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European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

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17.01.2022

Cuba: The NED invested 5 million dollars to turn over the island's government

According to the data of the US agency itself, in just one year, in the middle of the pandemic and while Washington deepened the measures of the illegal blockade against the island, through the National Foundation for Democracy the US government invested 5 million dollars to defame, attack and destabilize the Cuban government.

contexto



In 1983, Republican President Ronald Reagan gave birth to the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). Since its inception, this organization, together with the United States

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Agency for International Development, known by its acronym in English as USAID (United States Agency for International Development), has functioned as one of the economic arms of the interventionist policy of the United States government, financing Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and foundations, which disguise themselves with names of very laudable values (such as democracy or freedom), but they are intended to destabilize governments that do not align with Washington's policies.



These interventionist policies have been developed in many countries of the world, especially in those that are in what the United States considers its "backyard": Latin America and the Caribbean.

As detailed on the organization's own website, "In 2020, the LAC program of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) provided fundamental support to promote democracy in countries under the most authoritarian regimes: Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Two countries in transition, Ecuador and Bolivia, offered important opportunities to reverse previous authoritarian legislation on freedom of expression and judicial independence, and to encourage citizen participation in electoral processes. In the Northern Triangle, the NED expanded anti-corruption, digital media and human rights programs. The NED reaffirmed commitments to the largest countries in the region: Brazil and Mexico, which currently face threats from right- and left-wing populist governments, respectively" (National Endowment For Democracy official website: <https://www.ned.org/region/latin-america-and-caribbean/>).

As can be seen, the organization calls those of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela "more authoritarian regimes", countries that were openly attacked through the network of foundations and NGOs that this entity has and defamed from the media that are also

financed through these organizations or similar entities, media that have a clear alignment with the policies of the US State Department.

In the same paragraph they refer to Bolivia as a country "in transition", when, in reality, it had suffered a coup d'état (2019) and at that time (year 2020) was under the de facto government of Jeanine Áñez and Arturo Murillo. It is also said that Brazil and Mexico "currently face the threats of populist governments", putting the government of Jair Bolsonaro in the same line with that of Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

On the NED page, it is also reported that, on November 30, 2018, a meeting was held in which Democratic Senator Robert "Bob" Menéndez and the Republican member of the House of Representatives, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, two recognized activists against the popular processes of the region and with links to the most reactionary sectors of Cuban emigration based in Miami, participated. Joining them were NED President Carl Gershman and USAID Administrator Emb. Mark Green(<https://www.ned.org/events/working-towards-a-hemisphere-of-freedom-connecting-democratic-leaders-in-cuba-nicaragua-and-venezuela/>): "CSIS introduced NED leaders at a November 30 event with a focus on Latin America titled Working Toward a Hemisphere of Freedom: Connecting Democratic Leaders in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Following opening remarks by U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), NED President Carl Gershman participated in a conversation with House International Relations Committee Chairwoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and USAID Administrator Emb. Mark Green. Gershman took the opportunity to thank Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen for her unwavering support for the work of democratic activists around the world and handed her a framed impression of the Goddess of Democracy, originally built by student democracy activists in China's Tiananmen Square nearly 30 years ago. Later, NED's senior director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Miriam Kornblith, participated in a panel with activists from Venezuela and Cuba, moderated by CSIS's Moises Rendon."

"This event brought together U.S. development agencies and legislators with democratic leaders from Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela."

Cuba in the crosshairs

Since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, the United States has sought in every way to force a change of government on the island. The criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade that Washington illegally and unilaterally maintains against the

island, and that has been rejected by the vast majority of the international community in 29 votes in the United Nations (UN) is, without a doubt, the most concrete example of that systematic aggression that the US government maintains against that people.

The promoters of the blockade have confessed on more than one occasion that this series of measures are intended to suffocate the Cuban people, cause chaos and thus generate a change of government and political system (which they usually synthesize in the expression "regime change").

During the pandemic years, 2020 and 2021, the US government (first with the leadership of Donald Trump and then with that of Joe Biden) deepened the blockade with new measures. The entry of medicines, respirators, fuel and economic resources to face the crisis caused by Covid-19 was prevented. In this context, protests were fomented to destabilize the government and thus try to give the island the final blow (a new failed attempt that generated discomfort and suffering in the Cuban people, but that failed to bend it).

In the chapter dedicated to Cuba on the NED's own page, the list of resources that, during the year 2020, that organization has destined to promote destabilization on the island (destabilization that the agency makes up with the supposed purpose of "promoting democracy") is shown.

