

Contact: gangjeongintl@gmail.com

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1. Gangjeong peace activists struggling with high fines

2. Movement for Demilitarizing Jeju, the Peace Island

3. The Gangjeong Life and Peace Village Campaign

-TO SUPPORT-

## Seoul Tent Protest Village Fire

By Regina Pyon

The tented protest village set up at Daehanmun, near City Hall in Seoul was burned to the ground in the early hours of March 3. This was a symbolic place for the labor movement in Korea in recent times and was home to SKY (Ssangyong, K(G)angjeong, Yongsan solidarity). It held a special place in the memory of Ssangyong workers in particular who had a beautiful memorial shrine erected in honor of their 24 comrades who died in the course of the struggle for justice and whose memory their families and fellow workers were determined to keep alive and whose inspiration drove them on in the struggle for justice for the nearly 3000 workers who were the victims of mass layoff. This special place and the innumerable memories and tears it represents was raised to the ground in a fire and according to the suspect who was apprehended and is currently undergoing investigation-he happened to be passing by and seeing how ‘ugly’ the tented village looked he decided to set it on fire. It has ‘arson’ written all over it as far as we are concerned but we await the results of the official investigation with interest.

## Free Yang Yoon-Mo Says Noam Chomsky!

I understand that Professor Yang Yoon-Mo is still imprisoned for maintaining his opposition to the construction of the Jeju naval base, and is now at the 44th day of his hunger strike in protest against the base and his sentencing. I would like to urge, once again, that Professor Yang be immediately released, and free to continue his just and courageous protests against the base on Jeju Island, designated an “island of peace.”

Prof. Noam Chomsky’s message

(Sent March 16, thanks to Simone Chun, Ph. D, Assist. Professor, Suffolk Univ.)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Make a donation to support our international outreach and public education efforts. Visit [savejejunow.org](http://savejejunow.org) to donate. Alternatively, join Gangjeong Friends to give regular support to activists. Contact [gangjeongintl@gmail.com](mailto:gangjeongintl@gmail.com) for details.
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 #gangjung - 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](mailto:lmw2828@jeju.go.kr) or [jejumaster@jeju.go.kr](mailto: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 / Mandarin / Japanese)  
<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 / Japanese)

For Gangjeong related videos, visit [savejejunow.org](http://savejejunow.org) or check these Youtube sites:  
[1234yz100](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1234yz100) / [Dopeheadz](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dopeheadz) / [Sungbong2012](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sungbong2012) / [ShealEum](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShealEum) / [RegisTrenlbay](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RegisTrenlbay)

# 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.

# Special thanks to Gangjeong Friends for financial support.

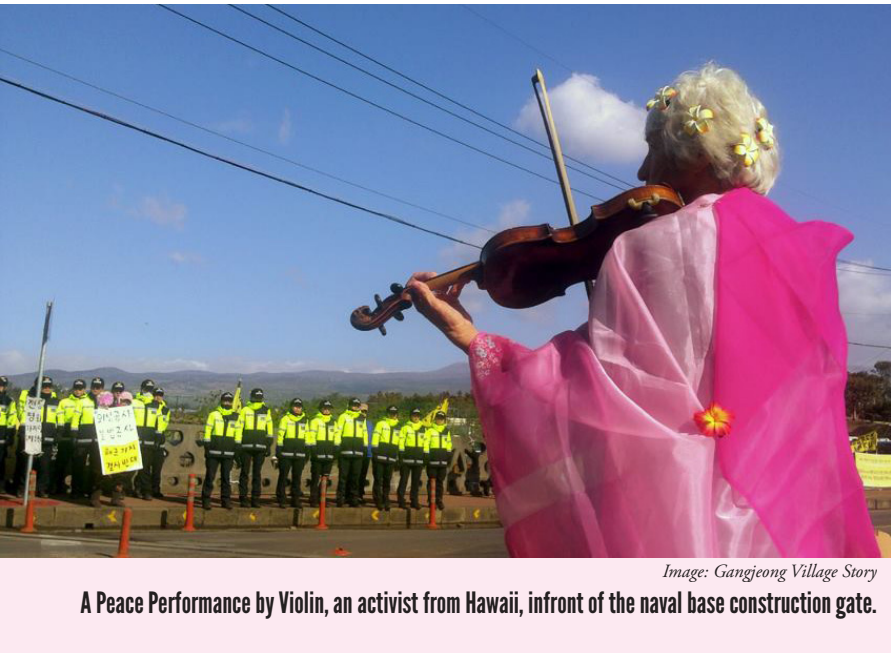


Image: Gangjeong Village Story  
A Peace Performance by Violin, an activist from Hawaii, in front of the naval base construction gate.

