



Image: SOS Ocean Team

Viewed underwater, the supposedly properly installed silt protectors, vital to containing pollution created by marine construction, are as usual poorly assembly and lacking any function. Illegally, of course.

CAMERA WAR HEIGHTENS IN GANGJEONG

By Emily Wang

“Camera War” is not new at all here in Gangjeong. The police and construction companies violently violate peace activists and villagers with lots of camera and video camera everywhere. They constantly use these cameras to collect information in order to criminalize the peaceful inhabitants of Gangjeong, to fine them or put them in jail.

However, after the presidential elections went in favor of pro-base candidate Park Geun-Hye, the police in Gangjeong have taken even more aggressive action with their cameras. The number of cameras used has become countless, and now the police clearly take very close up video and photos one by one of the activists engaged in direct action as a clear threat to base resisters.

Even though many peace activists do direct action with their faces covered, everyone feels very uncomfortable with so many cameras shoved in their faces. Even though its not new for the people here to face such dangers, this changed attitude of the police under a new political atmosphere shows clearly the danger of dehumanized police failing to keep at least an impartial stance in Gangjeong.

New Year’s Eve Celebration Lifts Spirits

In the weeks following the election, the mood in Gangjeong was dark. Although opposition candidate Moon Jae-In was not a strong ally to Gangjeong, villagers and activists looked forward to the end of the Lee Myung-Bak era. But the Park Geun-Hye win seemed to forecast another 5 years of hard struggle and this naturally left many Gangjeong people depressed.

For this reason, a joyous and communal New Year’s Eve could not have come at a better time. First, villagers, friends, activists, and supporters gathered at the village Ceremonial Hall and marched to the Gangjeong Port. There they had a wild and fun celebration from 5 p.m. until early morning 2013. There was singing, dancing, karaoke, food, games and more. At midnight, people lit paper lanterns and sent them out into the sky with their hopes and wishes for 2013.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Consider making a donation to support our international outreach and public education efforts. Visit savejejunow.org/donate/ to donate.
2. Write letters to Gangjeong’s prisoners of conscience (See page 3). Address letters to: Jeju Prison, 161 Ora-2dong, Jeju City, Jeju the Peace Island, Korea
3. Stay updated on the resistance by joining the “No Naval Base on Jeju!” and “Save Jeju” Facebook pages. Follow @SaveJejuNow for the most recent developments on Twitter. Also watch #gangjeong 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 the Gureombi Rock coast! Contact him at: lmw2828@jeju.go.kr or jejumaster@jeju.go.kr
6. Organize a solidarity event (concert, movie screening, protest, talk, etc...). Publicize it, invite your friends, invite the media, and share about it with us on Facebook and other social media sites.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

For Gangjeong related videos, visit savejejunow.org or check these Youtube sites:
[1234y2100](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1234y2100) / [Dupeheadu](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dupeheadu) / [Sungboog2012](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sungboog2012) / [ShealEam](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShealEam) / [Regis Tremblay](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RegisTremblay)

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Threats Against Internationals on the Rise

By C.D.

Jeju’s Olle Trail is 200km of connecting paths that follow the south coast of the island. Pamphlets and websites designed to attract tourists to the trail promise unique and natural coastal expanses of natural and “unrivaled” beauty. For the most part it is true. But Route #7, the 15.1km hike from Oedolgae Rock to Wolpyeong, has become “unrivaled” in a way that has nothing to do with nature or beauty. First there is the sewage disposal plant. Not a good place for a picnic, but hikers forgive and walk on. Then, about two-thirds of the way along the hike, the second affront. This one a massive and halting assault on the senses that obscures anything natural. There is no beauty here. Just a 20’ gray fence topped with spirals of barbwire that winds along the coast for as far as the eye can see.

