



Image: UK Solidarity Team

A woman signs an anti-Samsung petition during a 'Boycott Samsung' Demonstration, outside a Samsung store, Tottenham Court Road, London, UK on June 9

BOYCOTT SAMSUNG IN LONDON

By Choi Sung-Ku

Behind its slick public image, Samsung, the primary company destroying the environment of the village through its war base building, is also infamous for numerous labor rights and environmental violations. Samsung was internationally voted the third 'Worst Company in the World,' in 2012 and also voted worst environmental destroyer and "public enemy No. 1" by Korean civil society as well.

Besides a June 9 Boycott Samsung protest, the UK London solidarity team has also shown their solidarity with the struggle by screening videos about Gangjeong, as well as holding public discussions on June 26. They are also organizing a pilgrimage via bicycle on July 1 through west London, and again on July 21 in east London. These events are in solidarity with the nationwide bicycle pilgrimage being organized by Gangjeong villagers and activists throughout South Korea from June 30 to July 20, 2012.

Appeal for International Solidarity: Sept. 2-9, 2012

The World Conservation Congress (WCC), co-hosted by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is held every four years and is the world's biggest environmental event. This time it will be held in Jeju, from Sept. 6 to 15, 2012. It is quite contradictory that the world's biggest environment event will be held only 7 km away from Gangjeong village where the UNESCO-protected environment is being seriously damaged by the construction of a war base. It is also extremely hypocritical that the base's main construction company, Samsung, is co-sponsoring this event. We urgently call for all peace-loving internationals to visit the Gangjeong during this event and express your support for our struggle to stop the naval base project. We also call for internationals to hold international solidarity events in your regions during an international solidarity week from Sept. 2 to 9. You may also visit the village during our peace pilgrimage through Jeju from July 30 to August 4.

Prison Diary: Memorial Day, June 6, 2012; Cloudy

By Dr. Song Kang-Ho (Excerpt from a series of diary letters sent from prison)

White rice was provided today because it's a national holiday. But the prisoners like the regular boiled barley and rice better than white rice given on special days because the white rice is not delicious. Those red days on the calendar bring loneliness to prisoners because we can't have visitors on those days. And people who don't like TV like me, are bothered by excessive noise pollution. I usually only watch an hour of news in the evening. Actually the news is from noon, but we can't watch it until 6 p.m., and KBS edits it according to the government's taste, with no mention of the government's faults or mistakes. They also often reverse the order of events so people can't understand the truth easily. But there is no choice in prison so following such third-rate broadcast news is the only way to hear news. But on holidays even that is replaced by only a 5 minute MBC headline news brief. It is true that prisoners in jail serve out a double sentence on holidays.

I feel nauseous about Memorial Day. It is the day that the dirty regime uses victims of war to hide itself and celebrates its nationalist chauvinism as patriotism. I feel angry that the government makes war victims into heroes while it prepares for future victims. In every country, war victims who fought to protect their territory used to be treated as heroes. There is a reason why even the victims of the Cheonan ship, who were defeated due to a lack of vigilance, became heroes: if we criticize their faults then it will eventually lead back to the leaders of the military. Even the families of the deceased seem to pay no attention to the reason that they died but only that they died and are therefore heroes whose families deserve compensation and financial support.

I want Memorial Day to be a balanced holiday where people cherish the memory of the Koreans killed in the Korean and Vietnam Wars but also remember the sorrow of the families of those who were killed by the Korean military, such as North Koreans and Vietnamese. Then we can wake up from the fake myth that the wars we experienced were unilaterally righteous and the war dead all heroes. It will enlighten people that war and violence are the real enemies of humanity, bringing suffering to all.

