

USA puts Cuba back on list of “uncooperative countries” in fight against terrorism



A classification that is considered absurd (not only) by Havana: screenshot of the US Secretary of State's website (source: [US State Dept](#))

On Tuesday, the US State Department once again placed Cuba on a list of countries that “do not fully cooperate with US efforts to combat terrorism.” The State Department cited as grounds that at least eleven individuals wanted by the US are residing in Cuba and that Havana is refusing to extradite them.

Among those individuals are Puerto Rican independence activist [William Morales](#), who has lived there since 1988, and [Assata Shakur](#), a former activist in the African-American resistance movements Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army, who was granted political asylum by Havana in the early 1980s.

With this decision, Donald Trump's administration is reversing an order issued by his predecessor Joe Biden in May last year to remove Cuba from the list of “Not Fully Cooperating Countries” (NFCC).

On his [first day in office](#), Trump had already reversed Biden's removal of Cuba from the list of “state sponsors of terrorism” and imposed new sanctions.

Currently, the NFCC list includes Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, Syria, and Iran. According to State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce, the designation “prohibits the sale or licensing of defense articles and services for export to Cuba.”

In practice, the re-inclusion in the NFCC list is primarily a symbolic step, as the “state sponsor of terrorism” list already imposes corresponding restrictions. It comes just days after Russia announced investments of more than US\$1 billion in Cuba.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez condemned the measure as an “unfair political decision” and accused the US government of “double standards.” He said the reasoning of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the son of Cuban exiles and a radical opponent of the government in Havana, was “based on lies.” It denies Cuba's commitment to multilateral

initiatives against terrorism. Rodríguez also pointed out that it was only in 2024 that the Biden administration determined that the accusations were completely unfounded.

In a statement by the Cuban Foreign Ministry entitled “A repeated lie does not become the truth: Cuba does not support terrorism,” it said that the US government was once again discrediting itself by wrongfully placing Cuba on this list. The State Department “is once again turning the fight against international terrorism into a unilateral political exercise against countries that do not bow to its hegemonic interests.” ([Cubaheute](#))