

# Cuba

Cuba is a Member State of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: Inter-American System



As a Member of the OAS, Cuba is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide [complaints](#) against the State and may also hold [hearings](#) or issue [reports](#) on the human rights situation there. Cuba has not accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Cuba to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, the Commission determined Cuba violated numerous rights enshrined in the Declaration in the case of the arbitrary arrest and detention of 79 political dissidents as part of a crackdown against human rights activists and independent journalists in 2003. See IACtHR, Report No. 67/06, Case 12.476, *Oscar Elias Biscet et al.* (Cuba), October 21, 2006.

Additionally, the Commission has issued [precautionary measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Cuba.

Cuba has not ratified any of the core regional human rights treaties.

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Cuba is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Cuba's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has not accepted the complaints procedure of any treaty bodies.

Cuba has ratified the following [UN human rights treaties](#):

- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Cuba has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: [CAT](#), [CEDAW](#), [CRC](#), [CED](#), and [CERD](#).

Cuba has ratified optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Cuba has a duty to submit [State reports](#) to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Cuba has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Cuba has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Cuba has not ratified optional protocols or made a declaration allowing individuals to submit [complaints](#) against the State alleging violations of any treaties. Certain UN treaties include [inquiry procedures](#), which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Cuba has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT and the CED.

Cuba has not extended a [standing invitation](#) to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups must seek specific invitations from Cuba to conduct visits within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food went on a mission to Cuba in October-November 2007, and published [a report](#) in March 2008.

For more information on Cuba's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/LACRegion/Pages/CUIndex.aspx>.

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