

## Nazi costume triggers Halloween scandal in Cuba again



*Nazi costume parade in Máxim Rock (Source: [Youtube](#))*

Every year: Halloween is a beautiful custom for some, a senseless import from the Anglo-Saxon world for others - and for still others a reason to go over the top in bad taste. The classic in this behavior has been Nazi costumes since the now "legendary" appearance of Prince Harry with a swastika armband in 2005. That Cuban society is not immune to such tackiness is shown by an incident in Havana's best-known establishment for rock music, the "Máxim Rock."

There, a costume contest in which those wearing Nazi uniforms won first prize caused a scandal. A video from the event that took place last Saturday shows several people giving the Hitler salute during the awards ceremony.

Now the Cuban Institute of Music (ICM) has weighed in on the affair: "The incident immediately provoked the indignation of several people, who expressed their rejection of such an abhorrent incident both on social media and through direct complaints to government officials," the ICM wrote in an Oct. 29 [statement](#), announcing a temporary closure of Máxim Rock "given the seriousness of the incident and the institution's inability to prevent it" - until disciplinary action was taken against those responsible. Such incidents would "blatantly violate the cultural policy of the Cuban Revolution, violate morality and the principles on which the Cuban social project is based," the statement continued. Cuba considers itself a socialist state in an anti-fascist tradition and maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward Nazi symbols.

The closure was controversial on the ICM's Facebook page, with both criticism and encouragement for the measure. Many Cubans considered both the choice of costume and the award ceremony a mistake, while others defended the use of the costume as legitimate in the spirit of the idea of Halloween.

The incident was not the first of its kind in Cuba. Last year, when three youths in the eastern Cuban city of Holguín dressed up as members of the Ku Klux Klan, it also triggered a wave of outrage in state media and institutions. The evening news at the time spoke of "cultural colonization." Halloween is a relatively new custom in Cuba, but has been widely celebrated for at least a decade, especially among young and urban populations. ([Cubaheute](#))