that his administration had begun talks with the Cuban leadership. The situation for Cuba is “really bad,” Trump said: “They have no money. They have no oil.” That is why “a deal” will be negotiated. His measures to cut off oil supplies would force Cuba to the negotiating table, he predicted. The negotiations would be “nice.”

Trump did not specify his concrete goals, nor did he provide any details on the status or timing of the talks. The Cuban side [denied](#) that there was any “formal dialogue” with the US, but said it was “open to talks as long as the sovereignty and political model of the island are respected,” according to Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío.

Criticism of the Global South

The development has been met with [sharp criticism](#) internationally – but not only towards the US.

Cuban analyst Elnecio [wrote](#) on the X platform: “Cuba has been an associate member of [BRICS](#) since 2025. Cuba’s economic decline or collapse would only prove that BRICS does not work as a bloc.” If the BRICS countries allowed themselves to “hand over an official member of the illegal US economic blockade” at this crucial moment, it would be a victory for the unipolar world. “The biggest test that the BRICS will face as a bloc will be the rescue of Cuba,” said Elnecio.

The news channel *Al Jazeera* also voiced criticism. In a commentary by journalist Belén Fernández, she stated: “While the United States is tightening the screws, Cuba’s supposed allies are responding with nothing but empty gestures and selective solidarity.” What is needed now, she said, is genuine solidarity. “If Cuba fails, it will be nothing less than a global failure.” ([Cubaheute](#))