

A brief May Day in Cuba



Unusual perspective: Due to the energy crisis, this year Labor Day took place on May 5 as a rally at the Malecón (Source: [Cubadebate](#))

This year's Labor Day in Cuba was not under a good star. First, the traditional demonstration on Havana's Revolution Square was cut down to a smaller stand-up rally along the Malecón waterfront due to the fuel crisis. Then followed the complete [postponement](#) of the event to May 5 due to predicted "unsettled weather conditions" (which, however, could not be inferred from any weather report). After all, May 5 was also the 205th birthday of Karl Marx, which was celebrated at the same time. The unexpected second work-free day of the week in the midst of the transport crisis was probably reason enough for many to rejoice.

And so yesterday, Friday, several thousand residents from the neighboring districts of Habana Vieja, Centro, Playa, Plaza, and Cerro gathered punctually at seven o'clock in the morning for music and speeches on the Malecón. First to speak was the young biotech researcher Karen Urrutia Pérez of the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB), which is responsible for the development of the Corona vaccine "Abdala." This was followed by the general secretary of the Confederation of Trade Unions (CTC), Ulises Guilarte de Nacimiento, and then music. After the singing of the Internationals, the event, attended by President Miguel Díaz-Canel and Raúl Castro, ended after just over an hour. Participant numbers were not released, but the crowd was not comparable to the hundreds of thousands of people who usually show up in Havana on May Day. Local events were held simultaneously in other parts of Havana.

Elsewhere on the island, everything remained more or less the same: In Holguín, Santiago, Villa Clara, Camagüey and other provincial capitals, a colorful demonstration procession took place to the respective main squares. In Holguín, 200,000 participants were reported, in Ciego de Ávila 90,000, and in Guantánamo 130,000, 80,000 of them in the provincial capital. Thus, the number of participants there is about the same as in previous years. ([Cubaheute](#))