I think Memorial Day should be abolished and the National Cemetery shouldn't be only a military cemetery. Why should former president Chun Doo-hwan, a dictator who killed many people be buried in the National Cemetery but not Jeon Tae-il, who enlightened Koreans about worker's rights and the nobility of labor? We have to discard our prejudice that only soldiers are people of merit or honor and true patriots. So why don't we bury many kinds of honorable people from across Korea there? But actually what I really want is to get rid of the National Cemetery as well. The military should be buried in a military cemetery. Humanity should strive for the elimination of the military altogether if a world without war is our ardent hope. Slavery and racism are no longer socially acceptable. Next comes the military!

Write to Dr. Song in Prison: Dr. Song Kang-Ho (No. 611), Jeju Prison, 161 Ora-2dong, Jeju City, Jeju, Korea

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Consider making a donation to support our international outreach and public education efforts.
2. Write a letters to Dr. Song Kang-Ho (jailed since April 1st) and Mr. Kim Bok-Chul (jailed since June 14). Address Letters to: Dr. Song Kang-Ho (No. 611) or Mr. Kim Bok-Chul (No. 598), Jeju Prison, 161 Ora-2dong, Jeju City, Jeju Island, Korea
3. Stay updated on the resistance by joining the "No Naval Base on Jeju!" and "Save Jeju" Facebook pages. Follow the most recent developments on Twitter at #savejejuisland and #savegangjeong and #gangjeung - then re-tweet.
4. Call the Korean Embassy in your country and let them know that Jeju does not want a naval base! The militarization of Jeju Island runs contrary to its designation as the "Island of World Peace." 94% of village residents voted no!
5. Email Jeju Island Governor Woo Keun-Min and tell him how you feel about the military base being built on the pristine "Island of World Peace". He should ORDER the navy to halt construction (destruction) and use his official power to cancel the Navy's license for reclamation of public water and its adjacent surface along Gureombi Rock and its coast! Contact him at: hmw2820@jeju.go.kr or jejumaster@jeju.go.kr

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.savejejunow.org> (English)
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/nonavalbase> (English)
<http://www.facebook.com/SaveJeju> (English / Korean)
<http://cafe.daum.net/peacekj> (Korean / English / Mandarin)

For Gangjeong related videos, check these Youtube sites:

1234yz100 / Dopeheadzo / Benjdamour / Buramhe / Sungdong2012 / Shalomsea

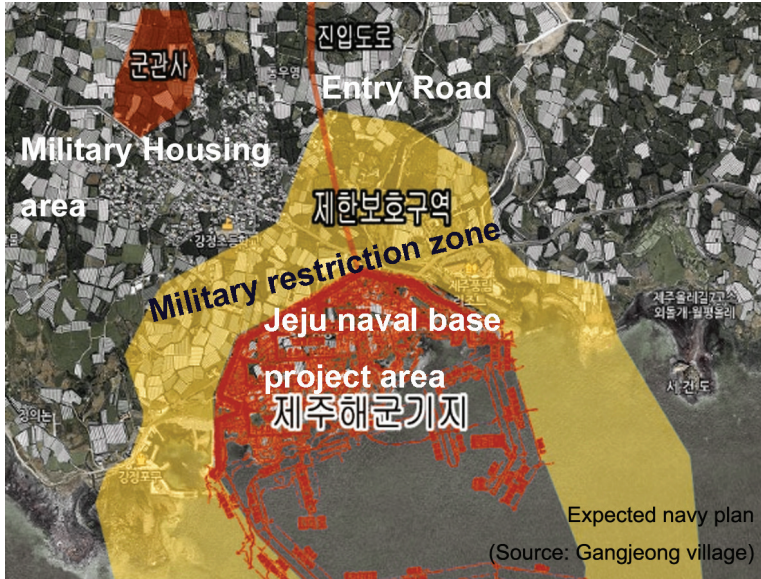
Created and Designed by the Gangjeong International Team

Special thanks to Andy Kurzen for design assistance

Published by the Gangjeong Village Association, 4417 Gangjeong-dong, the Life and Peace village, Seogwipo City, Jeju, the Peace Island



image sources: various including "Gangjeong Village People" Facebook, Licky Rooney, Cho Sung-Bong, & Ca Kon



