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**Cuba to Adopt New Migration Policy. Autor: Juventud Rebelde Publicado: 31/10/2017 | 12:13 pm**

## Cuba to Adopt New Migration Policy

Cuban citizens who left the country illegally, except those who did it through the Guantánamo Naval Base will be allowed entry

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**Publicado por: Juventud Rebelde**

As part of the country's updating process of migration policy, the Cuban Government approved the following steps, to take effect on January 1, 2018:

- Eliminate the authorization of the passport for trips to Cuba by Cuban emigrants.
- Allow the entry and exit to Cuba by Cuban citizens residing abroad in pleasure boats, through the Hemingway and Gaviota-Varadero International Tourist Marinas. Once the conditions are created, it would be progressively extended to other marinas.
- Allow Cuban citizens who left the country illegally to enter Cuba, except those who did it through the United States Naval Base in Guantánamo.
- Eliminate the requirement of residence so that children of Cubans living abroad, who were born abroad, can obtain Cuban citizenship and their identity document.

These decisions, follow those adopted in January 2013, as part of the efforts made by the country to strengthen Cuba's relations with its emigration, a process initiated in 1978 by the Commander-in-Chief of the Revolution Fidel Castro Ruz, the website of Cuba's Foreign Affairs Ministry reported.

On the other hand, the US government decided to drastically reduce the personnel of its Embassy in Havana and suspended the issue of visas. The transfer of Cuban citizens to Colombia to obtain immigrant visas, and to third countries for other types of US visas, without any guarantee of their granting, apart from making travel considerably more expensive, makes it practically unviable. This will directly affect Cuban families who, in the future, will not be able to obtain their visas in Havana and will face greater obstacles to visit their relatives, and even those who wish to emigrate.

The unfounded and arbitrary decision to expel 17 Cuban officials from its territory, including an important part of the Consulate's staff in Washington, will have a negative impact on consular services making trips to Cuba particularly difficult for Cuban residents in the United States. The Government of Cuba will continue exploring new steps to update its migration policy.

Soon, the different legal norms that will accompany the implementation of these measures will be published in the Official Gazette and additional information will also be offered to the population on the procedures to take effect.

This information will also be available in the 189 MININT Offices for Procedures, with representation in all the municipalities of the country; in the Public Service Office of the Identification, Immigration and Foreigners Direction, through telephone 18808; as well as on the Nation and Emigration Website <http://www.nacionyemigracion.cu/> and on the different websites of Cuban Embassies and Consulates around the world.

**Translated by ESTI**

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