According to the data released on the official website of the NED(<https://www.ned.org>), during that year almost 5 million dollars (\$5,077,788) were invested, to which must be added the resources contributed to NGOs and Foundations that do not appear in the Chapter on Cuba, but that act on the island and, also, add the funds channeled through USAID and other similar organizations.

Below, we reproduce the long list that the NED published on February 23, 2021, on its official website(<https://www.ned.org/region/latin-america-and-caribbean/cuba-2020/>) where the NGOs and foundations that received money to intervene in Cuba during 2020 are detailed (with figures ranging from 20 thousand to 650 thousand dollars):

Advocating for a human rights framework in EU-Cuba relations

International Platform for Human Rights in Cuba

\$ 87,253

Advocate for the inclusion of human rights and the perspectives of Cuban civil society as part of the EU's engagement with the Cuban government. The beneficiary will oversee the implementation of the EU-Cuba bilateral treaty and engage relevant actors in the EU to present them with the views and needs of Cuban civil society. The group will also promote a greater understanding by Cuban activists of the opportunities offered by the new EU-Cuba relations framework to promote human rights in Cuba.

Document and denounce human rights violations in Cuba

Cubalex

\$ 150 000

Document and denounce human rights violations in Cuba. The organization will work with civil society groups on the island to document human rights violations in accordance with international standards. With this information, it will provide legal assistance to victims on the island, report on Cuba's human rights record to international organizations and governments, and advocate for greater respect for human rights and protection for victims in Cuba.

Empowering Cuban hip hop artists as leaders in society

Urban Poster Foundation

\$ 110 000

Empower Cuban artists to promote citizen participation and social change. The group will hold workshops, cultural exchanges and artistic events during its Hip Hop Summit in Colombia. It will promote South-South collaboration and invite artists from around the world to share their experiences of social transformation. The organization will advise artists and provide technical capacity to strengthen their work. The group will also raise awareness of the role hip-hop artists have in strengthening democracy in the region.

Empowering Cuban women to reduce gender-based violence

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

\$ 500 000

To increase Cuban women's knowledge of gender rights and issues, enable men to become partners in these efforts, and strengthen the capacity of Cuban activists to promote and advocate for new laws and public policies that address and reduce violence against

women, the Institute will facilitate an observatory to support the monitoring and collection of statistical data around gender-based violence and politics, as well as clinics and gender laboratories to support participants in identifying and pressing for solutions to the problem of gender-based violence in Cuba.

Promotion of a plural information space in Cuba

Freedom of information

\$ 80 000

Promote freedom of expression and a plural and independent information space in Cuba. The organization will cover stories of the Cuban reality on the island and of the Cuban diaspora. It will focus on making the information available to a wide audience in Cuba and will develop partnerships with media abroad to reach a wider audience.

Fostering Independent Thought and Writing in Cuba

Hypermedia Publishing House Inc.

\$ 93,941

Promote greater freedom of expression and independent writing among Cuban intellectuals. The organization will collect and distribute censored books produced by exiled Cuban writers to intellectuals on the island. The organization will conduct two essay contests to encourage independent writing among its target audience and will produce and distribute a biannual print magazine in Cuba. Finally, the organization will publish the winning pieces of its essay contests and present them at book fairs and other relevant spaces.

Fostering New Democratic Leadership in Cuba

Latin American Center for Nonviolence

\$ 48,597

Strengthen the leadership skills and organizational capacity of the Coalition of Self-Employed Workers of Cuba (C3). With the support of LACENV, C3 will produce and distribute an organizational newsletter, hold a fair for freelancers and organize a workshop for women entrepreneurs. LACENV will also help C3 organize virtual and face-to-face trainings for self-employed workers and include other sectors of the population in C3.

Freedom of expression in Cuba and inclusion in the regional agenda of Latin America

Institute of Communication and Development

\$ 79,300

Promote awareness and discussion about violations of freedom of expression (FSO) in Cuba. The organization will collaborate with Cuban partners to incorporate Cuba into their regional reports on FSO and Access to Public Information. It will also work with Cuban civil society to prepare a comprehensive report to be shared with the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva. The organization will also hold formal and informal advocacy meetings with its Cuban partners while in Geneva.

Raising awareness of Cuba's role in the region and assessing challenges to democratic consolidation

Electoral Transparency

\$ 74,945

Promover una mayor conciencia sobre el impacto de Cuba en la democracia en la región y evaluar los desafíos más urgentes para la democracia en América Latina. La organización realizará tres conferencias en América Latina para discutir sobre Cuba en un contexto regional y evaluar el estado de la democracia en la región. La organización también producirá y difundirá una publicación final sobre los resultados de las conferencias y fortalecerá una red regional naciente para defender los valores democráticos.