Today is not the first time I have been approached by a tourist asking what is going on here. The painted slogans on the fence tell only part of the story: NO MORE WARS. GET OUT NAVY. PLEASE LET PEACE PREVAIL. WHAT FOR? WHO FOR? PEACE IS THE WAY. I explain that behind the fence is the construction site of an enormous ROK/US naval base. I explain that it is part and parcel to the ROK’s complicity with President Barak Obama’s Pivot to the Asian Pacific. I further explain that if completed, it will increase political tensions in the region, and that people here do not want to be involved in yet another war. And I explained how a naval base here will consume the traditional village of Gangjeong, forever destroying the self sustaining way of life that has supported the villagers for over 450 years. My back was turned to the 300 or so police men and women who were marching across the bridge to surround and isolate those who were there to protest the illegal 24-hour construction that is taking place. Suddenly the person to whom I was talking turned and ran to the side of the road. He watched as activists were confronted by police and removed from the entryway to the construction site. A policeman pulled the hood of my parka back while others surrounded me with their shields. Arbitrarily assuming I was a tourist, the policeman yelled into my ear: “Violation of visal Deport! Deport!” Both humiliated and intimidated, I felt like I had been treated like a criminal. I had a sick feeling in my stomach as I had no opportunity to respond or defend myself. Deport? For wanting peace? Now it is me who does not comprehend. Now it is me who wonders where the natural beauty has gone... the natural, unrivaled beauty that I would like to trust is in the heart and soul of all living beings.



Image: Jang Hyun-Woo

At midnight, December 31, 2012, Gangjeong villager Kim Mi-Ryang lights the “Peace and Life Gangjeong Village” sign to signal the beginning of the new year, 2013.

Front headline images source: Lee Woo-Ki. Villagers and activists doing 1000 bows in front of the National Assembly building on a snowy night.
Back image sources: Hwang Hyun-Jin, Cho Sung-Bong, Choi Hye-Young, Sim Young-Oh, Jang Hyun-Woo



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Monthly news on the struggle against Jeju Naval Base

Published by Gangjeong Village in Jeju, South Korea



JEJU’S FUTURE AFTER THE ELECTION

By Cheong Wook-Sik (Representative of Peace Network)

The candidate of the ruling conservative Saenuri Party, Park Geun-Hye, was elected [although there are still some doubts about the fairness of the election] in the South Korean presidential elections on Dec. 19, 2012. Park has expressed her position on Jeju as wishing to make it into a “2nd Hawai?” and as part of that the Jeju Naval Base construction should be continued without delay. She has also expressed positive interest in ROK-US alliance and ROK-Japan security cooperation, so it is expected that will lead to further elasticity

of the ROK-US-Japan trilateral military alliance, desired by the US and Japan.

The United States already aiming to curb and contain China, has declared the “Asian Pivot” policy and has begun concentrating 60% of its naval forces into the Asia Pacific region, spurring arms sale buildups, including the Missile Defense system. Japan, using the conflict of the Senkaku Islands (Diaoyu Islands in Chinese) as its excuse is also stepping up its retrogressive revision of its Peace Constitution, pushing for more aggressive military arms buildups.

The Jeju Naval base is being built in the

center of several East Asian conflicts, heightening the danger that South Korea could be pulled into the US/Japan v. China conflicts. This is one reason why Park needs to totally examine the base construction from the viewpoint of peace on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

The reality is that even the smallest procedural justice is being violated through the naval base construction which is far from the “citizens’ unity” that Park has emphasized. The National Assembly approved the 200.9 billion won 2013 Jeju naval base budget but attached three collateral conditions which must

be executed and reported back to the National Assembly within 70 days: First, the base should be proven to not be primarily a military or military only port; second, the ability to entry for 150,000 cruises must be verified; and third, clarify the rights of official regulation on the harbor and coverage of maintenance & repair costs. However, the Ministry of National Defense and navy are completely ignoring the conditions of the National Assembly and have continued forcing the construction even up until this very moment.

