

# Trump is manufacturing humanitarian crisis in Cuba

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate on the Trump-Rubio energy blockade on Cuba, and the catastrophic human toll it has already taken. Is Washington seeking to engineer a famine to achieve regime change? ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

## #Max

I want to move on to Cuba, which is another situation where Donald Trump is catering to what he considers a key constituency. Donald Trump's administration rests on a foundation of Zionist support, and he needs South Florida. Marco Rubio is basically his secretary of state, national security council director—I guess he's in charge of USAID as well. He controls more national security and international policy-related cabinet positions than Henry Kissinger. He's really the moving force behind the Trump administration at this point. And who is Marco Rubio? Marco Rubio is the son of South Florida, the face and voice of the Miami mafia that lusts for regime change in Cuba and will do anything—including starving to death millions of Cubans, manufacturing a famine—to achieve it. Because when they were in control in Cuba under Fulgencio Batista and his U.S. mafia— and corporate-backed dictatorship, did they have any regard for the lives of poor Cubans?

No, the poor Cuban majority were essentially serfs to them, and they especially loathed Afro-Cubans. So they're in the driver's seat with Marco Rubio, and Trump believes he needs Florida to win. So this is a Florida policy—a Florida man policy. The policy was very well described by Donald Trump on Air Force One yesterday in an exchange with the press. This commentary by Trump could one day be entered into evidence at the ICC, as Donald Trump openly acknowledges that he is imposing, in his words, a humanitarian threat to force regime change in Cuba. Take a listen to what Trump said.

## #Speaker 02

You're warning Cuba to make a deal. What does that deal look like? What do you want them to do? Cuba right now is a failed nation. They don't even have jet fuel for airplanes to take off—they're clogging up their runways. We're talking to Cuba right now. Marco Rubio is talking to Cuba right now. And they should absolutely make a deal because it's a humanitarian threat. We have a lot of great Cuban Americans, and they're going to be very happy when they can go back, say hello to their relatives, and do things they haven't been allowed to do for a long time. I'm very interested in

the people here who were treated so badly by Castro and the Cuban authorities—they've been treated horribly. So we'll see how it all turns out. But Cuba and us, we are talking. In the meantime, there's an embargo. There's no oil. There's no money. There's nothing.

### **#Speaker 03**

If a deal isn't made, would you consider an operation like the one in Venezuela?

### **#Speaker 02**

I don't want to answer that. Why would I answer that if I were?

### **#Max**

So there's an embargo. There's no oil, no money, no anything—and he's taking credit for that. Those are the ingredients for famine. Those are genocidal words that remind me of what Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Galant said after October 7th: no food, no fuel. "These are human animals."

### **#Speaker 04**

Or that State Department memo from, what, like 1960, when they said our goal should be to drive up hunger and desperation—to kill support inside Cuba for the government and bring about regime change. And this has been the policy now for more than 60 years, and Trump is only intensifying it. Just look, there are so many cynical things in that one little statement. We talked about how people should be allowed to go and visit their relatives, which they should have been able to do a long time ago. He's the one who canceled the Obama policy, where Obama slightly eased the embargo to make it easier for Cuba—in part so people in Cuba could go visit their families. And he made it harder, pretty much impossible, for many Cubans to go back and visit their families. So he's the one—if he wanted to help people visit their families—he could undo his own policies. Of course, he won't do it, because the policy is aimed at making people in Cuba suffer so they push for regime change.

### **#Max**

Yeah. He also openly acknowledges that he's doing this for the "good people" who suffered so much under Castro—Carlos Jimenez, this fascist leader, a representative from South Florida who's driving this policy. I mean, Trump is openly saying he's doing this for them. He's making no secret about why he's doing it. There's no other reason to be doing it. And Cuban Americans can go to Cuba. There are flights going out of Miami every day. Many of them go there, bring gifts and donations, and help their relatives out. So that's just a complete lie. At this point—well, another point about Trump's comments—he said, "We're talking to Cuba." I don't know if that's the case.

Maybe there's been a new diplomatic opening. DropSite reported that Marco Rubio is blocking any discussion with the Cuban government. I've been talking to Cuban officials about that and asking if there are any diplomatic openings, and they've been adamant that there are no talks. They are eager to talk. Their red line is their sovereignty and independence, but they're eager to talk and negotiate with the U.S. But Trump is actually not talking to them, as far as I know. And the situation is dire in Cuba. This is a UN human rights spokesperson talking about the humanitarian crisis that Trump is manufacturing in Cuba to engineer regime change.

## **#Speaker 05**

We are extremely worried about Cuba's deepening socioeconomic crisis amid the decades-long financial and trade embargo, extreme weather events, and the recent U.S. measures restricting oil shipments. This is having an increasingly severe impact on the human rights of people in Cuba. Given the dependence of health, food, and water systems on imported fossil fuels, the current oil shortage has put the availability of essential services at risk nationwide.

Intensive care units and emergency rooms are compromised, as are the production, delivery, and storage of vaccines, blood products, and other temperature-sensitive medications. In Cuba, more than 80% of water pumping equipment depends on electricity, and power cuts are undermining access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. The fuel shortage has disrupted the rationing system and the regulated basic food basket, affecting social protection networks, school feeding, maternity homes, and nursing homes, with the most vulnerable groups being disproportionately impacted.

