

# *Cuba thwarts human smuggling operation from the U.S.*

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Havana, January 31 (RHC)-- Granma newspaper reports Monday that Cuba's Border Guard Troops (TGF) recently thwarted another human trafficking operation, with the capture of two Cubans living in the United States aboard a speedboat.

During the night hours of Tuesday, January 25, the boat, which illegally entered Cuban jurisdictional waters, was intercepted one mile from the Punta Gobernadora lighthouse, in Bahía Honda, Artemisa province, in a human trafficking operation.

Subsequently, in the area of Playa el Pino, in the same municipality, these forces arrested eight citizens (six men and two women) linked to the operation, who were transferred to the National Revolutionary Police station in Bahía Honda.

The crew members were apprehended and the speedboat transferred to the Mariel Port Captaincy, in order to carry out the corresponding actions.

With this operation and since the beginning of the year 2021 to date, the Border Guard Troops have captured 20 speedboats in violation, organized and executed by unscrupulous elements linked to criminal organizations abroad that only care for profit, and who care little or nothing about the lives of migrants.

In this regard, Granma pointed out that more than 30 human traffickers have been arrested, including 33 Cubans living abroad, four Mexicans and one American.

It is noteworthy that in just 25 days, three speedboats have been captured and seven traffickers from abroad have been arrested.

It should be noted that since the middle of last year, there has been an increase in the number of human trafficking operations organized in the United States and destined for that territory.

According to the information provided at a recent TV and radio program Mesa redonda, one of the characteristics of this illegal departures during 2021 are more complex trafficking operations organized from the U.S., as well as repeated shipwrecks, with psychological traumas with lifelong consequences.

The Cuban government's commitment is to guarantee an orderly and safe migration; however, the socio-economic impact caused by the genocidal economic, commercial and financial blockade of the US government against Cuba, and the non-compliance with migration agreements by that country, encourages human trafficking and irregular migration in general.

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