

Man to plead guilty in Florida to smuggling Cuban baseball star to U.S.

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A Florida man faces 10 years in prison after deciding to plead guilty to helping smuggle [Los Angeles Dodgers](#) slugger [Yasiel Puig](#) out of Cuba, court documents filed this week indicated.

Gilberto Suarez is accused of paying \$250,000 to a group connected to a Mexican drug cartel to get Puig to the United States in exchange for a slice of his Major League Baseball Contract.

He is expected to enter a guilty plea to a charge of conspiring to bring in or harbor aliens at a court hearing on Dec. 16, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami.

In 2012, after defecting from Cuba, Puig, now 24, signed a seven-year, \$42 million contract with the Dodgers.

Major League Baseball has voiced its concern about the role of human traffickers in assisting Cuban players to leave the f country. But it says policies are not to blame.

Federal prosecutors are seeking to seize a home and condominium owned by Suarez, as well as two bank accounts, a 2014 Mercedes-Benz, and nearly \$3 million that he earned from the operation, according to a September indictment.

His attorney could not immediately be reached for comment.