

Protests against energy crisis in Bayamo



Protest rally on Saturday in Bayamo (Source: [Yanetsy Rodríguez Sampson/FB](#))

On Friday night, protests broke out in the eastern Cuban city of Bayamo over ongoing power outages. According to reports on social media by the state-run local broadcaster CNC Granma, several dozen residents gathered on the streets and demanded that power be restored. It was the second night of protests of this kind this week.

Yanetsy Rodríguez, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Bayamo, described the protests in a statement as “demands” by the population in view of the “complex situation in the power supply that the country is going through.” Rodríguez said that they would not tire of engaging in dialogue with the people of Bayamo. “We are not from here or there, we are one people and together we will move forward.”

Videos circulating on social media, whose authenticity could not be directly verified by the Spanish news agency [EFE](#), show dozens of people in the dark demanding electricity and food, banging pots and shouting anti-government slogans.

According to social media reports, similar protests have also taken place in recent days in Jabaquito in the province of Granma, in parts of Santiago de Cuba, in the provincial capital of Pinar del Río, and in Cienfuegos. So far, there have been no reports of arrests in connection with the protests.

Cuba has been experiencing a severe energy crisis for several years, which has worsened in recent days with a high generation deficit of over 50 percent of demand after two important power plants [were damaged](#). In large parts of the country, power cuts of more than

20 hours are currently occurring on a daily basis. The causes are a lack of foreign currency to import fuel and breakdowns in the outdated thermal power plants, which have been suffering from chronic underfunding for decades. ([Cubaheute](#))