

After Iran, US imperialists' next target is Cuba



Illustration by Diego Mallo

Cuba, an island country in the Caribbeans, **where in the main a socialist structure is in existence**, has been a sore in the eyes of the US imperialists since the time its adoption of socialism in 1959 after revolutionary overthrow of the autocratic Batista regime aided and abetted by the Pentagon rulers. During the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, the architect of the revolution, announced in April 1959 that the revolutionary government would be “Cubanizing Cuba”. This might seem “paradoxical”, he explained, but Cubans “undervalued” everything Cuban. They had become “*imbued with a type of complex of self-doubt*” in the face of the overwhelming US influence on the island’s culture, politics and economy. As one US broadcaster Walter Cronkite recalled: “*The rise of Fidel Castro in Cuba ...brought communism practically to our shores. Cuba was a resort land for Americans ... we considered it part of the United States*”. The hostility of the US towards Cuba persisted for over seven decades The Pentagon rulers made repeated attempts to seize Cuba through invasion attempts, covert sabotage, diplomatic isolation, planting terrorism, and draconian economic sanctions. But all have proved abortive so far. Cuba’s endurance and resistance remain one of the defining anti-

imperialist struggles of the era. So, rightly observed Fidel Castro that Cuba would not be forgiven for carrying out “*a socialist revolution right under the nose of the United States!*”

President Trump’s threat to invade the island country

But now there is a renewed effort to crush socialist structure of Cuba with US President Trump’s escalated fixation on Cuba by intensifying economic warfare pushing the island into a severe humanitarian crisis, obviously under the mandate of his masters, the ruling US monopolists and multinationals. Trump no longer speaks the cautious language traditionally used by former American presidents when discussing Cuba. He boasts openly that he could “*take Cuba in some form*” and insists, “*I can do anything I want with it.*” “*On the way back from Iran, we’ll have one of our big - maybe the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier - the biggest in the world, we’ll have that come in, stop about 100 yards offshore, and they’ll say, ‘Thank you very much. We give up’.*” Such rumblings are not rhetorical excesses alone. They reveal the hegemonic political objective the US rulers are seeking to achieve with the belief that Cuba’s sovereignty is conditional upon US approval.

Draconian economic blockade

The historical continuity is impossible to ignore. In 1960, US diplomat Lester Mallory argued openly that American policy toward Cuba should induce “*hunger, desperation and overthrow of government.*” More than six decades later, the strategy remains fundamentally unchanged. The tools have evolved technologically, but the political objective persists, adopting inhuman route to regime change.

On 29 January last, Trump signed an executive order claiming that Cuba constitutes “*an unusual and extraordinary threat*” to US national security and foreign policy and authorizing tariffs on goods from countries selling or providing oil to Cuba. This followed the December 2025 seizure of tankers carrying Venezuelan oil and, the abduction of Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro and his wife through a swift military operation on 3 January. In the process, Trump administration has effectively engineered an oil blockade around the island paralyzing its fuel supply. It has also issued threats against countries trading with Havana, threatened imposition of high tariffs on countries or corporates supplying oil to Cuba, intercepted Venezuelan shipments, and pressurized Mexico and other regional actors to halt fuel deliveries.

Trump openly celebrates the suffering produced by the embargo, boasting that “*there’s no oil, there’s no money, there’s no anything.*”

Catastrophic consequence of economic blockade

In 2025, Cuba’s annual report to the United Nations put the cumulative cost of the US blockade at over US\$170 billion. Costs are rising year after year, reaching \$7.6 billion from March 2024 to February 2025 alone. Despite blockade conditions lasting over six decades, invasion attempts, covert sabotage, diplomatic isolation, by the chieftain of world imperialism-capitalism, its endurance remains one of the defining anti-imperialist stories of the modern era. Overcoming all such adversities, Cuba achieved universal literacy, extensive public healthcare, advanced biotechnology research, and social indicators comparable to wealthier nations.

