

## Cuba celebrates 70th anniversary of attack on Moncada barracks



*Video projection on the facade of the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba (Source: [ACN](#))*

Cuba commemorated the 70th anniversary of the storming of the Moncada Barracks last Wednesday, which has gone down in history as "National Rebellion Day."

Some 10,000 local residents, veterans, and about 200 members of solidarity brigades, gathered before dawn in the square in front of the former barracks, now a school and museum. The event, which was framed by a cultural program, began this year for the first time with a video projection onto the facade blasted with bullet holes.

Raúl Castro and Ramiro Valdés, who participated in the July 26, 1953 attack as 22- and 21-year-olds, respectively, were also present.

In his speech, President Miguel Díaz-Canel reviewed the historic events of 1953. Of the 135 men and women, only six had been killed in action, while 55 had been summarily shot or died as a result of torture. "The Moncada Barracks turned into a workshop of torture and death," he recalled. "The actions on July 26, 1953, were the beginning of the end of the last dictatorship installed in Cuba with the immoral material help of the United States. That is why they do not forgive the Revolution until today," he added. The fallen of that attack "gave their lives to [José] Martí's ideal of achieving justice for our people and the world," Díaz-Canel said.

Today, he said, it is the responsibility of the younger generations to "maintain what we have achieved and continue to move forward." As long as the U.S. government "persists in its attempt to stifle us with its genocidal blockade, as long as we do not achieve a dignified level

of prosperity for every Cuban, we will have a Moncada to storm every day, every hour, every minute," the president said.

Socialism, he said, is Cuba's way "to achieve a more just society for all." At the end of his speech, he addressed the blockade tightened under former U.S. President Donald Trump and condemned Cuba's re-listing as a "state sponsor of terrorism," which has made the island's financial and trade relations more difficult "in almost all parts of the world."

"Including Cuba in this list does not express concern about the spread of terrorism, but is an opportunistic act to harm the Cuban economy", he said.

"The people expect answers to questions that revolve around the standard of living, without waiting for the lifting of the blockade. The extension of the offer to fight inflation is a difficult Moncada that we must attack here and throughout the country. The setback can be turned into a victory!" said Díaz-Canel at the end of his speech.

In the run-up to July 26, new social and construction projects are traditionally inaugurated. This year, for the first time since the beginning of the current economic crisis in 2020, this could be accomplished again. Thus, after a three-year interruption, the train connection between Santiago and Manzanillo could be resumed. Trains are also running again between the eastern Cuban cities of Bayamo and Manzanillo, as well as between Guantánamo and Holguín. In addition, 784 residential buildings were completed in the province of Santiago, several disadvantaged neighborhoods were renovated, and roads were paved.

Following that day, Cuba is on national vacation for the rest of the week. ([Cubaheute](#))