

"Serious mistakes": Investigations against former Economics Minister Gil



Alejandro Gil during a speech to the National Assembly in 2022 (Source: [ANPP](#))

In a calm voice, the announcer of the Cuban evening news [read out](#) a report that hit Cuba like a bombshell: the former Minister of Economy Alejandro Gil is under investigation. He is accused of "serious errors" in the exercise of his functions, according to a note signed by President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

Gil resigned from office on February 2, along with other ministers. A few days later, Díaz-Canel [wished](#) him a happy birthday on X. What initially looked like a normal cadre rotation is now taking a different direction. The unspecified allegations were the result of a "rigorous investigation". The Ministry of Interior has been instructed to take up the investigation. "As part of the unchanging ethics of the Cuban Revolution during these 65 years, the leadership of our party and government has never allowed and will never allow the spread of corruption, deception and insensitivity," reads the communiqué, which was published on Thursday evening.

It continues: "From the beginning of this process, the person concerned has acknowledged the serious accusations and has subsequently resigned as a member of the party's Central Committee and as a deputy to the National Assembly of People's Power".

Alejandro Gil has served as the island's Minister of Economy since 2018, the same year that Díaz-Canel took office as President. In this role, he was also responsible for implementing

the 2021 currency reform, which is considered a failure, not least due to its timing in the midst of a severe liquidity crisis. During this time, the two often appeared together and seemed like a well-rehearsed team. Last year, Díaz-Canel announced an "investigation into the mistakes" of the currency reform. Its chief architect Marino Murillo, who also headed the Ministry of Economy before Gil and was later responsible for designing the measures, was removed from the Politburo in April 2021. Gil explained the government's economic policy in numerous public appearances until very recently. The qualified engineer was considered down-to-earth and appeared always optimistic, even in the midst of the crisis, which increasingly led to a loss of respect among the population after initial sympathy. In terms of content, he was considered a supporter of the ongoing reforms, and he "defended small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the private sector to the utmost in his speeches", says economist Omar Everleny about him. However, given the measures announced in December, which were recently confirmed by the Council of Ministers, it seems unlikely that Gil's removal will be associated with a substantive turnaround in economic policy.

Public accusations against leading cadres are a rarity in Cuba. The investigations against Gil are the first against a member of the Central Committee in 15 years. Most recently, the dismissal of Council of Ministers Secretary Carlos Lage and Foreign Minister Felipe Pérez Roque, who were also accused of misconduct, caused a stir in 2009. As a result of this step, "a new propaganda campaign against Cuba" is expected, the note concludes.

Update (13.03): On social media, some see Gil as a pawn for the poor economic performance of recent years. According to unconfirmed reports, the accusations against Gil could have something to do with the arrest of entrepreneur Fernando Javier Albán, which apparently took place a few days earlier. Albán founded the juice producer Media Luna in 2021. Originally planned as a semi-state local development project, Media Luna developed into the first SME in the province of Ciego de Ávila, with Gil allegedly benefiting from its transformation into a private company, reports the Miami-based "El Nuevo Herald". "OnCuba" places the Gil case in the context of a broader anti-corruption campaign after Díaz-Canel announced "zero tolerance" towards corruption at all levels at the end of February. The signing of a new code of ethics for state cadres also took place at the same time. Journalist José Miguel Solís from state broadcaster "Radio Rebelde" recently reported that in the province of Matanzas alone, a dozen cadres had been removed from office in the past 12 months due to mismanagement. ([Cubaheute](#))