

US and Israel Vote 'No' as 184 Nations Condemn American Blockade of Cuba

"The U.N. vote... on Cuba was a chance for President Biden to show global leadership," said CodePink co-founder Medea Benjamin. "He failed miserably."

By [Brett Wilkins](#)

Global Research, June 24, 2021

[Common Dreams](#) 23 June 2021

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean](#), [Middle East & North Africa](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [United Nations](#)

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Peace and human rights advocates joined the United Nations General Assembly Wednesday in their annual condemnation of the United States' disastrous economic embargo against Cuba.

For the 29th straight year, the members of the General Assembly [voted overwhelmingly](#) in favor of a resolution demanding an end to the 60-year U.S. economic blockade on Cuba. This year, 184 nations voted in favor of the resolution, while the U.S. and Israel voted against it. Three nations—Brazil, Colombia, and Ukraine—abstained.

Critics this year noted the detrimental effects of the embargo on Cuba's ability to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

The UN vote re US blockade on Cuba was a chance for President Biden to show global leadership. He failed miserably. The US & Israel vs 184 nations—and 11 million Cubans who suffer from this wretched policy—DURING A PANDEMIC. Shame on Biden. [#EndtheBlockade](#) [#EliminaElBloqueo](#)

— Medea Benjamin (@medeabenjamin) [June 23, 2021](#)

Cuba may not be able to widely administer Abdala, Cuba's highly successful COVID-19 vaccine, to the Cuban people because the US blockade has caused a shortage of 20 million syringes. ☐

This is the devastating reality of the US embargo on Cuba. [#ElMundoDiceNo](#)

— CODEPINK (@codepink) [June 23, 2021](#)

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Padilla slammed the blockade as a “massive, flagrant, and unacceptable violation of the human rights of the Cuban people” and “an economic war of extraterritorial scope against a small country already affected in the recent period by the economic crisis derived from the pandemic.”

“Like the virus, the blockade suffocates and kills and must end,” Rodríguez told the General Assembly.

Spain’s U.N. delegation [said](#) that the U.S. embargo against Cuba “has a detrimental impact on the country’s economic situation and negatively affects the standard of living of the Cuban people.”

The US embargo on [#Cuba](#) has a damaging impact on the economic situation of the country and negatively affects the living standards of the Cuban people

EU Member States unanimously vote in favour of the [#UNGA](#) resolution calling for its lifting. pic.twitter.com/RkhK9XGZGj

— EU at UN-NY (@EUatUN) [June 23, 2021](#)

Indonesia’s U.N. mission [asserted](#) that the blockade “violates norms and principles of international law and sovereign equality of states” and hinders Cuba’s “recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Sofiane Mimouni, Algeria’s ambassador to the U.N., [reaffirmed](#) his country’s “unwavering solidarity with the government and brotherly people of Cuba as well as its support for the lifting of the longstanding and unnecessary embargo imposed on Cuba.”

Mexico’s U.N. mission [said](#) it “reiterates its condemnation of the economic, commercial, and financial blockade against Cuba, and calls for its end.”

The United States and Israel would rather see people die than let the world see how Cuba can thrive without the embargo. These two countries are actively preventing world progress because capitalism and apartheid are more important to them. <https://t.co/vIOSvQKLUi>

— Left Flank Veterans (@LeftFlankVets) [June 23, 2021](#)

Rodney Hunter, political coordinator for the U.S. mission to the U.N., [countered](#) that sanctions are “one set of tools in Washington’s broader effort toward Cuba to advance democracy, promote respect for human rights, and help the Cuban people exercise fundamental freedoms.”

Although the Obama administration [took steps](#) to normalize relations with Cuba, the past 60 years have been characterized by varying degrees of [U.S. hostility](#) toward the socialist government and, by extension, the Cuban people.

Having lost effective economic control of the island in 1959 following the successful socialist

revolution led by Fidel Castro, successive U.S. administrations waged a decadeslong campaign of state-sanctioned [exile terror](#), [attempted subversion](#), [failed assassination attempts](#), [economic warfare](#), and covert operations [large](#) and [small](#) in a fruitless policy of regime change. There have been 13 U.S. administrations since the triumph of the Cuban revolution.

Cuba is ready to vaccinate the world. The 60-year-old US embargo stands in the way. The embargo is not only illegal and inhumane. It is incredibly unpopular. pic.twitter.com/HDZ6YDjKbA

— Progressive International (@ProgIntl) [June 22, 2021](#)

According to the Cuban government, U.S.-backed terrorism has [claimed](#) nearly 3,500 lives and cost the island's economy at least hundreds of billions of dollars.

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