

Cuba By Maria Sofia Lopez Menendez

Religious laws

In Cuba, the Communist Party (CPC) determines legal frameworks which control religious institutions and criminalize religious activities that don't align with state ideologies. attempts to suppress worshipers and religious leaders, the Party persecutes, harasses, exiles, mistreats and imprisons them for dissident activities. Additionally, international human rights observers have repeatedly been denied entry into Cuba which has prevented the proper monitoring of religious persecution. Despite the Cuban government's assurances to its people and the international community that religious freedom is protected, constitutional provisions and governmental actions clearly contradict these claims. No clear legislation exists on how new religious organizations can register and none have been legally recognized since 1959. Groups attempting to do so, however, must apply to party affiliated entities which review applications and issue decisions arbitrarily and with political bias. The Observatory for Human Rights in Cuba (OCDH) has denounced the government for its violations of religious freedom and has urged international organizations to do the same. In response, many international communities have formally condemned Cuba, including the European **Parliament**

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"Cuba: A Legal Framework that Restricts the Right to Religious Freedom" by Teresa I. Flores - Canopy Forum https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/2024%20Cub a%20Country%20Update.pd

The regime persecutes Cuban religious for their "civic stance"according to the OCDH - Latin america News Country Update: Religious Freedom Conditions in Cuba OCDH Reports Around 1,030 Actions Against Religious Freedom in Cuba – Observatory of Religious Freedom in Latin America





Internet freedoms

Cuba was one of the last countries to adopt the internet and it remains a very limited and controlled resource. Most Cuban citizens exclusively rely on public Wi-Fi hotspots, as Wi-Fi in homes is extremely rare. The country's entire internet infrastructure is monopolized by ETECSA, which is a state-owned company. As a result of this, the Communist Party maintains full control over internet access, pricing and content, which enables it to heavily censor online information, monitor user activity and suppress both independent media dissenting voices. Furthermore, social media platforms are frequently blocked during protests, while laws such as Decree Law 370 and the Social Communication Law criminalize online expressions deemed ideologically harmful to the Party.

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