



SF CUSTOS GLOBAL SPECIAL REPORT

Cuba under growing pressure: sanctions, domestic tensions and risks for international actors

S.F. Custos Global Reach LTD.

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Executive summary

This report treats Cuba as the core case. Latin America is used only as regional context, not as a comparative regional report.

Source facts: the reviewed specialist material describes increased US pressure, sanctions issues, domestic tension and protest signals in Havana. The relationship between sanctions, protests and regime stability is treated cautiously because the local information environment is limited.

SF Custos Global assesses Cuba as a politically tense operating environment with higher requirements for due diligence, travel planning, NGO activity and diplomatic preparedness.

Key points

- Source facts, SF Custos Global assessment and unconfirmed signals are separated.
- Unsupported hard probabilities are not used.
- Business relevance is assessed through personnel, travel, infrastructure, contracts, insurance and supply routes.

- The report is designed for decision makers who need a practical operating picture, not a political essay.
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Source picture and analytical assessment

Sanctions and domestic pressure

Sanctions rarely work in a straight line. They can limit government room for maneuver, but they can also affect informal markets, scarcity and political mobilization. Companies and organizations must distinguish between legal compliance, operational feasibility and reputational risk.

Domestic tension can appear through protest signals, economic frustration and stronger state control. A protest signal does not automatically mean an immediate regime crisis. For international actors, the practical question is whether local partners, payments, permits, travel or projects are affected.

International companies

Companies need a clean sanctions and partner review. Contracts, payment channels, end use, intermediaries and proximity to state-linked actors should be documented.

Travelers

Travel to Cuba should be reviewed by purpose, destination, communications, medical access and exit options. Political events and spontaneous crowds should be avoided.

NGOs and diplomatic actors

NGOs need clear project and finance documentation. Diplomatic actors should prepare for increased consular demand and public messaging requirements.

Actions and early warning indicators

Companies should review current Cuba exposure: business partners, payment channels, permits, insurance and reputational risk. Where sanctions exposure is unclear, legal review should precede new commitments.

NGOs should protect local partners, secure communications and document project data so that it can be explained to authorities if required.

Early warning indicators include new US or Cuban measures, confirmed larger protests, arrests with foreign links, communication restrictions, changes to payment channels and advisories from diplomatic missions.

Selected sources

- FDD / School of War, ¿Cuba Libre?, reviewed 23 June 2026.
 - FDD / School of War, Protests in Havana over U.S. pressure and Raul Castro indictment, reviewed 23 June 2026.
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Method note

This report is based on open-source material and analytical review by SF Custos Global. It does not replace legal, insurance, medical or country-specific professional advice.