

Let

Cuba

Live!



On January 29th, 2026, Donald Trump signed an executive order stating that Cuba is “an unusual and extraordinary threat,” imposing tariffs on “any other country that directly or indirectly sells or otherwise provides any oil to Cuba.”

This has effectively cut off Cuba’s entire fuel supply, strangling basic services like healthcare, education, and food production.

So, what’s going on? →



The Cuban Revolution

In 1959, the Cuban Revolution overthrew the US-backed Fulgencio Batista regime, establishing the country's sovereignty and initiating socialist construction.

Public education and health campaigns raised the literacy rate to 96% by 1961, and life expectancy rose to 78 years old in the 2010s. A deep commitment to internationalism also saw Cuba send 300,000 combatants to fight the apartheid regime in South Africa and 42 medical brigades to 35 countries during the COVID-19 outbreak.



US Counter-Revolution

Ever since the revolution, **Cuba has been subject to non-stop attack by the US:**

- **Cuba has been blockaded** (i.e. restricted from accessing global trade, finance, investment, and international markets) since 1960
- **The US tried to invade Cuba in 1961**
- **The CIA attempted to assassinate Fidel Castro** over 600 times between 1959 and the early 2000s.



Campbell, The Guardian (2016).

The blockade in particular has caused extensive deprivation, limiting people's access to basic necessities (e.g. medicine) and constricting the country's development. In total, it has cost the Cuban economy over \$1 trillion.

Collective punishment has been the blockade's key objective from the start. A US State Department memo from April 1960 states:

(If the above are accepted or cannot be successfully countered,) it follows that every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba. If such a policy is adopted, it should be the result of a positive decision which would call forth a line of action which, while as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation, and overthrow of government.

The Donroe Doctrine

The latest escalation – set in motion by the January 29 executive order – must be understood in the context of **Trump's renewed commitment to the Monroe Doctrine**, the 19th-century foreign policy framework declaring the Western Hemisphere a US 'sphere of influence'.

Trump's 'Donroe Doctrine' is a reassertion of this logic: any Latin American country that insists on sovereignty becomes a target of US hyper-imperialist aggression.

Cuba, a socialist nation just 90 miles off the US coast, poses the clearest challenge to the Donroe Doctrine. For over 60 years, the Cuban people have stood for self-determination and dignity on the doorstep of empire, refusing to trade in their humanity for servitude.



Targeting Venezuela

The US turned its attention towards Cuba just weeks after it abducted Venezuelan President Maduro, waging war on another socialist country within its 'sphere of influence'.

This was a carefully planned sequence considering that Cuba is heavily reliant on Venezuela for subsidised energy. Before the US' attack, Venezuela supplied over 30% of Cuba's oil.



Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

Cuba lived, for many years, on large amounts of OIL and MONEY from Venezuela. In return, Cuba provided "Security Services" for the last two Venezuelan dictators, BUT NOT ANYMORE! Most of those Cubans are DEAD from last weeks U.S.A. attack, and Venezuela doesn't need protection anymore from the thugs and extortionists who held them hostage for so many years. Venezuela now has the United States of America, the most powerful military in the World (by far!), to protect them, and protect them we will. THERE WILL BE NO MORE OIL OR MONEY GOING TO CUBA - ZERO! I strongly suggest they make a deal, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. Thank you for your attention to this matter. President DJT

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The Cuban Response

Forced into an impossible situation, the Cuban government has taken emergency steps to ration fuel. The effects have been devastating.

All secondary and tertiary schooling has been suspended or moved online, rolling blackouts are sweeping across the country, and there is extremely limited travel between provinces.

Most worryingly, food production and distribution have been heavily impacted, running the risk of a widespread famine if the blockade is not eased.

Source: Becker and De Los Santos, *The Socialist Programme* (2026).