NAVY PUSHES TO STEAL MORE LAND

Despite the fact that, due to strong protests, the navy could not yet even complete its 2011 construction plans, on June 15th the navy attempted to hold a second presentation regarding the proposed military family housing and entry road that they want to build in Gangjeong. A previous attempted presentation on May 29th failed when it was stormed and occupied by furious villagers. This time, once again the villagers stormed the hall and occupied the stage even before the beginning of the presentation, saying that they will never allow military housing to built at any cost. However the navy responded by suddenly broadcasting an explana-

tion of the housing over the loudspeakers. This enraged the villagers who demanded it be stopped and raised their voices so that the explanation couldn't be heard. In the end the navy officials gave up and left the hall. Gangjeong Mayor Kang strongly denounced the navy for trying to cheat and present through a pre-recorded broadcast that no one could really hear. Later Navy officials made a press release that they would continue with the project anyway.

Meanwhile, the navy is currently pushing for the naval base construction site to be declared a restricted military zone. According to the Protection of Mili-

tary Bases and Installations Act the restricted zone, controlled completely by the military is not just the base site, but extends an additional 300-500 meters in every direction from the base. This means that anything which lies in that area (much of the village) is tightly controlled by the military. People will not be able to build or repair their houses and greenhouses without military permission. They cannot even freely enter or exit such an area. Additionally, protesting and nonviolently direct action which breaks laws is much more severely punished in a restricted military zone.

If the construction site becomes a mili-

tary restricted zone, its size will increase to nearly double the currently proposed land area of the base project (which is currently around 480,000 meters squared). Furthermore, for U.S. aircraft carriers and other advanced war facilities and equipment, the navy will surely expand the restriction zone even further in the future.

With an influx of a large number of military people and their families, this small village of 1,900 will be swallowed whole. The village economy will be crushed and become dependent on the military. Ultimately Gangjeong village will disappear from the map.

Water Matters

By Kooban Paik (Excerpt from a longer article on Hawaii and Gangjeong)

A very wise woman from Seogwipo also taught me that "Gang" and "Jeong" are both Chinese words that mean "water." That makes sense, because of the abundant water in Gangjeong Village. But did you know that the word "wai" as in "Ha-wai-I" also means "water," in Hawaiian? That is because Hawaii used to be like Gangjeong – clean, pure water everywhere – in rivers, waterfalls, pools.

And do you know what the word for "wealth" is in Hawaiian? "Waiwai." To have abundant water – not just one "wai," but two, as in "waiwai" is how the Hawaiians defined "wealth." [...]

[But much of the current environmental woes in Hawaii, such as highly toxic groundwater] began in the mid-1800s when U.S. military officials recognized that Hawaii would make the perfect stepping stone to gain access to resources in Asia. They wanted to use Pearl Harbor as a refueling station for U.S. ships on their way to Asia. So, in 1875, they signed the first Free Trade Agreement. They made a deal with the King of Hawaii: if he let U.S. ships use Pearl Harbor whenever they wanted, the U.S. would drop all import tariffs on sugar grown in Hawaii. So you see, as early as 1875, militarism and trade are linked. [...]

Military families that move to Gangjeong will also consume enormous amounts of fresh water. [...] In Okinawa, they have to ration water because of the high water consumption by the bases. In Guam, the bases have released so many toxins into the groundwater that they are now planning to build a desalination plant, which uses huge amounts of energy to run and also kills all the fish in the nearby sea. As you can see, a base will present a big water problem not only for Gangjeong, but for Seogwipo as well. [...]



NO WAR DRILLS ON PEACE ISLAND!



