Cuba marches against the US blockade



According to official sources, more than 700,000 people took part in the rally (source: Cubadebate).

According to the organizers, around 700,000 people gathered on the Malecón seawall on Friday December 20 to demonstrate against the United States' illegal economic blockade in the immediate vicinity of the US embassy. One of the main demands of the state-organized mass demonstration was the removal of Cuba from the <u>US list of terrorist supporters</u>. The *Cubadebate* news portal <u>headlined</u>: "President Biden, take Cuba off the <u>outrageous list!</u>"

President Miguel Díaz-Canel and Raúl Castro led the march, which set off shortly after 4 p.m. local time. At the start of the opening rally, Díaz-Canel called the US economic blockade, which was imposed in 1962, "wrong and immoral". He described the tightening of the blockade under Trump's first term in office as "ruthless" and emphasized that the Cubans feel no hostility towards the American people. At the same time, he promised to take decisive action against any attempts to undermine Cuba's sovereignty or socialist system.

"If the United States continues its efforts to undermine the Cuban revolution, it will only meet with rebellion and unwavering resolve on the island," he said. In addition to Cubans, numerous foreign students from various countries also took part in the demonstration, some of whom are receiving free education in Cuba. "Despite all the restrictions, Cuba is always offering a helping hand – not just to Colombia, but to all of Latin America," <u>said the</u> future Colombian doctor Yanquiel Cardoso, who is studying in Havana.

With Trump set to take office soon, the Cuban government is likely to want to close the ranks once again with the mass demonstration, after the annual <u>demonstration on May 1</u> was significantly smaller than usual this year due to the energy crisis. (Cubaheute)