Integrando a Cuba en las redes regionales de medios

Investigacion e Innovacion Factual A.C.

\$ 74 000

Support and integrate young Cuban journalists into a regional network of digital media initiatives across Latin America and highlight the stories of Cubans as part of emerging leaders in Latin America. The organization will select, train, and advise Cuban journalists on how to conduct investigative reporting, collaborate with regional peers, and publish stories for digital media. The group will also include Cuban panelists at its annual digital media conference and profile emerging Cuban leaders in its publications.

Monitoring and sensitization on the state of human rights in Cuba

Cuban Observatory of Human Rights

\$ 150 000

Monitor and raise awareness internationally about the human rights situation in Cuba, including the effects of COVID-19. The beneficiary will submit urgent requests for the protection of victims to UN agencies and will produce monthly reports, statements and press releases to report on violations to national and international actors. The beneficiary will expand their international advocacy efforts with relevant international stakeholders.

Promoting access to independent sports coverage in Cuba

Freedom of information

\$ 50 000

Promote freedom of information in Cuba by providing public access to independent sports news and analysis. The organization will produce and disseminate journalism through its platforms that use sport as a vehicle to narrate the political, social and cultural realities of Cuban society. To appeal to a wider audience, special emphasis will be placed on the modalities of creative reporting to represent the daily challenges faced by Cuban athletes.

Promoting access to information in Cuba

Agora Cuba Inc.

\$ 75,860

Improve access to information in Cuba. The organization will expand an existing online platform, which allows access to uncensored web-based information via email. The platform, which already offers online education, independent media and social news services, will expand to include other new services and identified partners and will improve to make it easier to use.

Promoting uncensored access to information in Cuba

Daily Association of Cuba

\$ 215 000

Promote greater access to independent news and analysis on Cuba. Working with a wide range of independent journalists and analysts, the beneficiary will continuously publish on their digital platform. Collaborators will be mentored to produce content more

independently and professionally. News coverage will focus on civil society actions, the impact of government policies, and developments in Latin America.

Promoting uncensored access to information in Cuba

Freedom of information

\$ 72 000

Promote greater access to independent news and analysis on Cuba. The organization will produce uncensored information about political, social and economic developments in Cuba, including outside Havana and more remote areas of the country. You'll use innovative formats and multimedia content to bring stories closer to your audiences.

Promoting accountability for human rights violations and social conflicts

Foundation for Human Rights in Cuba, Inc.

\$ 126 000

Fight impunity in the face of human rights violations and raise awareness about social conflicts in Cuba. The organization will work with partners on the island to document actions and publicly expose perpetrators of human rights violations. The beneficiary will also support citizens to peacefully document and resolve cases of social conflict in their communities.

Promotion of community reporting in Cuba

Cuban Institute for Freedom of Expression and Press

\$ 146,360

Promote greater access to uncensored information in Cuba's communities and strengthen the capacity of community journalists. Based in Miami, the dealership will support six independent community media outlets across the island to produce newsletters for local residents. The fellow will provide their counterparts in Cuba with the equipment and technical assistance necessary to design and print these newsletters.

Promotion of freedom of expression and independent media in Cuba

Freedom of information

\$ 56,500

Promote freedom of expression and a plural and independent information space in Cuba. The organization will increase its content production, focusing on social participation, democratic values and the empowerment of civil society, while covering issues of public interest in Cuba. The organization will use various types of media, including videos and photographs, to reach a wider audience.

Promoting freedom of expression in Cuba through the arts

Democratic Culture

\$ 49,106

Promote greater freedom of expression in Cuba. The organization will work with a collective of independent artists in Cuba to help them consolidate artistic projects on issues related to democracy, human rights and historical memory. The organization will bring Cuban artists to Argentina for a series of public and private events with Argentine artists and intellectuals to publicize the Cuban reality.

Promotion of press freedom in Cuba

Freedom of information

\$ 33,180

Raise awareness of press freedom violations in Cuba and strengthen its relationship with independent media and journalists. The group will collect information from independent media on press freedom violations that it will publish in its monthly newsletters and report on attacks on journalists and bloggers. The group will disseminate this information on the island and among organizations that promote press freedom around the world. It will also provide legal and financial support to journalists and bloggers facing attacks on press freedom.