But now, consequent to deployment of most devastating weapon deployed of energy deprivation, the island country is in severe distress. The fuel shortage is no longer just an energy crisis but a food systems one. Genocidal energy blockade and resulting shortages of oil and diesel are disrupting every stage of Cuba’s food supply chain. Without reliable fuel, getting food from the field to the table becomes increasingly difficult, resulting in shortages, inflation, and food insecurity across the country. A lack of diesel has left tractors, harvesters, irrigation systems, and transportation vehicles unusable. Farmers are increasingly forced to rely on manual labor, dramatically slowing production and reducing yields. Farmers like Obiols Sobredo in the Cuban town of Las Minas produces crops like tomatoes, sorghum, and cassava. Farm work that used to take him 15 minutes with fuel now takes him three days by hand, significantly impacting his ability to feed his community. Milk from Sobredo’s goats was once delivered to nearby schools, but fuel shortages now make transportation unreliable and refrigeration difficult, increasing the risk of spoilage before the milk can reach children. The crisis highlights a broader global reality: food security depends on stable energy infrastructure. When fuel systems fail, the effects ripple across agriculture and supply of food items.

The whole island country is plunged into darkness as its power supply depends on imported fuel. Cuba has completely run out of diesel and fuel oil reserves, leaving the national electrical grid in a “critical” state. The country has installed 1,300 megawatts of solar power over the past two years, but much of that capacity is lost to grid instability amid the fuel shortages, reducing efficiency and output. While

panels may have been installed, Cuba is short of the batteries that allow it to keep supplying homes through the night. People in Havana have been walking past a large rubbish bin burned at night in protest against prolonged blackouts. Cooking gas is critically scarce, forcing residents to cook with charcoal. Public transportation, tractors, and agricultural machinery are frequently immobilized by the lack of fuel. Sanitation infrastructure and water access are increasingly unstable.

World famous healthcare system is in peril

As the global people are aware of, Cuba had developed a high quality medical service even despite all constraints and constant threats. It also developed one of the world's largest international medical solidarity programmes. High quality medical service is free in that country. Cuba also produced Latin America's only domestically developed COVID-19 vaccines and pioneered important medical innovations in cancer treatment and meningitis prevention. In Cuba, there are at least eight doctors for every 1,000 citizens—the highest ratio in the world. No country, including the US, can boast of such numbers.

Now that celebrated healthcare system is in peril. Ambulances are immobilized by fuel shortages. The lack of reliable power is impacting vital healthcare services, causing worries about the ability to perform delicate surgeries and the spoiling of refrigerated vaccines. Food transport systems have partially collapsed. Refrigeration failures have intensified shortages largely gone amid tropical heat. Schools and universities have suspended classes during prolonged blackouts. Water distribution systems have been disrupted because pumping stations depend on electricity. Entire neighbourhoods in Havana and eastern Cuba endure outages lasting more than twenty hours daily.

Thus, within two weeks of issuance of Trump's executive order, the United Nations Human Rights Office warned that essential services were at risk in Cuba.

Cuba's humanitarian face

Whom the US imperialists are now out to crush? A devil as claimed by them or an angel the suffering people of the world are in effusive praise of? Guatemalan researcher Henry Morales calculated that between 1999 and 2015, Cuba's overseas development aid equalled 6.6 percent of its GDP, compared to the European average of 0.39 percent and 0.17 percent from the United States. Since 1960, over 600,000

Cuban medical professionals have served in 180 countries, saving and improving millions of lives, especially in underserved populations in the poorest countries. Since 1960, more than 600,000 Cuban medical professionals have served in 180 countries. During Covid pandemic, Cuba had dispatched medical teams to over 59 affected countries. A team of 53 Cuban specialists trained in epidemiology reached the Lombardy region, the epicenter of the epidemic in Italy, at the height of the pandemic to provide invaluable support to Italy's beleaguered medical infrastructure. A team of 39 Cuban medical professionals were also dispatched to the tiny principality of Andorra, wedged between France and Spain, whose doctors were all down with suspected COVID-19. The island nation has sent brigades of doctors and supplies to Italy, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Suriname and Grenada. Cuba has 28,268 members of medical brigades working in 61 countries around the world. This was the small country that sent 400,000 soldiers to Angola to defend it from the invading forces of apartheid South Africa.

