

Cuba arrests suspected terrorist from Florida



The arrested man is said to have reached Cuba on this jet ski (Source: [Cubadebate](#))

Cuban authorities have arrested a suspected Cuban exile terrorist from Florida who reached the island illegally on a jet ski. State media reported on Saturday, citing preliminary investigations by the Cuban Ministry of the Interior, that the man had planned to carry out acts of violence. He had also intended to recruit other people locally.

Several people have been arrested in the course of the investigation. According to a report in the Cuban evening news, various firearms and ammunition were seized. "Thanks to the timely denunciation and intervention of the organs of the Ministry of the Interior, a comprehensive investigation is currently underway, which has prevented the destabilization plans from being carried out at the end of the year," the [report](#) reproduced by Cubadebate states. The man is said to have planned to recruit people in his home province of Cienfuegos for attacks on state officials, sabotage operations, and political protests. Further details of the ongoing investigation were announced.

According to the Reuters news agency, there are alleged links to two organizations classified as "terrorist" by Cuba. Last Thursday, Cuba issued a national terror list containing 61 individuals and 19 organizations based in the USA that the Cuban government accuses of supporting terrorism. The list includes names of people who are alleged to have been involved in assassination attempts against Fidel Castro in the 1990s. Two of the individuals listed are said to have planned acts of sabotage against the Cuban power grid in 2020.

"The Ministry of the Interior shall ensure that there are reasonable grounds or bases for the inclusion of these persons, entities, or organizations in the National Terrorist List, with duly documented evidence that meets the criteria for designation in accordance with the

international and national standards referred to in this resolution," states the document, which was published as [Resolution 19/2023](#) in the Official Gazette.

Observers see this as a reaction to the Biden administration's renewed listing of Cuba in the "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list, which is linked to financial sanctions against the population, and to economic actors of all forms of ownership. "It certainly seems to be a reproach to the US, which refuses to remove Cuba from its terrorist list, even though there is no evidence that Cuba supports terrorism," explained US political scientist William LeoGrande. In contrast to the US terrorist list, the Cuban list is not directed against an entire country, but only lists certain individuals and organizations, the report says. ([Cubaheute](#))