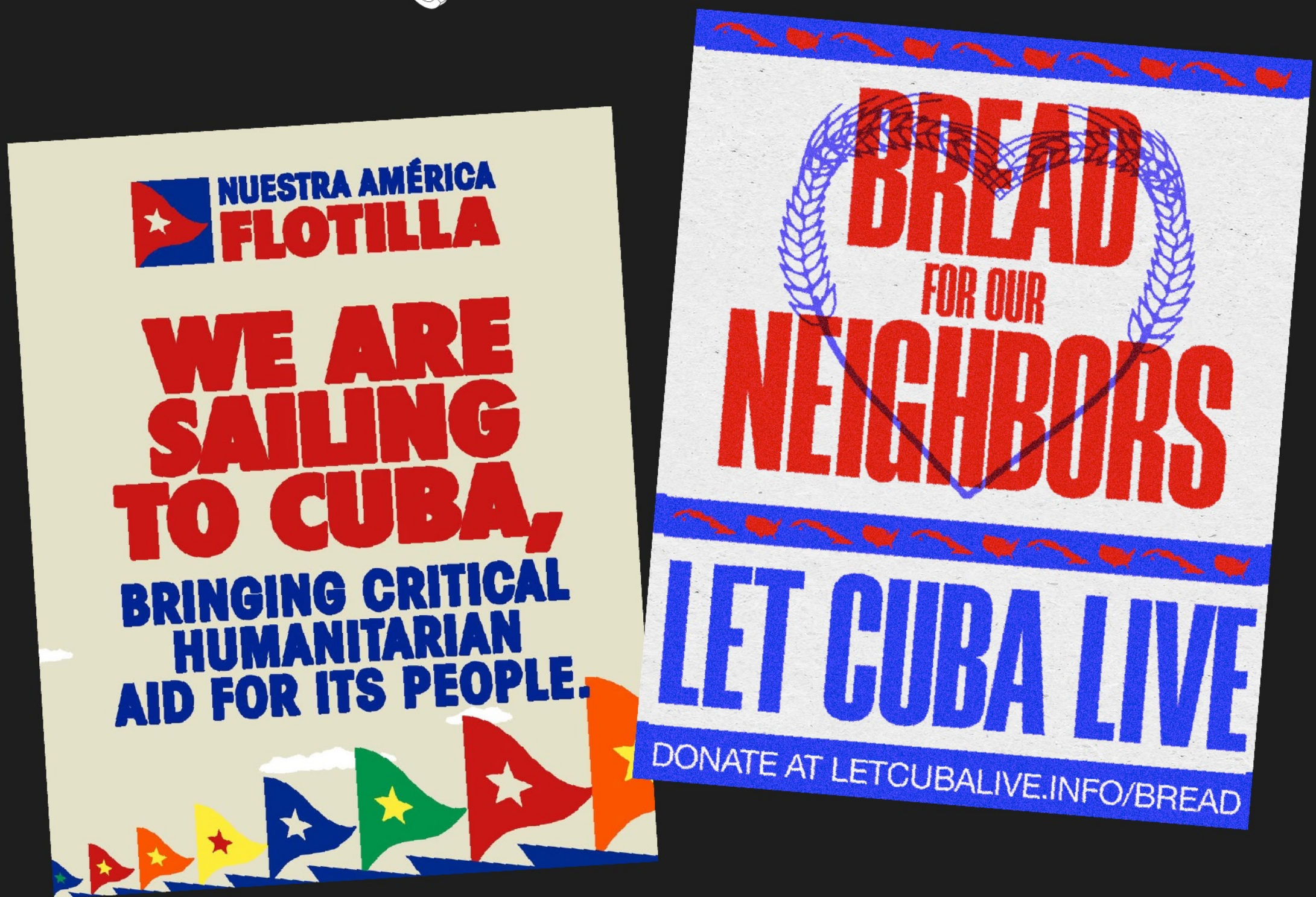
Image: A driver refuels his motorbike in Havana. REUTERS/Norlys Perez.

Parque Solar Fotovoltaico



Simultaneously, **the government is fast-tracking solar installations**, which is a source of clean energy that reduces dependency on oil imports.

In the last year, Cuba has built over 1,000 megawatts of solar power capacity – equivalent to 38% of the country's daytime electricity consumption. Equipment and financing for this development has largely been provided by the People's Republic of China.



International Solidarity

Internationally, many solidarity efforts have kicked into high gear. For example, the Nuestra América Flotilla will soon be setting sail to deliver crucial humanitarian aid, and the Let Cuba Live! campaign is crowdfunding to send solar panels and generators to Cuban hospitals.

“Solidarity with Cuba is for the Cuban people, for the Cuban Revolution, for the reality of sovereignty across the Americas, and for the idea of socialism in the world. This is now the frontline of the fight against imperialism.”