

Trump puts Cuba back on US terror list



Archive image: Donald Trump signs a decree (source: [US Senate/Commons](#))

The briefest thaw in US-Cuban relations in history has come to an end: exactly six days after former President Joe Biden [had Cuba removed from the US list of terrorist supporters](#), his successor Donald Trump [reversed](#) the decision as part of his [first official acts](#) on Monday.

Trump also reinstated an exemption for the third part of the 1996 [Helms-Burton Act](#), which allows lawsuits for property expropriated after 1959 to remain in U.S. courts, and reversed Biden's removal of the "blacklist" of sanctions against individual Cuban companies and individuals.

This returns relations between Washington and Havana to where they were at the end of Trump's first term in January 2021. During his presidency from 2017 to 2021, Trump reversed the rapprochement with Cuba initiated under Barack Obama and imposed a total of 243 additional sanctions on the island.

The Biden administration had maintained Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism until the end of its mandate. It was only on January 14 that Biden decided to remove Cuba from the list, stating that the island no longer met the criteria.

Cuba's President Miguel Díaz-Canel strongly condemned Trump's decision. On [X](#), he wrote: "President Trump has just restored the fraudulent designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism in an act of arrogance and disregard for the truth. This is no surprise. His goal is to further strengthen the cruel economic war against Cuba with the aim of domination." It is an

“act of mockery and abuse” that confirms the “poor reputation of the lists and unilateral coercive measures of the US government,” he added.

Almost simultaneously, the X account of the Cuban Foreign Ministry was hacked on Monday. The attackers [published a hoax](#) in it, according to which Cuba, [analogous to Donald and Melania Trump](#), was launching its own [meme coin](#). This Tuesday, Cuba launched the “Bastión” defense exercise at several universities, probably also in response to Trump's inauguration.

While Trump's move was welcomed by right-wing forces in the US, it was met with international disapproval. [China declared](#) that the re-inclusion of Cuba on the list of state sponsors of terrorism was a demonstration of US “tyranny”. Washington's repeated use of the list “contradicts the facts [...] and reveals the hegemonic, autocratic, and bullying face of the United States,” said Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun.

Russia's foreign office spokeswoman Maria Zakharova [said](#) that Trump's order “is aimed at further tightening financial and economic restrictions in the hope of destabilizing the situation and changing power in Cuba”. The US must be aware that such measures “have an extremely negative impact on the quality of life of the island's population”. ([Cubaheute](#))