

Ramiro Valdés has died



Cuba continues to work on vaccines and cancer drugs (Source: [ElDescarte](#))

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel announced the death of Ramiro Valdés Menéndez on Sunday. The 94-year-old Comandante of the Revolution was, along with Raúl Castro and José Machado Ventura, one of the last three prominent representatives of the “historic generation” that played a decisive role in shaping the Cuban Revolution.

Díaz-Canel [announced](#) the death on the social media platform X. “The physical passing of the Comandante of the Revolution, Ramiro Valdés Menéndez, pains us deeply, like the loss of a father,” wrote the Cuban president.

All of the representatives of the historic generation mentioned at the outset participated in the three pivotal battles of the Revolution: the assault on the Moncada Barracks in 1953, the landing of the motor yacht Granma in 1956, and the guerrilla struggle in the Sierra Maestra until the Revolution’s victory in January 1959.

Valdés was born on April 28, 1932, in the La Matilde neighborhood of the western Cuban province of Artemisa to a poor family. He took part in the failed attack on the Moncada Barracks, with which Fidel Castro attempted to overthrow the dictator Fulgencio Batista on July 26, 1953. Later, he traveled from Mexico to Cuba on the Granma with the Castro brothers and other rebels—a voyage that marked the beginning of the guerrilla war that swept Batista from office two and a half years later. In the guerrilla movement, Valdés served as deputy commander of a column under the Argentine revolutionary Che Guevara.

After the revolution’s victory in 1959, Valdés, as Minister of the Interior—a position he held from 1961 to 1968 and again from 1979 to 1985—established the state security and

intelligence apparatus. The G2 service he founded was closely modeled on the Soviet KGB and monitored domestic dissidents as well as forces abroad deemed hostile.

Michael Shifter of the think tank Inter-American Dialogue [explained](#) that Valdés had weathered “the toughest phase of the conflict after 1959” between the new revolutionary government and armed anti-communist groups, some of which operated with CIA support. In addition to his roles as Minister of the Interior, he also served as Minister of Information Technology and Communications (2006–2011), was a founding member of the Communist Party of Cuba, and has been Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic since 2019.

Most recently, he was involved in the implementation of the ongoing [program to build solar parks](#). For his role in the revolution, he was awarded the highest state honor, “Hero of the Republic.” Valdés had not appeared in public for months. ([Cubaheute](#))