“JEJU’S FUTURE” CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

“GANGJEONG FRIENDS” GROUP LAUNCHES

By Choi Sung-Ku

A new Gangjeong support group, “Gangjeong Friends”, has launched. The inaugural meeting was held on December 22nd in the Gangjeong Village Center. Gangjeong Friends will encourage the peace movement by doing activities in support of and raising funds for Gangjeong villagers and activists. Gangjeong Friends is a life and peace movement against the Jeju Naval Base which seeks to build a peaceful world in which everyone is respected. Gangjeong villager Go Gwon-Il was elected as the representative of Gangjeong Friends and Jeju Island artist Goh Kil-Chun and 16 others were selected to be the Gangjeong Friends Steering Committee.

According to Go Gwon-Il, “Gangjeong Friends will be a representative, reflecting the minds of many people from all around the world who care about Gangjeong...Park Geun-Hye [recently elected Korean president] has emphasized citizens’ unity and in a speech to Jeju residents she says she is willing to listen to the opinion of the general public. Hopefully she will handle problems fairly and with proper democratic process...However, if Park Geun-Hye is like the MB [outgoing president Lee Myung-Bak] administration then she will face the whole nation’s resistance.”

Gangjeong Friends is ready to begin accepting memberships from all parts of Korea and all across the world as well. Gangjeong Friends will use donations received to support the Gangjeong Village Association and the individual peace activists working for Gangjeong. It is hoped that 10,000 members will join Gangjeong Friends in 2013.

We hope that Gangjeong Friends will be a successful initiative to support the struggle against the base through bringing together supporters across Korea and around the world, people who truly desire peace and hope for a Jeju Island where peace is not a tourist slogan but a radical reality.

An important new full length documentary from director Regis Tremblay
needs your support!



Jeju

in the crosshairs of war.

A 90-minute feature-length documentary, formed from countless hours of rarely seen historical footage, photos and documents; new footage taken in Gangjeong and Jeju by the director and activists; interviews with Pulitzer Prize winner Charles Hanley and leading Korean history scholar Prof. Bruce Cumings; and more. The story of Gangjeong will be viewed close up as well as placed in both a historical context and in the context of current U.S. geo-political domination.

To watch a preview, learn more & donate, please visit:
www.indiegogo.com/savejeju

The infuriated Gangjeong villagers and people from civil society groups have sent Park a number of inquiries and requested meetings with her, but all have been consistently neglected.

The reality is that the end of the suffering of the Gangjeong villagers, already at 6 years, is not visible yet. Now is the time for urgent support and participation from peace activists and those in solidarity with Gangjeong village, both domestically and abroad.



Image: Emily Wang

A large crowd of villagers and visitors gathered in the Gangjeong Port for a Buddhist prayer ceremony filled with hope.

BUDDHIST CEREMONY BRINGS HOPE OF HARMONY

By Emily Wang

A Buddhist prayer ceremony to the Sea God, for the harmony of Gangjeong villagers, unification of society and peace and hope of Gangjeong was held in the Gangjeong Port on December 13th, 2012.

Gangjeong is a farming and fishing village. The Sea God Ceremony is traditionally held in fishing villages like Gangjeong for the safety of the fishermen and the prosperity of the fishery. However, this time, Buddhists decided to have the ceremony in Gangjeong because of the destruction of the community by the naval base project, which also resembles the strife of Korean society at large.

So far, genuine dialogue between pro and anti-base villagers has failed to happen for a number of complex reasons, mostly due to the manipulation and secret dealings of the navy. Many obstacles have to be overcome before reaching reconciliation, but very importantly, the wish and will of the villagers to make an effort to recover their community was shown through the Sea God Ceremony. The villagers who attended this ceremony are silently forming the common dream to rebuild their community.



Image: Tiff

The people of Gangjeong (top) and Gaza (bottom) although different, share many links in their struggles for justice.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Sleep

By C.D.

