

## Solidarity with Palestine in Havana: 100,000 march in front of the US embassy



Mainly young people took part in the demonstration in support of Palestine on Thursday  
(Source: [Cubadebate](#))

Tens of thousands of Cubans gathered on the streets of Havana on Thursday to show their solidarity with the Palestinian people in the face of the war in Gaza. The demonstration was led by Cuba's President Miguel Díaz-Canel and Prime Minister Manuel Marrero, who appeared alongside other government representatives wearing a kufiya ("Palestinian scarf"). The communist youth association UJC and the university association FEU called for the large rally.

"We have gathered here because we cannot stand aside in the face of fascism, murder and genocide against the Palestinian people," [declared](#) Raúl Alejandro Palmero, first secretary of the communist youth association in Havana, at the start of the demonstration, which passed in front of the anti-imperialist tribune near the US embassy in Havana's Vedado district. As [reported](#) by the AP news agency, many young people took part in the demonstration. The university association FEU marched with a huge Palestinian flag made up of the palm prints of students. Palestinian medical students also took part in the march. The participants chanted slogans such as "Free, free Palestine, Israel is genocide" and "Up with Palestinian freedom".



Palestine flag designed by students (Source: FEU)

It was "no coincidence that we marched in front of the United States embassy", university professor Anet Rodríguez told Reuters. "The United States is one of the main people responsible for supporting the state of Israel [...] they are supporting a massacre of Palestinians and violating international law," Rodríguez said.

"The young people taking part in this march want the attacks on Palestine to stop," said 22-year-old Cristina Diaz, who studies physics at the University of Havana. Both sides have suffered from the war triggered by Hamas' attacks on Israel on Oct. 7, she said. "It would be naive to think this is a war," she added. "It is a genocide".

The rally was the first major demonstration with an international theme in Cuba for over a decade. Such rallies have been relatively frequent under Fidel Castro but rarely occurred since, as his successors have been more focussed on economic issues rather than international politics. According to the Cuban Ministry of the Interior, over 100,000 people took part. Cuba has been supporting the Palestinian people's struggle for independence for many decades, for example by providing free study places for aspiring doctors at the international medical school ELAM. Solidarity with Palestine is also widely anchored within the Cuban population. Last Friday, the monument to national hero José Martí in Revolution Square was illuminated with the Palestinian flag. At the United Nations, the socialist island is campaigning for a two-state solution and has repeatedly spoken out in favor of a ceasefire in recent weeks. ([Cubaheute](#))