

# **CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO**



**END THE US  
OCCUPATION OF  
CUBAN LAND NOW**



**It is not enough for the United States to simply close the prison. The US government must shut down the base, end the occupation and withdraw its military from Cuba today!**

Since 2002 Guantánamo has become known for the illegal detentions and human rights abuses carried out at the US prison camp in eastern Cuba.

Far less publicised is the fact that a US naval base has operated on occupied Cuban territory for more than 110 years – most of them without Cuban consent and against international law.

Since the Cuban Revolution in 1959 the Cuban people have been calling for the base to close and the US soldiers stationed there to leave their land.

## **How can the US have a base in Cuba?**

Just as Cubans were winning their war of independence against Spain at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the US intervened and imposed the base as part of the independence treaty. The bay of Guantánamo was of huge strategic importance in terms of natural resources and access to the Caribbean and Latin America. The infamous ‘Platt Amendment’ in 1901 gave the US the right to a naval base and coaling station on the island, and the right to intervene militarily unless the Amendment was incorporated into the Cuban constitution.

A revised treaty in 1934 gave the US even more control and cancelled the termination date of the lease – effectively guaranteeing them indefinite rights over the territory. In 1996 President Bill Clinton introduced the Helms-Burton Law which implied that the US would only return the territory of Guantánamo base to Cuba if Havana met its demands for regime change.

## Why can't Cuba close the base?

Cuba is a small island and doesn't want to pick a fight with the largest military power in the world who would regard any move to forcibly evict them as an act of war. Cuba has already suffered more than 50 years of US economic warfare from the blockade. It is working to resolve the issue through diplomatic channels such as the UN and in talks with the US.

Cuba argues the lease is illegal under international law according to the Vienna Convention because it was made under the threat of US invasion if they didn't sign. Furthermore the terms of the lease have been broken thus rendering it void. The territory has been used as a prison and torture camp and for invasions to Haiti and the Dominican Republic and aggression against Cuba, when the lease clearly stated the territory was to be used as a "naval base and coaling station".

The continuing occupation of Guantánamo Bay by the United States is a flagrant violation of international law, an affront to Cuba's sovereignty and an impassable obstacle to reconciliation.

The US and Cuba have recently re-established relations. However, the ongoing US blockade, funding of regime change activities and occupation of Guantánamo signal that US policy towards the island is still motivated by dominance and interference. Only when the territory is returned can Havana be assured that Washington finally recognises their right to self-determination. Until then, we must build the international campaign for Guantánamo to be returned to Cuba.

**Help close Guantánamo and end the US blockade.  
Join the Cuba Solidarity Campaign today.**



# What you can do

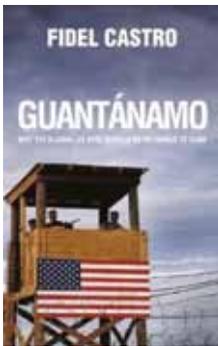
There are many ways you can support the campaign to end the US occupation:

## TAKE ACTION

- Write to the President of the United States: Ask **them** not only to close the prison, but also to close the US military base **on** the island and return **the** territory of Guantánamo back to Cuba. Go to [www.whitehouse.gov/contact](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact)
- Join the Cuba Solidarity Campaign **today**
- Invite a CSC speaker to address a group meeting
- Make a financial donation to the campaign
- Order copies of this leaflet to distribute to friends and colleagues
- Sign up for the latest news from Cuba and keep informed through our website



## Read: Guantánamo – Why the illegal base should be returned to Cuba



A critical history of the US base in Cuba, addressing the historical debate about the legality of the US occupation, preceding its use as a prison camp. With forewords by Noam Chomsky,

Nadime Gordimer and Rigoberta Menchu.

For sale from the CSC shop at [shop.cuba-solidarity.org.uk](http://shop.cuba-solidarity.org.uk) or on 020 7490 5715

“To keep a military base against the will of our people is a violation of the most elemental principles of international law”

**FIDEL CASTRO**

**Find out more** Visit [www.cuba-solidarity.org.uk](http://www.cuba-solidarity.org.uk) for online articles, factsheets, books and more about the history of Guantánamo and Cuba

**Join the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, and help us campaign for an end to the US blockade and the return of Guantánamo to the people of Cuba. For further details please return the form overleaf.**

# Yes, I want to support the campaign to close Guantánamo and end the US blockade

I'd like to make a donation of £10  £25  £50  other £

I'd like to join the Cuba Solidarity Campaign

Membership category £8 unwaged  £20 waged

**Join today and  
receive a free  
15 track  
Cuban music CD!**

Please send me  copies of this leaflet for distribution

Name & address:	
Postcode:	
Phone:	Email:

or  I wish to pay by card £

Card no

Expiry date  /  Security Code

or  I wish to pay by cheque. I enclose a cheque for £  payable to CSC

**I wish to pay by direct debit:**

Please debit my account annually by  £8  £20 other £

or monthly by  £5  £10 other £  (minimum of £5 if paying monthly please)

Annual and monthly debit will be made on 15th of the month from when membership is due.

I am happy for you to pass on my details to my local CSC group too

YES  NO



## Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please fill in the form and send to:  
CSC, c/o Unite, 33-37 Moreland St,  
London EC1V 8BB

Service user number



Name(s) of account holders

Bank/building society number

Branch sort code

To the Manager

Bank/Building Society:

Address:

Postcode:

Please pay Cuba Solidarity Campaign Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

I understand that this Instruction may remain with Cuba Solidarity Campaign and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)

Date:

For internal use only  
Reference number

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

# Guantánamo facts

It is the only US military base in the world that is **NOT WANTED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT**



The US government sends a cheque for the

peppercorn rent to Cuba every year which the Cuban government has not cashed since the Revolution in 1959 (apart from once in 1960 by accident!)

The US government has talked about closing their prison camp at Guantánamo, but never the base itself



The Cuban territory of Guantánamo Bay has been occupied by a United States naval base for more than

## 110 YEARS

**Cuba says closing the base is fundamental to normalising relations between the two countries**

**Close Guantánamo. End the US occupation. End the illegal blockade. Join the Cuba Solidarity Campaign today**

Despite enduring more than 50 years of an illegal US blockade the Cuban people enjoy among the highest levels of health, education and social protection in the Americas. Cuba's international brigades offer free health and education for the poorest and most vulnerable on the planet and a symbol of hope that a better world is possible. CSC campaigns against the illegal US blockade, to defend the Cuban people's right to self-determination and for an end to the US occupation of Guantánamo.

We are a broad-based non-party political campaign which relies entirely on fundraising, membership and affiliation to carry out our work.

**Please help support our work by joining or donating today.**



 Cuba Solidarity Campaign

 CubaSolidarity

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