

Coast Guard Repatriates 27 Migrants to Cuba



Five Cuban migrants aboard a makeshift vessel approximately 15 miles off the coast of Islamorada, Florida, July 24, 2021. Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton's crew repatriated 27 Cubans to Cuba, Tuesday, following two interdictions off Florida's coast. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

MIAMI – Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton's crew repatriated 27 Cubans to Cuba, July 27, following two interdictions off Florida's coast, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

In the first interdiction, a good Samaritan reported a 21-foot vessel with 22 people aboard, approximately seven miles south of Key West to Coast Guard Sector Key West watchstanders at approximately 3:45 p.m., July 23. They were brought aboard Coast Guard Cutter William Trump and transferred to the Charles Sexton and reported in good health.

In the second interdiction, Coast Guard Station Islamorada reported a makeshift raft with five people aboard, approximately 15 miles offshore of Islamorada to Sector Key West watchstanders at approximately 4 p.m., July 24. A Station Islamorada boat crew picked up the five people and transferred them to the Charles Sexton. They were reported in good health.

"Taking to the seas on unsafe vessels is dangerous and can result in loss of life," said Capt. Adam Chamie, Coast Guard Sector Key West Commander. "We request all mariners to report any possible migrant voyages to help prevent loss of life at sea."

Since Oct. 1, 2020, Coast Guard crews have interdicted 595 Cubans compared to:

- 5,396 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2016
- 1,468 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2017
- 259 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2018
- 313 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2019
- 49 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2020

Once aboard a Coast Guard cutter, all migrants receive food, water, shelter and basic medical attention.