

UN Working on Emergency Fuel Aid Plan for Cuba



The office of UN Secretary-General António Guterres confirmed the talks (Source: president.az/Commons/CC-BY-SA 4.0)

According to a [report](#) by the Spanish media outlet *Democrata*, the United Nations is currently in talks with several countries to supply Cuba with fuel.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres confirmed to the outlet on Tuesday that the United Nations is in contact with several interested countries to support Cuba in light of the ongoing power outages. His deputy spokesperson, Farhan Haq, explained at a press conference that talks are underway “to ensure, for humanitarian reasons, that Cuba has the fuel it needs to meet its humanitarian needs.”

When asked whether there had already been positive feedback from the countries approached, Haq merely referred to the United Nations’ “serious concern” about the “severe fuel shortage” on the island. “In recent months, we have made limited progress in procuring fuel and are continuing to work on it,” Haq said.

The Trump administration had drastically tightened its blockade against Cuba at the beginning of the year. With the abduction of Venezuelan President Maduro, fuel shipments from Caracas were interrupted; on January 29, Trump threatened to impose punitive tariffs on any third-party countries that supply oil to the island. Ships that Cuba had chartered on the world market were intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard and rerouted to other Caribbean countries.

Washington justifies the sanctions by citing an alleged threat to national security posed by Cuba. At the same time, Trump stated that he wanted to “take over” the island. The United Nations has condemned the energy blockade as a form of collective punishment.

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