Promoting greater access to uncensored information for Cubans

Cuban Democratic Directorate

\$ 650 000

Promote greater access to uncensored information for Cuban citizens and pro-democracy activists and facilitate greater communication between them. The organization will produce radio programs with news and analysis, prioritizing topics such as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, human rights and the conditions of health

workers in missions in third countries. Radio programmes and information on civil society initiatives will be distributed on social media. The group will also support civic activities conducted by civil society activists in Cuba.

Promoting the inclusion of marginalized populations in Cuba

Democratic ideas and values

\$ 23,500

Promote the inclusion of marginalized populations in Cuban society and strengthen a network of island partners. The project will provide a space for these sectors of the population to interact, share ideas and participate in dialogues about the issues facing their communities. It will also hold workshops for leaders on citizen participation, gender equality, human rights and advocacy efforts.

Promoting independent thinking in Cuba

Freedom of information

\$ 75 000

Promote greater freedom of expression and independent writing among Cuban intellectuals. The group will produce its independent online magazine that promotes debate on cultural and social issues in Cuba. Journalists, columnists, writers and photographers who cannot print their work in official media will have the opportunity to publish their opinion articles in the magazine.

Promoting local accountability and citizen oversight

Accountability and governance

\$ 120,267

Promote accountability and interaction at the local level between activists and community members as they seek solutions to their local problems. The project will gather information, document problems affecting communities and demand solutions from entities at the local level. The project will also produce a newsletter to raise awareness of these issues and connect citizens with initiatives and activists.

Promoting the use of data in journalism in Cuba

Freedom of information

Novation \$ 91,319

Promote access to and use of Cuba's public data. The organization will aggregate publicly available data from Cuba and develop datasets to produce analysis on the island's reality. The organization will collaborate with the press to help the Cuban public have better access to information through data-driven journalism.

Sharp power and the evolution of politics under a new constitution in Cuba

Government and Political Analysis AC

Novation \$115,000

Promote greater international awareness of Cuba's power projection and presence in Latin America and foster a critical understanding of the implications and implementation of the new constitution in Cuba. The organization will conduct research on Cuban international influence and the implementation of the transformed institutional framework of the State established by the new Cuban constitution.

Situated journalism: innovative perspectives on Cuba

Cronos Civil Association

\$ 80 000

Improve the ability of Cuban independent journalism to cover different angles of violence and crisis in the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath, and foster stronger ties between Cuban independent journalists and their counterparts in the rest of Latin America. The organization will develop a comprehensive series of online trainings on journalism that are relevant to a crisis context. The program will bring together participants from Cuba and other Latin American countries to foster collaboration, using different styles and innovative means.

Strengthening access to information and improving critical thinking in central Cuba

Freedom of information

\$ 50 000

Strengthen access to information and enhance critical thinking in Cuba. Articles and audiovisual materials will be produced weekly to strengthen access to information. In addition, social networking sites and other messaging apps will be used to increase the

circulation on the island of uncensored information about local and national social, cultural, economic and political developments.

Strengthening the capacity of civil society in democratic political processes

Inter-American Institute of Human Rights

\$ 95 000

Strengthen the capacity of Cuban civil society activists to promote democratic elections on the island. Cuban participants will join election observation missions in Latin America and attend workshops on election observation and human rights issues. The project will facilitate a discussion between its Cuban partners and Latin American electoral experts to raise awareness of the undemocratic nature of the Cuban electoral system.

Strengthening critical thinking and democratic values in Cuba

Freedom of information

\$ 99,980

Promote critical thinking, the free flow of information and democratic values in Cuba. The organization will consolidate the reach and impact of its digital publications. He will also work on the publication of historical documents and materials on the history of Cuba and Latin America. It will disseminate this information and its publications in Cuba and the rest of Latin America.

Strengthening democratic dialogue on the reform ideas promoted by Cuba II

Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)

\$ 309,766

Strengthen the capacity of independent pro-democracy think tanks in Cuba to develop objective economic analyses and reform ideas and expand openings in civic spaces for market-oriented organizations to support a growing private sector. The center will support two groups of emerging Pro-Democracy Cuban experts to attend program management workshops outside the island, provide assistance for activities on the island, and organize an international conference with other expert groups working under similar conditions or in a similar field. of work.

Strengthening independent journalism in Cuba

Press and Society Institute

\$ 70,523

Strengthen the journalistic and investigative skills of Cuban independent journalists and promote greater interaction between them and their Latin American counterparts. The organization will train journalists in fundamental concepts of journalism and place them in a professional media outlet in Peru for an on-the-job experience. The organization will also encourage interaction between Cuban and Latin American journalists through collaborative investigative pieces.

