

Cuba uncovers 'human trafficking ring' recruiting for Russia's war in Ukraine

Havana says it is dismantling network seeking to recruit Cubans as mercenaries as Moscow attempts to boost its forces

Cuba has uncovered a human trafficking ring aimed at recruiting Cubans to fight as mercenaries for Russia in its war in Ukraine, its foreign ministry has said, as Moscow seeks to increase the size of its forces.

In a statement, the Cuban foreign ministry said the authorities were working to "neutralise and dismantle" the network, which it said was operating within the Caribbean island nation and in Russia.

"The ministry of the interior ... is working on the neutralisation and dismantling of a human trafficking network that operates from Russia to incorporate Cuban citizens living there, and even some from Cuba, into the military forces participating in war operations in Ukraine," the ministry statement said.

"Cuba has a firm and clear historical position against the use of mercenaries ... Cuba is not part of the war in Ukraine."

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