



MARIELITOS

ORIGIN

Marielitos were a group of approximately 135.000 Cuban immigrants who arrived in the United States from April to September 1980. Fidel Castro allowed the Cubans who wished to leave to leave, saying that they're "undesirables" in Cuba. Out of the 135.000, around 16.000 to 20.000 had questionable and criminal backgrounds. However, other estimates claim that the real number of hardened criminals was around 2.700 due to most of the people with criminal backgrounds having committed crimes which would not be considered crimes in the United States but were in Cuba against its communist regime.

However, the "real" criminals brought their lifestyle with them when they landed in Miami, although not as organised as the American Mafia, the Marielitos were successful in their criminal activities. They were also targeted by bigger gangs, with the homicide rate being 5 times above usual among Cuban immigrants. Not only that, but they arrived in Miami during the peak of the Miami Drug War, and many were involved in this drug war in some way, by collaborating with Colombian Cartels. Some Cuban criminals also had previous connections with the American Mafia, who were involved in several casinos in Havana before the Cuban Revolution, and they kept those connections when they came to the US.

The Marielitos, in some cases, have aligned themselves with the American Mafia as well as other Hispanic (mainly Colombian) cartels. Their activities range from drug trafficking and contract killing to burglaries, auto theft, robbery, extortion and corruption. They are active in numerous locations around the US, including Los Angeles, Washington and NYC especially in the South Bronx.

The main character of the movie Scarface (1983), Tony Montana, had also come to the United States through the Mariel Boatlift as seen in the movie.



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