Strengthening independent media and accountability in Cuba

Public Space Foundation

\$ 108 000

Strengthen the capacity of Cuban journalists to promote greater government accountability in Cuba and promote interactions and links between independent Cuban and Latin American journalists. The organization will conduct a training program on how to conduct investigative journalism. Cuban participants will engage in exchanges with journalists from other countries, and will receive advice and feedback on their work from an editorial committee made up of Latin American journalists. The organization will provide constant remote tutoring to participants.

Strengthening the capacity of independent civic initiatives in Cuba

People in Need Slovakia (PIPA)

\$ 60 000

Strengthen the capacity of independent civic centers and initiatives in Cuba to promote democratic ideas and values. Based in Bratislava, the organization will work with groups of independent journalists, students and civil society activists to strengthen their institutional capacity and capacity to carry out activities more effectively. In addition, the fellow will arrange a study visit for his beneficiaries in Slovakia.

Strengthening the capacity of independent media professionals in Cuba

Člověk v tísni, o.p.s. (Needy)

\$ 150,882

Strengthen the capacity of independent media professionals in Cuba. The grantee will provide Cuban beneficiaries with training and technical assistance to produce uncensored content on social, political, economic and cultural developments in Cuba. The grantee will also strengthen the technical capacity of independent organizations throughout Cuba to carry out initiatives aimed at increasing the free flow of information.

Strengthening democracy and leadership skills of Cuban youth activists

Political Institute for Freedom Peru

\$ 85 000

Strengthen the leadership capacity of young Cuban pro-democracy activists and promote interaction between Cuban citizens and people in Latin American democratic societies. The organization will offer online and in-person trainings on youth rights, youth participation in politics, digital communications, and international standards of freedom of expression and democracy. The group will also take young Cuban activists to other Latin American countries to interact with their pro-democracy counterparts in democratic countries.

Strengthening tools to measure governance and social conflict in Cuba

Arlenica, Art, Language and Research for Social Change

Supplement \$ 11,940

Strengthen the analysis of governance in Cuba. The organization will develop a governance index to measure and compare Cuba's political system with other countries around the world. It will analyze the structure and performance of the Cuban government in areas such as the rule of law, political participation, effectiveness, political stability, transparency, and economic freedom. It will also assess the public's satisfaction with their government and track citizens' actions to promote more democratic policies through the creation of an observatory on social conflicts.

Supporting human rights defenders in Cuba

Center for a Free Cuba

\$ 80 000

Provide humanitarian assistance to political prisoners, their families and human rights activists in Cuba. The organization will work with its partners to distribute humanitarian

assistance to political prisoners, their families and other members of Cuban civil society. To increase access to uncensored information, the organization will also provide human rights defenders with technical equipment to document life in Cuba and transmit information to organizations and external actors.

Supporting independent journalism in Cuba

War and Peace Reporting Institute (IWPR)

\$ 145,230

Strengthen collaboration among independent Cuban journalists to promote freedom of expression. The grantee will work with various independent journalists and media organizations to promote mutual understanding and solidarity among them, and to strengthen their skills in the use of social media. The organization will also encourage and support collaborative efforts among journalists affiliated with different media outlets.

Support for independent trade unions, the self-employed and labour rights

International Group for Corporate Social Responsibility in Cuba

\$ 230 000

Promote labor rights and strengthen the capacity of Cuba's independent trade union movement. The organization will provide assistance to independent labor activists in Cuba to forge a more coordinated labor movement on the island. In addition, the organization will work with a nascent association of self-employed workers to promote labor rights in the informal sector. It will also carry out an international campaign to disseminate and raise awareness of information on the situation of labor rights in Cuba.

Support for independent writers and artists in Cuba

Vista Larga Foundation Corp

\$ 83 000

Support Cuba's independent writers and artists to freely produce and disseminate their work. The organization will help writers strengthen the quality of their work and publish pieces on and off the island. He will present his work in his quarterly literary magazine, Puente a La Vista, on social media and through videos on YouTube. The organization will also raise awareness of repression targeting freelance writers, artists and musicians through online campaigns.

Times of change and a new role for different sectors in Cuba

Democratic ideas and values

\$ 71,339

Improve the understanding and capacity of civil society to propose policy alternatives. The activities will include research on the role of different state institutions in transitions to democracy, as well as discussion of this issue among representatives of Cuban civil society, with emphasis on the experiences of other countries in the region.

Héctor Bernardo for La Pluma

Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

Published by [Contexto](#) / [Cubadebate](#), on January 14, 2022

La Pluma. net 15.01.2022