## You Cannot Think Love When Holding Weapons

By Violin, Hawaii

I came to Gangjeong in part because of the allure of its simplicity. You see, as a Western Quaker peace activist, I am constantly trying to untangle the complex concepts behind our struggles to make the world more peaceful. Maybe because I do live in a complicated world which is spinning ever more global and ever more militarized. I tend to respond with convoluted thoughts and attempts at solutions. I feel the burden of dilemmas and worry.

I came to Gangjeong because I sensed somehow that the beauty of simple answers would guide me in the path of truth. And in Gangjeong I saw how to work for peace, live plainly yet fully true to what is right. For example, the banner that says “YOU CANNOT THINK LOVE (=PEACE) WHEN HOLDING WEAPONS” is a clear and straightforward message. What could be more simple yet so true? One thousand bows are a humble and direct (though difficult physically) gesture to show the reverence for life and peace in the hearts of the people. Professor Yang’s hunger strike in solidarity with the Gureombi rock inspires me to honor and protect the incomparable purity of the natural world. And especially the singing and dancing throughout all difficult times reminds me that holding joy and hope fast in our hearts is the only genuine way to keep our love energy strong. Without which peace has no meaning. Thank you for letting me dance and play music with you. In Gangjeong I learned to think with my heart. Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Violin

**\*CORRECTION: In last months article, ‘Severe Judicial Oppression’ page 3, GVS, Feb. 2013, the ‘damage compensation fee’ is NOT approx. \$30,000 USD BUT approx. \$280,000 USD. (1 USD = 1,000 KRW)**



# ONE YEAR AFTER



# THE GUREOMBI ROCK BLASTING

Last year on March 7, despite people’s fierce opposition, the destructive blast on Gureombi Rock began along the coast of Gangjeong village. To reflect that a year has passed since the blasting started, Gangjeong people marched in remembrance. Last year when the blasting began, it was criticized by the Island governor and Jeju members of the ruling party as the Government was carrying out serious political fraud to conduct the blast. For 2 months, the navy blasted about 10% of Gureombi Rock, a designated preservation area as part of the Jeju naval base construction.

The blast period was fully called as the 2nd 4.3 as huge numbers of the main land police were mobilized to mercilessly suppress the Island people’s struggle and it is obvious that the United States is behind the project.

Numerous human rights violations occurred. Just in the first 28 days alone, the number of arrests were 90 while 20 people were injured and carried to the hospital by ambulance. In two months, 4 people were imprisoned. Yang Yoon-Mo who was imprisoned on Jan. 30 for his 3rd time, was going on his 42 days’ prison fast.

The oppression on international activists started in earnest around this time.

Besides Benjamin Monnet (Benj), France, who was forcefully deported on March 15 and Angie Zelter, UK, who received an exit order on the same day, Elliot Adams, Mike Hastie, Tarak Kauff, 3 members of the Veterans for Peace, United States, were violently denied entries on March 14. 5 people from Okinawa and Japan were also violently denied entries during this time with no just reasons given. Harassment on international supporters was obvious in the other cases.

A year later, the Jeju Island governor, Woo Keun-Min, contrary to his past criticisms, signed the “Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Port Joint Usage Agreement” on March 14, by which the construction on the naval base will rapidly accelerate. It was after March 11 when the 70 days’ period on the postponement of budget execution conditioned by the National Assembly ended, fully tainted with the navy and construction companies’ illegal construction with only formal verification on the base layout. Yang Yoon-Mo carried 52 days’ prison fast again in protest to the government’s fraud on the base project. However, people’s efforts to build a life and peace village and to realize the Peace Island will continue. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the 4.3 massacre.