Some needs are just not negotiable. Sleep is one of them. Unfortunately, sleep has become a bit of a luxury here in Gangjeong since construction of the intended US/ROK naval base has become a 24-hour operation for contractors. The noise has become a 24-hour nuisance for villagers. For the past few months it has become impossible to count on a good nights’ sleep due to the nonstop sound of loud equipment. Christmas Eve was no exception. Lying awake, trying to fall asleep, I could not help but cringe at the thought of how outrageously rude it was of the forces behind the building of the base to so disrespectfully ignore what was for many throughout the world the most Holy night of the year. Adding insult to injury, the people who were being kept awake were some of the very taxpayers whose hard earned dollars were funding the show of disrespect.

Depending on where on the base site construction is taking place, and what the work happens to be on any given night, the noise is never the same. Sometimes it is a constant drone that can be heard throughout the village, and sometimes it is the thunder-like sound of loaders, excavators, backhoes and dozers loading and moving tons of rock. And sometimes it is the blood curdling sound of metal scraping rock. The nerve wracking sound that emanates from large equipment is apparently of no concern to those who have indignantly ignored all personal, political, and legal motions to discontinue the illegal construction of the naval base. The noise from 24-hour construction is one more indignity being leveled against the people of Gangjeong. It has been well documented that incessant noise and sleep deprivation are effective tools used on prisoners in the so called war against terror. One cannot help but wonder what the long term effect the incessant noise from 24-hour construction will have on this small and vulnerable village of gentle, peace loving people.

Image: Jung Da-Woo-Ri

A sickening view from Maetburi on the east side of Gureombi and the construction. Dredging barges have increased recently and are often going 24-hours, day and night.



The Bottom of the Barrel: Local Fishermen from Jeju Island to the Gaza Strip

By Tiff, an international activist who has spent time in both Gangjeong and the Gaza Strip among other struggles for peace and justice

The fishermen of Jeju Island have more in common with the fishermen of the Gaza Strip each day...Fishermen and farmers alike provide nations the sustenance needed to survive yet are ignored on all levels and are the first to suffer when ridiculous political decisions are made- like to build a naval base on an island proclaimed as the “Peace Island” by the government of South Korea. It is only a matter of time before they will face full-fledged violence as the fishermen of the Gaza Strip also gradually inherited.

After almost 50 years of raging violence between Palestine and Israel, hope for peace was fostered between these two countries with the Oslo Accord agreement. Within the agreement, local fishermen from the Gaza Strip had up to 20 nautical miles fishing in the Mediterranean Sea. Soon after, the Israel Navy imposed 12 miles. Then 9. Later 6. And now at 3 miles, fishermen have been arrested, lost their boats or shot dead for merely fishing their waters. This situation will happen to the local fishermen of Gangjeong by the South Korean Navy in the East China Sea.

Over the past months, a plan to conduct maritime fire training at the Jeju Island naval base has been exposed. Stray ammunition is not only dangerous for fishermen but also to the sea life. Soon after the completion of the navy base, ‘security’ reasons will involve the navy officers to protect ‘their’ waters applying boundaries and limits to the fishermen. Last year, it was made illegal to kayak in the waters of Gangjeong; the lack of freedom of movement is a clear indicator of the South Korea’s oppression of the people.

[...] Currently in Gangjeong village, activists and villagers have organized nonviolent protests 24 hours a day. At the same time, fishermen of the Gaza Strip practice nonviolent resistance on a daily basis by risking their lives through fishing so that they are able to put food on the table for their families.

[...] The building of the Jeju Island naval base should cease. Building a facility to house nuclear warships/submarines and thousands of young, bored and armed men in the quiet and quaint village of Gangjeong will demonstrate negative outcomes, with the fishermen suffering the worst.



Images: Jung Hyun-Woo

Fr. Lee Young-Chan (left) was released from prison on bail after 63 days on Dec. 26. Kim Bok-Chul (right) was released from prison after 206 days on Jan. 3. They are both currently on trial.

VILLAGERS FACE VOTING TROUBLES

During the presidential election on December 19, 2012, Gangjeong mayor Kang Dong-Kyun was blocked from voting because of his probation. Meanwhile, village woman, Kim Mi-Ryang, who was imprisoned shortly last year, was not able to vote because her name was mysteriously not registered anymore. Later it turned out to be a mistake but the people in charge was rude and simply neglected her case.

