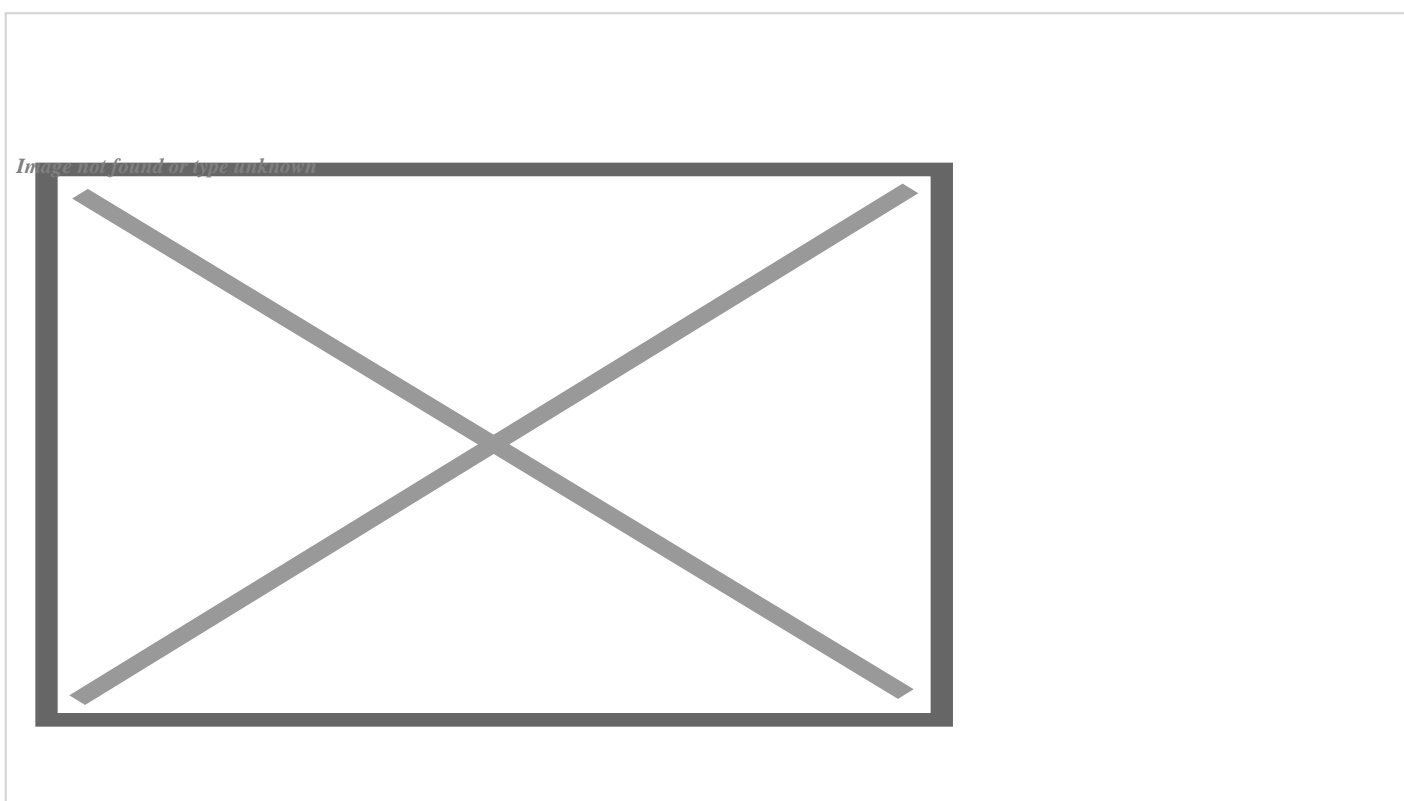


Statement of Cuban Foreign Ministry on removing island from State Department list of countries sponsoring terrorism



On January 14, 2025, the United States government announced the decision to: 1) exclude Cuba from the State Department's list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism; 2) use the presidential prerogative to prevent action from being taken in U.S. courts against lawsuits filed under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act; and 3) eliminate the list of restricted Cuban entities that designates a group of institutions with which U.S. citizens and institutions are prohibited from carrying out financial transactions, which has had an effect on third countries.

Despite its limited nature, this is a decision in the right direction and in line with the sustained and firm demand of the government and people of Cuba, and with the broad, emphatic and repeated call of numerous governments, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean, of Cubans living abroad, of political, religious and social organizations, and of numerous political figures in the United States and other countries. The Cuban government thanks everyone for their contribution and sensitivity.

This decision puts an end to specific coercive measures that, along with many others, cause serious damage to the Cuban economy, with a severe effect on the population. This is and has been a theme present in Cuba's official exchanges with the United States government.

It is important to note that the economic blockade and a good part of the dozens of coercive measures that were put into effect since 2017 to reinforce it remain in force, with full extraterritorial effect and in violation of International Law and the human rights of all Cubans.

To cite just a few examples, the illegal and aggressive persecution of fuel supplies that Cuba has a legitimate right to import continues. The cruel and absurd persecution of Cuba's legitimate international medical cooperation agreements with other countries continues, thus threatening to deprive millions of people of health services and limiting the potential of the Cuban public health system. Cuba's international financial transactions or those of any national that are related to Cuba remain under prohibition and reprisals. Merchant ships that dock in Cuba also remain under threat.

On the other hand, all American citizens, companies and subsidiaries of American corporations are prohibited from trading with Cuba or Cuban entities, except for very restricted and regulated exceptions. Harassment, intimidation and threats against nationals of any country that intends to trade with Cuba or invest in this country continues to be official U.S. policy. Cuba continues to be a destination that the U.S. government prohibits its citizens from visiting.

The economic war remains and persists in posing the fundamental obstacle to the development and recovery of the Cuban economy with a high human cost for the population, and continues to be a stimulus to emigration.

The decision announced today by the United States corrects, in a very limited way, aspects of a cruel and unjust policy. It is a correction that occurs now, on the verge of a change of government, when it should have been carried out years ago, as an elementary act of justice, without demanding anything in return and without fabricating pretexts to justify inaction, if it was desired to act correctly. In order to exclude Cuba from the arbitrary list of state sponsors of terrorism, it should have been enough to recognize the truth, the total absence of reasons for such a designation and the exemplary performance of our country in the fight against terrorism, which has even been admitted by agencies of the United States government.

It is known that the government of that country could reverse in the future the measures adopted today, as has happened on other occasions and as a sign of the lack of legitimacy, ethics, consistency and reason in its conduct against Cuba.

In order to do so, American politicians do not usually stop to find honest justification, as long as the vision described in 1960 by the then Assistant Undersecretary of State Lester Mallory, and the goal he described of subduing Cubans by means of economic siege, misery, hunger and desperation, remain in force. They would not stop to find justifications as long as that government continues to be incapable of recognizing and accepting Cuba's right to self-determination, and as long as it remains willing to assume the political cost of the international isolation caused by its genocidal and illegal policy of economic asphyxiation against Cuba.

Cuba will continue to confront and denounce this policy of economic warfare, the interference programs, and the disinformation and discrediting operations financed each year with tens of millions of dollars from the United States federal budget. It will also remain willing to develop a relationship of respect with that country, based on dialogue and non-interference in the internal affairs of both countries, despite the differences.

Havana, January 14, 2025

<https://www.radiohc.cu/index.php/en/noticias/nacionales/374109-statement-of-cuban-foreign-ministry-on-removing-island-from-state-department-list-of-countries-sponsoring-terrorism>



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