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CUBA: We hear you and see you

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You have heard a lot about Cuba. Maybe your friends or neighbors traveled there after direct commercial flights from U.S. airports resumed in 2015. Or had their cruise to Cuba cancelled in June 2019. Or you could have been one of the hundreds of Venceremos brigadistas who have defied the U.S. ban on travel to see Cuba and work alongside Cubans, cutting sugar cane in 1969 and in annual solidarity brigades celebrating their 50th year last summer.

In the past, it was very difficult to get news directly from Cuba. During the anti-Vietnam-War years, Radio Havana Cuba, on shortwave radio, reported war news censored in the U.S. corporate media. Print issues of Granma, the newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, were rarely seen and were already months old when they did become accessible in the U.S.

Now you can read, listen to or even watch what Cuba and Cubans — in Cuba — are doing and saying. Cuban media are now available on the internet, in English. But your U.S. search engines will not include them.

Recently, Twitter blocked most major Cuban news accounts. Although some were restored with far fewer followers, others, like Cuba Debate, are still blocked. This is a tribute to the effectiveness of Cuba's revolutionary voice in the digital arena.

So, where can you find Cuban websites? Granma is available on the web at en.granma.cu, on Facebook at GranmaEnglish and on twitter @Granma_English.

Find the official website of Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs at minrex.gob.cu/en. The Cuban Central Workers union newspaper, Trabajadores, is available at trabajadores.cu/ingles. Other sites include:

- Prensa Latina news service: plenglish.com



- The Cuban News Agency: cubanews.acn.cu



- Radio Havana Cuba: radiohc.cu/en



- Radio Rebelde: radiorebelde.cu/english



- CubaDebate: En.cubadebate.cu, on Facebook at Cuba Debate (English), and on twitter [[@cubadebate_en](https://twitter.com/cubadebate_en)] **twitter account censored, suspended.**

This sampling represents only major news outlets; Cuban provinces have newspapers and radio programming, too.

In addition, in Spanish, the 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. news programs can be viewed live on Facebook at Cubatv — Canal Caribe. Other important Spanish-language programming, like Mesa Redonda, also broadcasts live on Facebook.

The National Network on Cuba, the umbrella organization of U.S. solidarity organizations, is working to overcome technology issues to enable representatives from the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples to communicate through future webinars.

The U.S. economic, financial and commercial blockade against Cuba actively limits Cuba's economy, but it also negatively impacts urban and rural communities in the U.S. But technology is now piercing the U.S. information blockade that has, for nearly 60 years, limited what U.S. residents learn about Cuba.

LaBash is one of five NNOC co-chairs.