PROTESTERS IN GANGJEONG CALLED FOR THE STOP OF US-ROK-JAPAN TRILATERAL WAR DRILLS OFF THE SOUTH COAST OF JEJU ON JUNE 21-22

NAVY MOCKS ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS



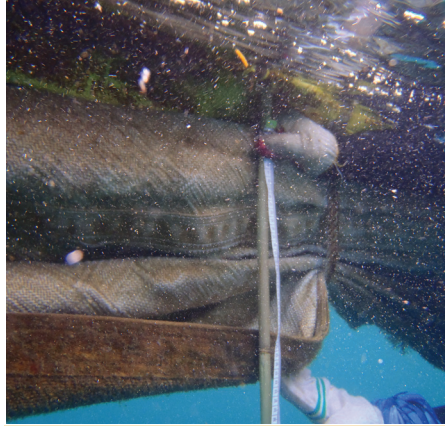
The silt protectors should be in a well-connected string around the construction site but instead are usually floating all over the place, poorly connected.



It's sometimes even impossible to find the silt protectors as there are often totally missing or covered in sea plants.



The silt protectors should tightly clasped together but they are often badly or loosely tied by tangled, frayed ropes with huge gaps between them.



Many of the silt protectors are only around 20 cm, sometimes because they are torn, other times the workers just couldn't be bothered to untie them.

If you were forcing the construction of a controversial, illegal and undemocratic military base in a beautiful natural paradise and UNESCO Biosphere reserve, wouldn't you try your best not to cause more controversy by only pretending to follow environmental standards? It makes sense, but not for the Korean Navy and construction companies Samsung and Daewoo.

The latest show of arrogance revolves around the issue of silt protectors (also sometimes called silt curtains, turbidity curtains, or other similar names). Although there are a number of styles, silt protectors are generally curtains of heavy PVC-vinyl fabric hanging from floatation devices on the surface of the water, lined with heavy chain on the bottom of the curtain (length depends on depth of water), and tied or chained to cement blocks on the bottom of the ocean. They are then usually strung together in a huge line surrounding a marine or coastal construction site. They are very important to contain the silt, dust, and other pollution created on the coast of the site (and running off into the sea) and created through dredging the sea floor or other types of marine construction. If silt protectors are not used or not properly installed, especially on a large construction site, they can lead to massive water pollution and widespread death of fish and other marine life. However, silt protectors are mandatory according to Korean environmental regulations, so of course they are used and properly installed at the Jeju naval base site, aren't they? Now obviously the villagers and activists don't want the Gureombi Rock or any of its surrounding habitat destroyed, but even base supporters wouldn't want to hurt the nearby UNESCO site Beom Island or the endangered soft pink corals, an official Korean Natural Monument, which live just outside the edge site, right?

Unfortunately, the navy's main operating mode of deception is again clearly seen here. Yes, what surrounds the site, on the water surface, appears to be silt protectors. But a quick look underneath reveals these to be a complete joke. For months, the majority of the silt protectors have been torn, unconnected, and otherwise just

badly installed or damaged. They are much too short; on the western edge of the site, they should be 5 meters long but even the best ones are less than 2 meters and some parts are only 20 cm or so, or even nothing at all! Their bottoms should be lined with chains to keep them weighted down, but rarely are. They should be tied or chained well to the ocean floor but often are not. They should be clean with nothing growing on them, but in some places they look like underwater forests, ironically sometimes quite beautiful. When strong winds, storms, or currents come, these poorly installed protectors are thrown all over the place, even hundreds of meters, and not even pretend "fixed" (thrown back to around where they were) for days. All the while, construction never stops. One of the worst locations is even right next to the dredging barge itself, which is just meters away from pink coral habitats.

The village had a press conference and spread this information throughout the Korean media and also accused them legally. But still no apologies, no repairs, and the construction continues. Normally, breaking these regulations near a protected area could lead to large fines, the loss of construction license, or even jail time. Yet, when activists try to monitor or act the Coast Guard blocks them. What exactly is the job of the Korean Coast Guard? Protecting the ocean or hired security for Samsung? Still we will fight on!

