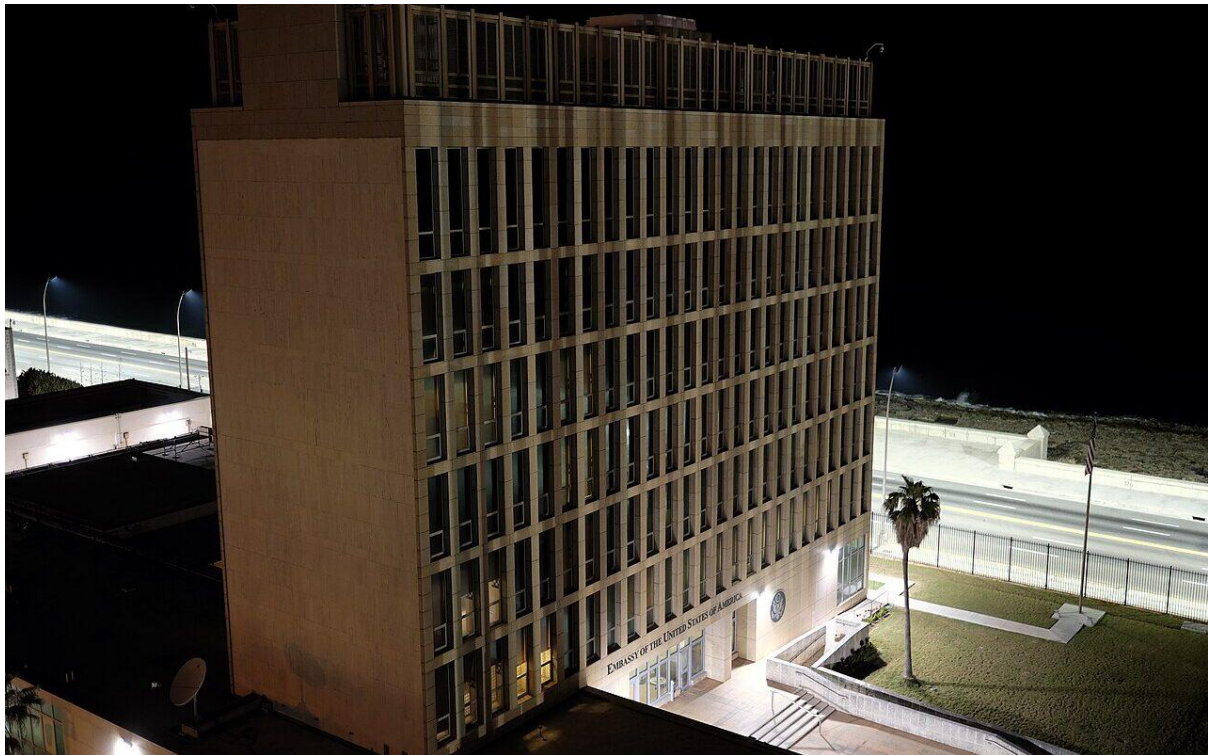


New U.S. Sanctions Against Cuba – No Progress in Talks



U.S. Embassy in Havana: Cuba Questions the Sincerity of the Dialogue (Source: [Bjen78/Commons/CC-BY-SA 4.0](#))

On Tuesday, the U.S. government [imposed](#) sanctions on the daughter-in-law of former President Raúl Castro and five Cuban state-owned enterprises, including three institutions affiliated with the military conglomerate Gaesa.

Among those affected are the financial institution Banco Financiero Internacional (BFI), the logistics company Almacenes Universales, the sovereign wealth fund Rafin, the mining company Geominera, and Cuba's largest steel mill, the Empresa Siderúrgica José Martí in Havana. The measures fall under the jurisdiction of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and, as usual, will be implemented by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). Third countries and companies that continue to maintain business relationships with the sanctioned entities risk facing sanctions of their own as a result of these measures.

Also on Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, by a vote of six to three, that the U.S. oil company ExxonMobil may sue Cuban state-owned enterprises in U.S. courts for damages. This concerns property expropriated after the 1959 revolution, including more than a hundred gas stations and an oil refinery worth over one billion U.S. dollars. Observers see this as another lever Washington intends to use to increase economic pressure on the island.

The punitive measures were imposed just five days after the adoption of a comprehensive economic reform package, which experts say represents the most far-reaching step toward liberalization of the Cuban economy in decades. As part of the reforms, in addition to opening up the private sector—which also includes the fuel trade—the participation of Cubans living abroad in the economy is also to be expanded.

Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez sharply rejected the new U.S. measures. On the short-form messaging service X, he described Rubio as "dishonest and deceitful" and stated that Cuba had "proved to be stronger, more capable, and more effective than expected in the face of the ruthless aggression and collective punishment of the people."

What Rubio is "pursuing from the most powerful nation in the world" is a crime, according to Rodríguez. Cuba's UN Ambassador Ernesto Soberón Guzmán also stated that no government and no reasonable person could believe that tightening sanctions would benefit the Cuban people.

Although the dialogue between the two governments, which began in March, is technically still ongoing, it has stalled. Deputy Foreign Minister Josefina Vidal Ferreiro, who is currently on a trip abroad, [expressed](#) doubts to the Mexican newspaper *La Jornada* about the sincerity of the talks: "It has happened that we sit down for talks, and a few days later a new sanction is imposed. This makes us doubt how seriously and responsibly the U.S. is taking these talks."

Cuba is willing to discuss all issues with Washington, with the exception of matters concerning the country's independence, sovereignty, and internal order, Vidal said. ([Cubaheute](#))