

Some Facts about a Potential US Intervention in Cuba

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What does US intervention in Venezuela mean for US-Cuba relations?

- Immediately after the abduction and illegal extradition of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to the United States, President Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that Maduro's forced removal from power would have a devastating impact on Cuba, including delivering the last and ultimate blow to their crippled economy.
- The Trump administration has stated that Cuban leaders should be "worried" and that it has blockaded Venezuelan oil destined for Cuba from reaching its shores.
- The Cuban government acknowledged the death of 32 Cubans who were serving as part of Maduro's personal security guard. Confusing relations of cooperation with subordination, Secretary Rubio has alleged that Venezuela's security apparatus has been "colonized" by the Cuban government.
- The erosion of diplomatic relations between Washington and Havana – after a long-negotiated and widely applauded return to diplomacy 11 years ago – has intensified, with very little bilateral dialogue remaining.

Why is US intervention in Cuba (military, economic or otherwise) detrimental to US interests?

- While a worsening of the economic situation in Cuba could result in social protests, **there are no indications that a significant portion of the Cuban population would support US intervention.**¹
- Experts have argued that a collapse of the Cuban government is contrary to US national interests, and would cause a **massive migration and other security threats** to the US.²
- The Cuban opposition is much weaker than that of Venezuela,³ so regime change in Cuba will undoubtedly **require military presence for a long period of time.**
- Cuban governments for many decades have been among the best partners in the Caribbean in terms of **cooperation to fight drug and human trafficking.**⁴

¹ "Trump team puts a target on Cuba, with threats and oil blockade" <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/01/06/cuba-venezuela-regime-change-trump-rubio>

² Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, Quincy Brief #78 — "U.S.–Cuban Relations: A Realist Case for Pragmatic Engagement," William M. LeoGrande & Geoff Thale, June 25, 2025. <https://quincyinst.org/research/u-s-cuban-relations-a-realist-case-for-pragmatic-engagement>

³ "After Venezuela, Trump Says Cuba Is 'Ready to Fall' "

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/05/world/americas/trump-venezuela-cuba.html>

⁴ American University Cuba Archive "Counter-Narcotics Cooperation Documents"

<https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/cuba-archive-counter-narcotics.cfm>

- Despite heavy pressures to cut ties with Cuba, **Cuba still enjoys overwhelming international support against the US embargo** and beyond.⁵ Further aggression against Cuba or interference in its sovereignty will serve to further isolate the United States from the general consensus of the international community.

What does all this mean for the Cuban people?

Additional aggression by the United States to militarily or otherwise intervene in Cuba will cause an enormous tear in the fabric of Cuban civil society; cut essential services on which the majority of the Cuban population depend; devastate the growing private sector's ability to function and to import goods; and result in an enormous wave of uncontrollable irregular migration to our southern borders.

- Cuba is currently experiencing its worst humanitarian and economic crisis in decades, with deep food and medicine scarcity, lack of resources and capacity in the health care sector, and wide-spread energy deficits that have led to daily electricity black-outs up to 20 hours in some provinces.
- While many blame the Cuban government for delayed implementation of economic reform and ill-designed economic policies, the majority of the Cuban population recognizes US economic, financial and commercial unilateral coercive measures against Cuba as the main cause of the current crisis. The vast majority of Cubans in the island would oppose and mobilize against any type of US intervention, and Cuba's fragile domestic opposition would have a much harder time winning sympathizers.
- Any further disruption to Cuba's aging energy system– including cutting off oil shipments from Venezuela – will only cause further suffering as people struggle with spoiling food, reduced access to transportation, healthcare, education, and economic activity that is inevitably affected by the lack of electricity.
- Cuba's growing private sector, which constitutes nearly half of the economy, heavily depends on imports, thus a military intervention would force the majority to close.
- Any further aggression by the U.S. in Cuba would exacerbate or destroy the delicate telecommunications infrastructure which enables private economic activity. In addition, that is the primary means of Cubans communicating with their relatives abroad, since the Trump administration extended his travel ban and has suspended all legal forms of entering the United States.⁶
- Military intervention or otherwise in Cuba by the United States will likely provoke further irregular migration, placing the lives of Cubans in serious danger given it is an island nation with no land routes for migration.



<https://acere.org/>

⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-fails-make-big-dent-un-vote-calling-end-cuba-embargo-2025-10-29/>

⁶ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/president-trump-expands-his-travel-ban-what-you-need-to-know/>