## **#Speaker 04**

I'm honestly amazed that Cuba has held out for this long, given everything they've been subjected to for more than six decades. It's pretty incredible. And imagine the ingenuity and resilience it takes for this little island, just 90 miles from Florida, to survive for so long under assault from the most powerful government in the world—one that has used so many means, on top of the embargo, to try to destroy it, including terrorism plots and chemical attacks on agriculture. This goes back so many years—biowarfare. It's actually incredible to me. And meanwhile, look at the impact around the world now, because what is Trump doing? He's forcing governments like Guatemala to kick out hundreds of Cuban doctors who have been there providing healthcare and supporting the medical system.

## **#Max**

Well, multiple countries have had to kick out doctors. A few of them, like, I believe, Guyana, are working on their own arrangements to pay for them to remain in the country. This is Cuba essentially donating doctors to save lives in other countries. I can say that I was once treated by a doctor in Nicaragua who was trained in Cuba, got a free education in medical school, and I got stitches for free. It would have cost, I don't know, hundreds of dollars in the U.S., because

Nicaragua emulates the Cuban medical system where they can. And yeah, they're being forced to—they're waging war on Cuba on all fronts. And Cuba's doctors, its medical brigades, are a key target because the U.S. empire sees them as soft power.

I've spoken to a few friends in Cuba—one in Havana and another who's made their way across the country, I think as far as Santiago in the east. The situation there is much more dire now. There used to be plane connections between five cities in Cuba, but those are, or soon will be, cut off. Ground transportation has been reduced to a trickle because of the oil crisis—the oil embargo, I should say. There's still cooking gas in Havana, and things are running semi-normally. Cuba is resorting to solar energy generators. It's able to produce about one gigawatt of energy, which is a lot. They want to get up to two, but that's only enough to power maybe 30% or 40% of their generators.

There are reports of child cancer fatality rates increasing by something like 20%, and of struggles to keep babies in incubators and hospitals running in general. A friend told me there's widespread hunger, but people are showing enormous resilience. One of my friends sent me a message he got from a veteran of Cuba's war in Angola, where they fought apartheid South Africa—someone who's an air traffic controller and is now cooking their food at home with wood because there just isn't any cooking gas for some people. This is not a failure of communism or socialism; it's a success of capitalism under Trump, pushing people toward famine. And there really isn't proportionate outrage in the U.S. I see many media outlets, including liberal imperialist ones like El País, kind of gloating about the pain in Cuba.

I see mainstream outlets framing this as "Cuba is forced to cancel its cigar festival." Oh, they have to cancel this fancy festival—instead of saying Cuba is actually having to dial back medical services for people. And famine is on the horizon. This is a titanic crime, and people inside Cuba are starting to call it "Gaza without bombs." That's what we're looking at—Gaza without bombs. And there should be the same kind of outrage, indignation, protest, and resistance that the Gaza genocide engendered in our cities and in our society here. But there isn't. So I want to put this on everyone's radar: we are witnessing a historic crime unfold in the name of regime change, just 90 miles from Florida.

## **#Speaker 04**

Max, you mentioned Angola, and I wanted to recommend something for people who want to understand why there's such hostility toward Cuba in Washington. It's not just because of the Cuban American lobby. There's also this hatred of Cuba because it stood up to imperialism around the world, especially in Africa. There's a great book about that I have here called *\*Conflicting Missions\** by Piero Gleijeses, and I interviewed the author a few years ago on The Grayzone—it's on our YouTube channel.

If you can still navigate YouTube—it's a lot harder to use now—but you can find that if you look up "Grayzone" and "Cuba." And, um, Washington doesn't forget. It just doesn't forget. Like, it doesn't forget that Iran overthrew a U.S.-backed dictator and there was the hostage crisis. So therefore, you know, Iran—so many decades later—they have to be regime-changed. And it's the same with Cuba. Washington doesn't forget people who defy it, and therefore, in Washington's eyes, the people, as Trump laid out, have to suffer.

## **#Max**

If we can overthrow their government, we should, uh, re-up that interview, because I think it's really important. And again, I mean, this just isn't getting the attention it deserves. This is partly happening because of the kidnapping of Nicolás Maduro, who was a staunch supporter of Cuba's revolution. Venezuela's oil exports to Cuba have been cut off. U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright was in Venezuela to negotiate deals and push for, quote-unquote, "reforms"—neoliberal reforms—to the economic structure of Venezuela to entice U.S. companies to go back in. But one of the key demands imposed on Venezuela, at gunpoint, is no more oil exports to Cuba. And every other country has been told that the U.S. will impose 100% tariffs if they export oil to Cuba.

Just imagine—consider the implications of that kind of policy in the future. The U.S. could impose 100% tariffs if one country trades with another country where the U.S. seeks regime change. It'll be used to disrupt bilateral relations. That's the world Marco Rubio announced he's moving toward in Munich. I guess we neglected to cover his speech, which I think will go down as one of the more important speeches of the Trump administration. It signals a new era—not just for the Republicans, but I think the Democrats will be seduced by the power they've been granted by Trump to topple any government using any means, including tariff policy, which is now supplanting sanctions as the preferred method of U.S. financial warfare.