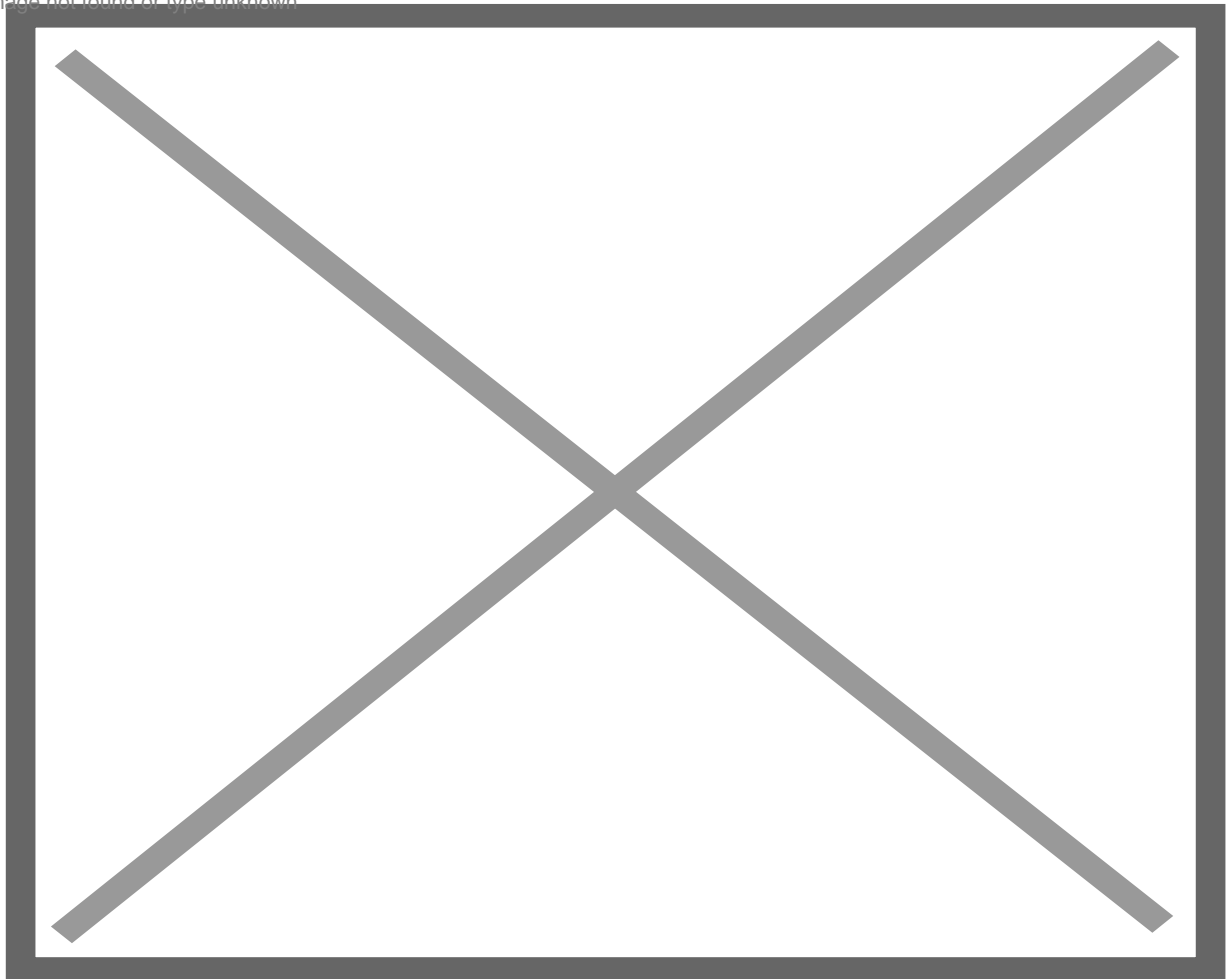


Tropical Storm Gonzalo Develops in the Atlantic

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A fast-developing system which took form over the weekend has developed quickly into Tropical Storm Gonzalo, tracking westward through the southern Windward Islands and packing 50-mile per hour winds.

According to the National Hurricane Center, the center of TS Gonzalo was located near latitude 9.9 North, longitude 43.6 West as of 11 a.m. Wednesday. Gonzalo is moving toward the west near 14 mph (22 km/h). A general westward motion at a faster forward speed is expected during the next few days.

Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 50 mph (85 km/h) with higher gusts. Additional strengthening is forecast during the next couple of days, and Gonzalo is expected to become a hurricane by Thursday.

Gonzalo is a small tropical cyclone, as tropical-storm-force winds extend outward only up to 25 miles (35 km) from the center.

The estimated minimum central pressure is 1000 mb (29.53 inches).

NHC's next update on TS Gonzalo will be published at 5:00 p.m.

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