Why is the US Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay illegal?

- The establishment of the base is based on an interventionist law that violates the spirit of international treaties.

- Since the base is not on US soil, it has served as a remote stage for several unconstitutional actions by the Federal Government, including the shameful detention camp used for prisoners related to the so-called “War on Terror”.

- The Naval Base occupies this territory against the will of the Cuban people. Historically, the people of Caimanera, the town next to the base, have been victims of physical and psychological acts of aggression.

HISTORY

The US took possession of Guantanamo Bay “for as long as we need it”, by means of a one-sided treaty. This was a consequence of the Platt Amendment, legislation that the US forced Cuba to include in its Constitution. This allowed for the US military to lease land for naval bases for as long as they saw fit. Since the triumph of the Revolution in 1959, the Cuban Government has denounced the illegal occupation of that portion of its territory. Every year the US government makes a payment of $4,085,000 for the lease of the base. Since 1960, Cuba has refused to accept payment because doing so would mean recognizing its legality.

Between 1962 and 1996

Cuba recorded 8,288 major provocations and aggressions from the Naval Base at Guantanamo. The attacks from the naval base included, among others:

- launching flammable materials from aircraft and weapons on the base
- insulting provocations by US soldiers on Cuban territory.
- violation of Cuba’s jurisdictional waters and territory by US military vessels and aircraft from the base.

The US Defense Department spent about $445 million to run Guantanamo Bay in 2015, down from $522.2 million in 2010.