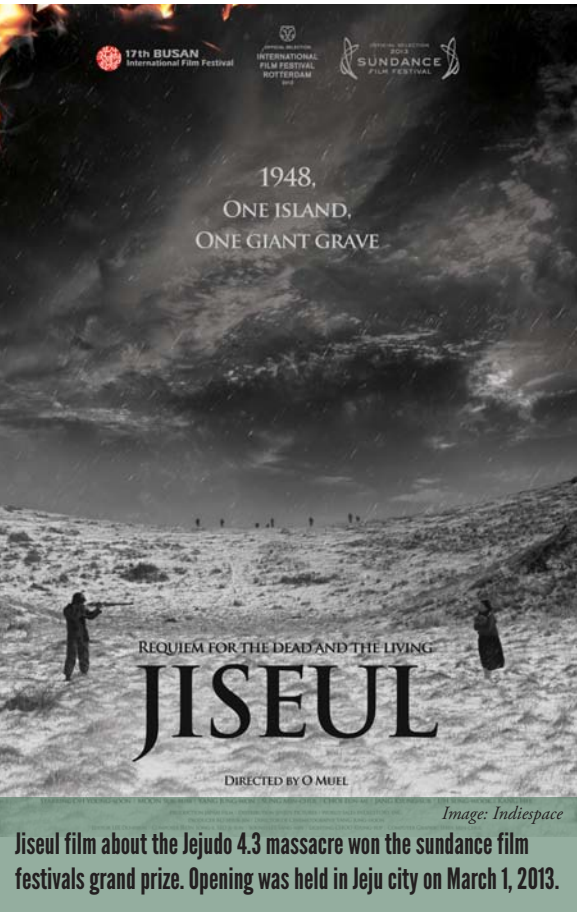
## Jeju DMZ Peace Island Movement Continues

On March 1st we held the second rally for Demilitarizing Jeju, The Peace Island. March 1st is the anniversary of the start of the Korea liberation movement against Japan, and again in 1947 the celebration of that anniversary, was the fuse of the Jeju 4.3 Massacres. We held it at Gwandoekjeong a historic location of administrative offices dating back to the Joseon Dynasty and probably back to the Tamna Kingdom Period.

Despite the bad weather and rain, a small crowd gathered. A declaration was read expounding on and connecting the history of Jeju struggles since the Lee Jae-Su Uprising of 1901 to the present struggle to demilitarize Jeju. Jeju musicians Sori Wat, a folk-song group, and Choi Sang-Don a folk singer who often writes music about 4.3 performed moving songs for the victims of 4.3 and Gangjeong prisoner Yang Yoon-Mo. There was a moment of silence for the Kim Tae-Jin, Hur Du-Yong, Oh Mun-Su, Song Deok-Su, Park Jae-Ok, Yang Mu-Bong, 6 of the victims of 4.3 at Gwandoekjeong. A letter from the imprisoned, hunger-striking Yang Yoon-Mo was also read. In the letter, Prof. Yang stressed that the struggle of Gangjeong and the demilitarize Jeju movement cannot be separated as the anti-base struggle in Gangjeong is a preview to the future of Jeju. Prof. Yang also said he will meet all 500,000 residents of Jeju personally to spread the movement and that through the face-to-face sharing of our hearts and building of trust can make the miracle of a million people marching for peace. Closing the first section of the day, everyone danced the four ubiquitous Gangjeong dances.

Then most of the participants moved to a private library and discussions were held about how to move the movement forward and make Jeju the Demilitarized Peace Island. Finally, 10 of the participants were given free tickets to watch the out of festival premiere of Jeju 4.3 massacre film, Jiseul, which won awards at several film festivals including the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance.

The next meeting for ‘Demilitarizing Jeju, Peace Island’ movement will be at the end of May at an alternative peace forum. It will be held at the same time as the ‘Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity’, formerly the Jeju Forum for Peace, a corporate and government run mockery of peace held annually in a 5-star hotel in Jeju, continuing the government’s close affiliation with Samsung, Korea’s largest corporation and the primary construction company for the naval base.





# Lets Never Lose Heart!

By Angie Zelter

Those days in Gangjeong, just a year ago, were so intense. It seemed as if the whole village was out protesting, supported by many others from Jeju and the mainland ..... hundreds of people protesting around the clock. Every moment filled with meetings, demonstrations, constant blockades, songs, dances, inter-views, political lobbying and the thousands of police marching with their repres-sive batons and shields, people being beaten and arrested. And too few hours of sleep until I caught up in the police cells!