But all these humanitarian acts have invited not just wrath but brutal opposition from the US imperialists and their allies. Cuba has survived relentless aggression from the world's most dominant imperialist power, whether through overt and covert military actions; sabotage and terrorism, economic warfare as well as international isolation. US imperialists and their allies have systematically undermined Cuba by promoting dangerous emigration while obstructing remittances, family visits, and visas. These were also topped off by lucrative funding for regime-change programmes.

Flimsy pretext of attacking Cuba

As has been seen by all, US imperialists give an excuse before attacking or invading any country. In the case of Iraq, they said that President Saddam Hussein was possessing weapons of mass destruction. After occupying Iraq, a thorough search could not find any existence of such armoury. Then the US government acknowledged that it was guided by a false information. Venezuelan president was accused of drug trading and then abducted by a secret midnight military operation. The sudden attack on Iran has been sought to be justified on the pretext that Iran possessed vast uranium material and enriching (an industrial process of increasing the proportion of the fissile isotope uranium-235 in natural uranium) the stockpile for preparing nuclear bomb which would pose danger to the world.

Likewise, the Pentagon rulers allege that way back in February 1996, the then Cuban President Raul Castro, now 94, is now charged of directing Cuban MiG-29 jet to shoot down two small aircraft belonging to Brothers to the Rescue, a Miami-based organization, looking for rafters trying to reach the United States. Four people died in that incident. Fact is that the two aircraft, which were stated to have been searching for rafters fleeing across the Florida straits, had flown over Havana to drop leaflets when they were intercepted by a Cuban jet. Now that old 390 year old incident is dug out from the debris of history to orchestrate a regime change by inciting Cuban people reeling under survival crisis to revolt against the regime and sending troops, both naval and ground by the present Trump administration which has been showing shown utter contempt for international law and has been conducting extrajudicial killings in the Caribbean and Pacific Ocean, hijacking oil fields and tankers, kidnapping crews and seizing the oil.

Cubans pledge to defend socialist structure with all their might

But the Cuban people who repose full confidence in its existing socialist system, are ready to resist US invasion with all their might. Several Cuban officials have told media persons amid the rumours of a Castro indictment in recent weeks that such a development would end ongoing negotiations, virtually a call on Cuba to “make a deal” with Trump amounting to veiled threats against its sovereignty and set the stage for a military intervention to which they would sacrifice their lives if needed. *“If half of us die, half of us die,”* one woman told during a protest over the power cuts in Havana this week where demonstrators beat pots and pans for so long that the steel was caved in with dents. *“But at least the other half get to live in peace,”* she said.

The Cuban authorities have revived civil defense preparations rooted in the revolutionary doctrine of “the war of the entire population.” Cuban civilians and military officials are not literally creating physical “human walls,” but are engaging in a nationwide defence strategy called the **“War of All the People”** to deter potential US military intervention. This doctrine involves mobilizing the entire population—including civilians, neighborhood militias, and armed volunteers—to transform every city and coastline into a battlefield, aiming to make any occupation too costly and chaotic for the US imperialist felons. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel warned on 19 May last that any US military action would lead to a “bloodbath”

with “incalculable consequences” for the region. *“Everyone in Cuba is trained militarily and ... incorporated into this system of national defence,”* Yaffe, a professor of Latin American political economy at the University of Glasgow, and host of the podcast titled Cuba Analysis, told international media. Revolutionary honour in Cuba is attached to martyrdom. The country’s official motto is “Patria o muerte, venceremos” which translates to “Homeland or death, we will prevail”.

The issue, it must be recognized, is not merely Cuba itself. It is a threat to the entire anti-imperialist peace-loving people of entire Latin America. Through 67 years of active solidarity with the working class of the world, the Cuban Revolution has earned a return of solidarity. So, it is incumbent not only the Latin American people but anti-imperialist people of the world to rise in vehement protest against possible US military attack on Cuba and demand of their respective governments to undertake all possible diplomatic measures to compel US imperialists to withdraw the seize on Cuba and abandon heinous design of occupying the island country militarily.

US imperialists
Hands off Cuba!