Denied entry again

On June 5th, another young Okinawan activist who has visited the village in past was denied entry to the Korea. She said that she had not necessarily planned to visit the Jeju this time. Then on June 29th, a member of the group AWC-Japan was also denied entry. He had planned to visit Gangjeong in order to convey the group's solidarity to the struggling people here. On the same day, AWC-Japan held their 6th regular weekly protest in front of South Korean consulate in Osaka.



Image: Jung Da-woon-ri

On June 30th, people protested a dredging barge which was operating illegally without repaired silt protectors. When it didn't stop, activist Kim Dong-Won climbed and occupied the crane on the barge for 7 hours., while others protested in the sea.

SARDINIA: MILITARIZATION, CONTAMINATION & CANCER IN PARADISE

By Helen Jaccard (Excerpt from a longer article on warisacrimе.org)

The sound of bombs, missiles, and other explosions; massive attacks from the sea onto the beach; an epidemic of cancers and birth defects; soil, air, food and water contaminated with heavy metals, jet fuel and other poisons; and national and company secrets that prevent the residents from learning the truth: Is this a modern war zone? No – Sardinia is the victim of weapons manufacturers, polluting military activities and a political system that cares about power and money over the health of people and the environment. [...]

Sardinia is the second largest island in the Mediterranean Sea – a paradise with diverse wildlife and beautiful beaches. Alice Scanu, a Sardinian environmental engineer and activist said, "We are peaceful people, poor ones maybe, but very welcoming. That's how I'd like Sardinians to be remembered, not as people involved in wars and power games." In the rural areas are shepherds and farmers who make magnificent wine, honey, and cheese. [...]

For over 50 years Sardinia has been used by militaries and arms manufacturers to: test new bullets, bombs, missiles and drones, train soldiers and pilots, practice war scenarios, explode, burn and bury old weapons and dangerous chemicals, launch bombing sorties. Seventy percent of Italian military bases are located here, and Italian, NATO, and U.S. bases occupy about 1/3 of the area of the island's land and sea. During military practice drills, the area closed to navigation and fishing increases to about 7200 square miles, almost 2 times the island surface. [...]

Since the 1990s fishermen have been pushed out of their profession by NATO naval exercises and have become activists for their right to use the sea. There were acts of civil disobedience at the port, the base entrances, and at sea. Stubbornly, daily, when the wind allowed it, the fishermen challenged the restrictions and the bombs, directing up to 42 boats into the heart of the war game area and threw their fishing nets in a prohibited sea saturated by war ships. Fortunately, it only takes one civilian boat to stop a naval exercise. [...]

Their demands are simple: the right to safe work, to have the stolen sea back, and to have a clean sea and environment. [...]



Image: Jum Jum-Bhae

Activists and villagers from Gangjeong joined together with laid off Ssangyong Motors workers, victims of the Yongsan tragedy, and other activists and priests for the launch of the new SKY solidarity group.

New nationwide SKY solidarity group links

Ssangyong layoffs/Gangjeong/Yongsan tragedy

By Ddalgi

The SKY (Ssangyong, Kangjueung [Gangjeong], Yongsan) joint action begins with the motto "The Laborers, Gureombi, and the Displaced are sky." The main demands of this group are reinstatement for the laid-off workers of Ssangyong Motors, peace in Gangjeong, and official inquiry into the truth of the Yongsan tragedy. The Ssangyong layoffs which have led to the deaths of 22 workers', enforcement of Jeju naval base construction that continues to trample on the villagers in opposition, and the Yongsan tragedy where six people were wrongfully killed and no official fact finding has been done to find the truth. These issues are no longer limited to Ssangyong, Gangjeong, and Yongsan only. They are about all laid-off workers, the peace of Asia, and all people who have been displaced from their homes. Therefore, the SKY joint action group will try their best to be a voice of change in this society. SKY will encourage regular people to consider and try to find the way to solve these issues through the people's solidarity and direct action. On June 28, SKY held a press conference to launch a national pilgrimage to meet people face to face and bring the winds of change.