I remember well that beautiful moon-lit night paddling out with 3 other kayaks. The sea calm and beautiful, being with friends, trying to reconcile this loveliness with the horrors of the monstrous naval base slowly appearing in front of us. 3 of us got right into the tetra-pods in front of the blasting area and hid ourselves for 5 hours before we emerged in the morning, waving our flags to be visible. Soon others, from the sea action group, joined us. 14 of us were near the blasting area but not close enough and it was heart-wrenching being unable to stop the explo-sions. Most of us were crying. It was a terrible moment to hear the blast and see the pollution rising into the air..... We swam back to the port late in the afternoon, tired and cold, and went to join the blockade and share the grief.

Over the following days the protest continued and I joined in the next stages of the struggle – serious physical de-construction protest work – breaking down fences, climbing cranes, disabling machinery, cutting the razor wire.

These necessary acts of civil resistance still continue and the struggle will never end until this war base and all war bases around the world are pulled down and trans-formed into places of beauty and peace once again. Although I am denied entry to South Korea, I am with you in spirit and applaud your brave continuing efforts. Never lose heart. Keep the struggle going. When enough people join the struggle you will win. I send you love and strength.



Image: Koh Gilchun

The Peace Nomad and Tamna Artist Association recently made solidarity trips to Okinawa.



Image:Gone Yang

Gangjeong people wear Benj's t-shirt designed and sent as presents. "Benj, a French peace maker stayed in Gangjeong for 8 months before being illegally deported last March.

## A Quest for Harmony

By Benjamin Monnet

Too many decision makers ignore that human culture must harmoniously embrace Nature to sustain itself in the long term. In South-Korea, benumbed by the privileges and immunity, governing leaders are not feeling the pure cries of the Just, Jeju island natives. Blinded by greed or anger, warmongers do not observe the terror brought by past wars. Weakened by fear, some “misguiders” refuse to walk for sustainable Harmony on Earth. By launching “Gangjeong Village International Team”, we worked to alert International Press and “Grassroots” movement. While living and resisting with villagers, I was threatened to death and beaten several times, by police or thugs. But no chance was given to me to carry out Justice in court... Thus after 9 months, I was secretly and illegally deported. They didn't let me make a phonecall to my companion, or even bring my dog, clothes, computer and money... At the airport, 11 agents surrounded me. It took 6 hours to convince a flight company to offer a seat, while I was locked underground in a barred van. I landed in France dressed with clothes given in jail. To reach my hometown, I had no other choice than to beg for food, cash and warm clothes with faith.They warned me not to enter Korea anymore. An activist said I was banned for 5 years, but I was never given any official notice. What to think about this?... Adding that my partner is Korean and currently works there. Therefore, I'd like to offer tribute to Nature as our strongest “ally”. Thus to offer this tribute in a most respectful manner, may we rely on ourselves, with our ability to lighten our thoughts and to sharpen our speeches within the noble sanctuary of ACTION...

In order to stop the wars that are being waged and prepared all over the planet, LET'S ACT NOW!

By the way, do you quest for Harmony too?

## Gangjeong Winter School for Peace

By Gangjeong Village Story

In order to reach out and involve more outside people, Gangjeong opened 3 different weekly sessions for peace school in January and February. Although the main purpose was to raise awareness about the suffering people of Gangjeong at the hands of the nation, the Winter School for Peace also hoped to encourage participants to realize the preciousness of peace and take a stand as peace builders themselves.

The 1st day of winter school started at the 4.3 Peace Park, several historical sites of the 4.3 massacre and forced militarism such as Alddreu Airfield. The 2nd day began with the Gangjeong struggle, meeting with villagers and touring sites. The 3rd day, participants joined the SOS Team to experience ocean protest and monitoring. The 4th day focused more on peace-building methods from Gangjeong activists and joined villagers in farm labor. The 5th day, participants learned more about Gangjeong protest activities and engaged in direct action. The final day, hike up Halla Mountain to reflect on the 4.3 massacre when the people of Jeju were forced to hide in the mountains. Halla is also one of Korea's symbolic mountains for peace and reunification.

Over the 3 sessions, participants ranged from young teenagers to older adults in their 50's. Although the numbers were small, it provided an intimate setting to understand more deeply. Participant feedback was positive having broadened their perspectives and realized that building peace is not something for only special people but that there are many ways, even small, that anyone can contribute to peace.