These troubling incidents show that more and more villagers are being “legally” robbed of their voting rights because of the many legal trials they are facing. Is it not already enough that the villagers are forced to stand in court repeatedly for this struggle, while being labeled as “unpatriotic” and “commies”, simply for wanting to live in and enjoy their precious hometown?

On top of other reports of election irregularities, mistakes, and possible fraud, there is room for concern that such a pattern of disregard for democracy by the government may be an indicator of what lies ahead for the next five years.

Two Base Construction Workers Dead within a Month

Following a worker’s death in Hwasoon port on Nov. 28, 2012 , another worker, Mr. Kim (60) has died of unknown causes in the same port on Dec. 29. Samsung C & T is making 8,800 ton caissons, for the Jeju naval base construction, in Hwasoon port. Mysteriously, Mr. Kim’s death was not reported by media until Jan. 2.

Image: Jung Da-Woo-Ri

Peace Activists Kim Min-Suo and Park Yun-Ae got married in Gangjeong , directly in front of the naval base construction gate. They also had another ceremony in Yangpyeong outside of Seoul.



PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Please write letters of support to

Since June 14

No. **508**
Mr. Kim Bok-Chul

Since Sept. 14

No. **290**
Mr. Park Seung-Ho

Since Oct. 24

No. **407**
Fr. Lee Young-Chan

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

Mountains of Trials, Mountains of Fines

By Kang Dong-Seok

Recently, quite a few of the countless ongoing trials of Gangjeong villagers and activists were concluded. First, on December 4, 2012, Mr. Park Jong-Hoon was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment suspended to two years probation. He crawled beneath a cement mixer truck that was entering the naval base construction area on April 9, 2012, was arrested and charged with “Obstruction of Business”. He plans to appeal his case to a higher court.

On December 17, 2012 nine activists including Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon were given fines of approximately \$3,000 convicted of “Obstruction of Business”. The prosecutor had originally demanded 6 months imprisonment. The nine were arrested on December 26, 2011 after sitting for five minutes at the main gate of the construction site. They are all preparing appeals.

12 people including Rev. Lim Bo-Rah and Rev. Jeong Yeon-Gil, who were charged with three counts, including “Damage to Public Property” and violation of the law on public rallies and demonstrations on April 14, 2012 were sentenced. 10 of the defendants was divided in two groups and put on two separate trials, with each group receiving approximately \$3,500 fines per person or 6 months imprisonment suspended to 1 year probation each. The sentencing of two others was delayed. The accused are now preparing appeals.

On December 21, Paco, became the first international in the struggle to stand in court with the charge of, “Obstruction of Business”. The prosecution asked for 6 months imprisonment. The verdict was scheduled to be read on January 9 but was delayed to February 8. The truth of the case is that he was only sitting for 8 minutes with the Catholic Mass held daily in front of the main gate of the construction site, as he was taking a break from taking video, around 11 a.m. on July 23, 2012.

In another trial held on the same day, Rev. Kim Hong-Soul was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment suspended to two years probation and approximately \$100 fine. Rev. Kim was on trial for four cases including attempting to enter Gureombi Rock with a group of priests and reverends on March 9, 2012. He was charged with damaging the temporary construction walls, surrounding the site. He is preparing his appeal.

On January 7, the following sentences were handed out: 11 people who blocked the main construction gate with a van and PVC pipe lock-ons on April 16, 2012 were all given fines of approx. \$4000 each. Finally on the same day, another group of people, including Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon, villager Kang Boo-Un, and activist Deulkkot received sentencing. The aforementioned 3 were given sentences of 4 months imprisonment suspended to 1 year probation while the others were given fines of approximately \$2000 per person.

GANGJEONG BOOKS

Poetry, politics, interviews, history, and inspirational writing from Gangjeong activists and villagers. All proceeds go to support the struggle. *Korean language only

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