

Home > ... > Expansion of Visa Restrictions Policy for Individual...

Expansion of Visa Restrictions Policy for Individuals Exploiting Cuban Labor

PRESS STATEMENT

MARCO RUBIO, SECRETARY OF STATE

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Today, we announce the expansion of an existing Cuba-related visa restriction policy that targets forced labor linked to the Cuban labor export program. This expanded policy applies to current or former Cuban government officials, and other individuals, including foreign government officials, who are believed to be responsible for, or involved in, the Cuban labor export program, particularly Cuba's overseas medical missions. This policy also applies to the immediate family of such persons. The Department has already taken steps to impose visa restrictions on several individuals, including Venezuelans, under this expanded policy.

Cuba continues to profit from the forced labor of its workers and the regime's abusive and coercive labor practices are well documented. Cuba's labor export programs, which include the medical missions, enrich the Cuban regime, and in the case of Cuba's overseas medical missions, deprive ordinary Cubans of the medical care they desperately need in their home country. The United States is committed to countering forced labor practices around the globe. To do so, we must promote accountability not just for Cuban officials responsible for these policies, but also those complicit in the exploitation and forced labor of Cuban workers.

This visa restriction policy is taken pursuant to Section 212(a)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

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