INTERNATIONAL PRIEST

THREATENED WITH DEPORTATION

An international Catholic priest living in Korea on a missionary visa experienced an unusual delay of over one week in the renewal of his visa. Later he was told that a Korean Immigration Officer wanted to meet him to "discuss matters." When he met the officer on June 25, he discovered that his participation in the campaign to stop the Jeju naval base had been watched closely by the South Korean government. The officer presented him with a file of numerous photos showing him in Gangjeong and in Seoul in various protests, vigils, and flash mobs. His face was circled in red in each photo. The officer threatened him with deportation saying that if continues to support the anti-base struggle. This is yet another case of oppression against international solidarity by the supposedly democratic Korean government. How afraid the government must be of its wrongdoings being known around the world, that they would even threaten a priest. This tells us that the international solidarity campaign has been working.

IN PRISON

Please write letters of support to

Since April 1

No. 611

Dr. Song Kang-Ho

Since June 14

No. 598

Mr. Kim Bok-Chul

Jeju Prison, 161, Ora-2 dong, Jeju City, Jeju, Korea

Police violence leaves activist on crutches, leg in cast

By Lee Yong

Samsung, Daewoo and the ROK navy have been pushing their plan to construct the Jeju naval base in Gangjeong for the last 5 years. During the past 2 months, they have continued with their construction despite proper installation of the silt protection layers [required to surround the base in the water, prevent pollution from the construction from damaging the ocean and other areas outside the site]. This is undeniably illegal. And that is the reason I stopped a concrete mixer truck and handcuffed myself under the truck on 14th June, 2012. It was my small protest.

During that time, many police officers pulled on my legs ignoring that my hands were handcuffed under the truck. Moreover they hit my head and face with their hands and elbows many times. Of course, many other police officers surrounded the truck with their shields to hide me from the other activists so no one could take video or pictures.

As a result my left knee was wrenched terribly. Despite this, the police wanted to arrest me rather than bring me to the hospital and would have done so if not for my lawyer's protestation. Anyway, that day Mr. Kim Bok-Chul (an activist, reporter from Voice of Seoul, and railroad union worker) and I were arrested. Mr. Kim was arrested as he tried to gather information about me. The prosecuting authorities concluded that Mr. Kim was the main culprit of this incident. He was arrested without any chance to request a review on the legality of his arrest.

Since that time, my left leg is in a plaster cast and I must take pills every meal. Mr. Kim has been since June 14th. The police and prosecution judge the situation simply, by looking at the method of protest. Yet the reason for the protest is completely ignored.



Image: Headline Jeju/Gangjeong Village

Lee Yong after handcuffing himself underneath a cement truck, before he was violently removed by the police.

ARRESTED IN THE HOSPITAL

On June 8, two young woman activists were stopping cement trucks from entering the construction site. One of them crawled underneath a truck but the police soon pulled her out and arrested her. The police assaulted the other woman pulling her by her hair and pushing her very hard to ground causing her to lose consciousness. Seeing this people nearby called an ambulance. Despite her condition it became clear to the protestors and villagers around her that the police still wanted to arrest her so they began struggling with the police to protect her. She was carried to a villager's car as people surrounded her to shield her from the police. The police chief that day was the same chief who ordered an air saw and a hammer to be used on activists who had locked their arms together with pipes back in March and April. Although the activists got her to the car, the police surrounded the car with a thick wall of officers. The police chief angry hit the car more than 5 times. The people demanded that the car be allowed to take her to the hospital, some people shouting that blocking



Image: Jum Jum-Bhae

A Gangjeong villager is assaulted by police in front of the naval base construction site gate.

her in this unconscious state could be attempted murder. After a long negotiation she was carried to a nearby ambulance accompanied by some friends and a lawyer was called. However, in the hospital the police came and were very threatening. After an examination which revealed that she was okay, the police arrested her in the hospital and took her to the police station and interrogated her for three hours. Finally she was released that night around 9 p.m., possibly because the police could be afraid of public opinion.