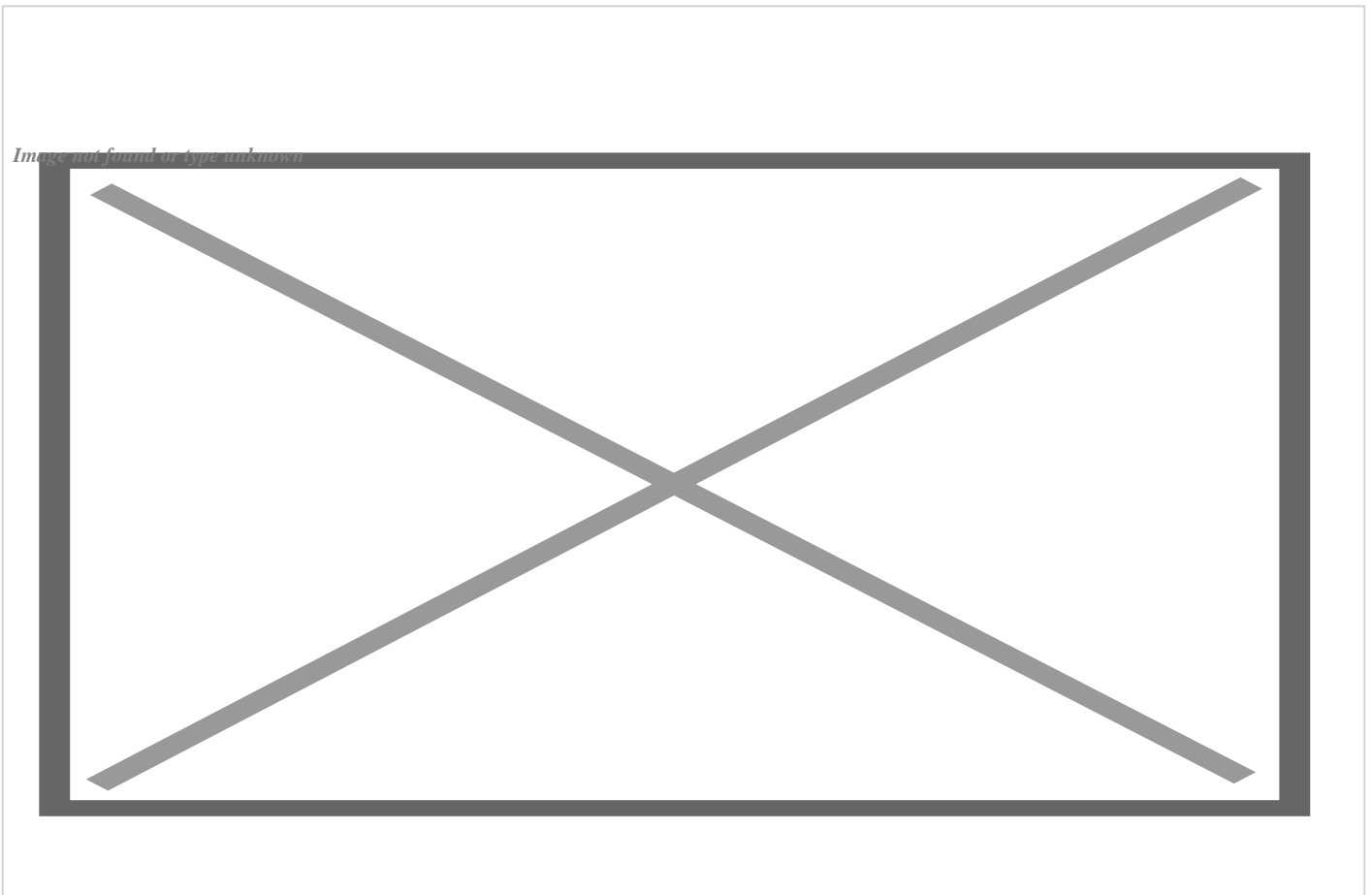


# ***STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS***

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## **Cuba confronts human trafficking operations for military recruitment purposes**

**The Ministry of the Interior has detected and is working to neutralize and dismantle a human trafficking network operating from Russia to incorporate Cuban citizens living there, and even some from Cuba, to participate in the military operations in Ukraine. Attempts of this nature have been neutralized and criminal proceedings have been initiated against persons involved in these activities.**

**Cuba's enemies promote distorted information that seeks to tarnish the country's image and present it as an accomplice to these actions, which we categorically reject.**

**Cuba has a firm and clear historical position against mercenary actions and plays an active role in the United Nations in repudiation of that practice, being the author of several of the initiatives approved in that forum.**

**Cuba is not part of the war in Ukraine. It is acting and will act energetically against anyone who, from our national territory, participates in any form of human trafficking for the purpose of recruitment or mercenary actions that arm Cubans to use weapons against any country.**

**Havana, September 4, 2023**

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<https://www.radiohc.cu/en/noticias/nacionales/333149-statement-of-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs>



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