

## Cuba's deputy defense minister dies in office



*Ramón Espinosa Martín passed away yesterday at the age of 85 (Source: [Cubadebate/KI-scaled](#))*

As the party newspaper *Granma* [has announced](#), Cuba's Deputy Defense Minister Ramón Espinosa Martín died “unexpectedly” on Tuesday evening at the age of 85. In the short note, the newspaper praised the services of the Angola veteran, who was appointed Deputy Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) in 2021.

Born in 1939, he belongs to the “intermediate generation” that immediately follows the *históricos* (those who were involved in the 1953 attack on the Moncada barracks and landed in Cuba with the motor yacht *Granma* in 1956). Espinosa Martín was still too young for both events, but in 1957, at the age of 18, he joined the July 26 Movement and fought against counter-revolutionary rebels in the Sierra del Escambray in the early 1960s. In the 1970s, he served as commander of Cuban troops in the [Angolan War of Independence](#) and attended several military training courses in the Soviet Union. From 1982, he became the head of the Cuban Eastern Forces, and in 2009 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Defense for the first time for a few years.

Espinosa Martín was the author of several books about the Cuban missions in Angola. In November 1975, he played a decisive role in the Battle of Cabinda, where his troops managed to repel attackers from neighboring Zaire within 96 hours. The highly decorated general of the army corps was awarded, among others, the “Hero of Labor” and “Hero of the Republic” medals and was a member of the Cuban parliament from 2018. In May 2022, he was admitted to the Politburo of the Communist Party (PCC).

[His late election to the Politburo](#) was unusual, as the last representatives of the historic generation and the next intermediate generation had actually already made way for the team around President Miguel Díaz-Canel and Prime Minister Manuel Marrero to complete the

generational change. For the election of the then 83-year-old, the delegates had to be asked for an exception to the newly introduced upper age limit.

As the Granma announced, his body will be cremated and his mortal remains will be kept in a hall of honor at the Ministry of Defense until his funeral. ([Cubaheute](#))