

“Since the triumph of the revolution in January 1959, the revolutionary government has denounced the illegal occupation of that part of our territory occupied by the United States. But at the same time, the United States has transformed the occupied territory of the Guantánamo Naval Base into a permanent source of threats, provocation and violation of Cuba’s sovereignty, with the aim of creating obstacles for the victorious revolutionary process. The base has always been part of the plans and operations conceived by Washington to overthrow the revolutionary government.”

—FIDEL CASTRO

GUANTÁNAMO

WHY THE ILLEGAL US BASE
SHOULD BE RETURNED TO CUBA

FIDEL CASTRO

Olga Miranda
Roger Ricardo



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Publisher's Note

The military base established by the United States over a century ago at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, is the oldest US military base outside of the United States. It is also the only foreign military base maintained against the wishes of the government of the host country and the only US military base to be situated in a socialist country. Moreover, it is the only US military base with an indefinite lease.

The 29-kilometer land border of the base is sometimes referred to as the “cactus curtain” because of the large species of cactus planted by the United States around it. The base is located in what has been described as one of the world’s great natural harbors, surrounded by a US-placed minefield said to be the largest in the Western world. The main gate to the 45-square-mile area of the base has been closed for almost five decades, since the United States severed all diplomatic and economic ties with Cuba.

When and how will this historical affront to a sovereign nation be resolved? When will the United States return this territory to Cuba? In recent years, there has been much discussion and debate about the closure of the prison on the US naval base at Guantánamo, but barely a voice is heard calling for the full closure of the base and the return of this territory to Cuba. The statement by Nobel Prize winners and others included as the foreword to this volume deserves to be echoed loudly within the international community. There is a simple and just solution to this situation:

x Guántanamo

The United States can withdraw its troops and close the base.

It is beyond comprehension why the continued existence of the US base on Cuban soil—indisputably against Cuba’s wishes—is not an international scandal.

This brief volume offers an overview of the US naval base at Guantánamo—primarily from a Cuban perspective. This is a voice not often heard, largely because of the information blockade that surrounds the island, a blockade almost as effective as the economic blockade imposed some five decades ago.

Most important here is the recent contribution by Fidel Castro. There is no more authoritative voice of Cuba that could and should be heard on this subject. Together with the documents and chronology that are included, this book is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in understanding the background and ongoing injustice—not to mention the violation of international law—of the US base in Cuba.