

Silvio Rodríguez gets his Kalashnikov



Singer-songwriter Silvio Rodríguez is armed; here is a replica (Source: PCC/Instagram)

U.S. President Donald Trump's threat on Monday to "take over" Cuba has [sparked](#) sharp backlash on the island. Among those speaking out is the well-known singer-songwriter [Silvio Rodríguez](#), who rose to become a legend of the "Nueva Trova" movement in Latin America starting in the 1970s. On March 18, he [wrote](#) on his blog Segundo Cita: "I demand my [AKM](#) [Kalashnikov] if they come. And I want to emphasize that I mean this absolutely seriously."

The AKM is the successor to the Soviet AK-47 and the standard rifle of the Cuban armed forces.

Cuba's president didn't hesitate and immediately granted the 79-year-old's wish: On Friday, during a formal ceremony at the Ministry of Defense, he was presented with an AKM assault rifle along with a replica. The presentation was made by Defense Minister Álvaro López Miera in the presence of President Miguel Díaz-Canel in his capacity as Chairman of the National Defense Council.

The [statement](#) noted that the presentation was made "in just recognition of his patriotic willingness to take up arms in defense of the homeland against any aggression by the U.S. government." According to the statement, the ceremony is part of the Cuban military doctrine of the "War of the Entire People" (*Guerra de Todo el Pueblo*), which calls for the participation of all citizens in national defense.

Major General Víctor Leonardo Rojo Ramos, head of the Political Directorate of the Cuban Armed Forces, stated at the ceremony: “While the threats and perfidy of the U.S. government are once again looming over our homeland, while we hear statements that seek to appropriate our soil and violate our sovereignty, Silvio’s voice did not sing—it thundered.”
([Cubaheute](#))