



*Muchos de los emigrantes cubanos se embarcan en balsas de madera, metal y Styrofoam, impulsadas por motores precarios. Casi no tienen instrumentos de navegación y con frecuencia se pierden en el mar y sus ocupantes se deshidratan lejos de las costas.*

Many Cuban emigrants embark on rafts of wood, metal and Styrofoam, driven by precarious engines. Almost no navigational instruments and are often lost at sea and their occupants are dehydrated far from the coast.

**ACTIVITY:** Sea disaster

**CASE:** [GSAF 2014.08.00](#)

**DATE:** August 2014

**LOCATION:** Between Cuba and Florida, USA.

**NARRATIVE:** In one of the worst tragedies in recent times rafters, 32 migrants departed in August Manzanillo, on the south coast of Cuba, and were stranded at sea for nearly a month. When a Mexican fishermen found in early September, only 15 were still alive. The others tried to swim ashore or died and his companions threw their bodies into the water. His remains have not been found.

When four bodies were found August 24, 2014 on the beach at Hollywood Beach, there were no survivors to tell what happened or where they came from. Then it was learned that a group of nine rafters had departed from a site near Havana five days earlier. No one had heard of them since.

Because five decades standoff between the US and Cuba, pathologists can not seek dental or DNA family record in Cuba, but with the help of family members the bodies were

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identified. No one was left to tell what became of the other five rafters.

**SOURCE:** Christine Armario, Associated Press, November 27, 2014  
<http://www.elnuevoherald.com/noticias/mundo/america-latina/cuba-es/article4176847.html>