Image: Gangjeong Village Story

Gangjeong activists hold a candle light vigil for Yang Yoon-Mo who has been imprisoned since February 1st.

## YANG YOON-MO ENDS HIS 52 DAYS' PRISON FAST

With worried and growing urgent requests by many people concerned with his health, prof. Yang Yoon-Mo ended his 52 days' prison fast as of March 24. It was his 3rd prison fast: his 1st was for 60 days which he

extended into 74 days even after his release from prison in 2011, and 2nd fast was for 42 days in 2012. This time, he has been in a sick room inside Jeju prison since his 18th fast day, taking enzymes.

He has described his condition as ‘a phenomenon close to dyslexia.’ However, he was uplifted by the film success of ‘Jiseul’ which won the Sundance film festivals grand prize this year, and the campaign launch of demilitarizing Jeju, the Peace Island.

Ending his 52 days' prison fast, he expressed his deep gratitude to the people who have sent him numerous letters of support from domestic and overseas alleys. He also stated that even though he ends his fast, his struggle for peace would continue.

He especially thanked Ishle Yi Park, a Korean-American poet, artist, and nursing mother, currently living in Hawai'i who was on a solidarity fast with him. He also thanked Reverends Kim Hong-Soul and Kim Hee-Young for their solidarity fast in front of Jeju prison from March 26 to 29.



Images: Park Incheon

A dredging barge off the coast of Gureombi, works recklessly despite breaking the environmentally required silt protectors.



Image: Emily Wang

People who attend “Taiwan, Jeju, Okinawa: inter-island solidarity for just peace sharing meeting” gave their solidarity to Jeju and Okinawa

## A Bit of Magic and Some Loss

By AT [A peace activist from the U.S. who visited Gnagjeong Village recently]

I arrive in Gangjeong on a bright, sunny winter afternoon. Hallasan is clearly outlined against the sky, the tangerine groves are in full orange bloom, the villagers are selling fresh fish on the street. Just like any Jeju coastal village, if it weren't for the yellow flags waving tall on bamboo sticks. If it weren't for the wound slowly opening and seeping out into the water. A wound of barbed wire, high wall, concrete, caissons, strange boats, cranes. The bright pink flowers grow in straight proud defiance on the other side of the wall. You can see it all if you walk Olle 7. Talk to the villagers, the activists behind the yellow flags. What you can't see is Gureombi Rock, the (in)visible casualty of the wound.

Don't worry, it's all just a big misunderstanding. You've been a community for 450 years, but we know what's best for you and our country. What I saw of Gangjeong was extreme kindness, friendship, love, the Mayor's office, the nighttime vigil by a fire at the main gate, the bows, singing and holding hands during daily mass, eating in the communal kitchen, declaration of the Peace Island and how we will make it happen. Then after our yellow flag march through the city, Professor Yang took us into the sacred water, the Shamanist trees, the places that cannot be touched. “We must be close to nature,” he said. After, as the sun set over the port, I sat at the edge of Maepuri, Tiger Island in the distance, water rushing. I tried to meditate, block out what I know to be right there to my right, behind the trees. I couldn't do it. I couldn't block it out a few days later, back on the mainland, when I learned that they had taken Professor Yang directly to prison and he had started his third hunger strike. The way he had casually greeted the workers at the gate, “anyeeong!” They say he has no repentance and they're right. It's long past time for repenting. The naval base construction is the deep wound that divides, depresses, slowly kills Gangjeong. Like other business and military developments around the world, it leads us over the edge of the cliff they call progress. We do not repent. We fight.

“There's a bit of magic in everything and then some loss to even things out”

- Lou Reed

## Trial Updates

The Judicial team of the Jeju Pan-Island Committee to Stop the Military Base and for the Realization of Peace Island reports on March 8 that:

- 1.The total amount of fines for 123 people indicted for the struggles against the Jeju naval base is about 207,300 USD in trial proceedings (including those of the 1st and higher courts) processed since the beginning of 2013.
2. While many people have received the 1st court decisions, most higher court trials will be held from mid-March. Two people including imprisoned Prof. Yang Yoon-Mo have appealed to the Supreme Court.
3. The absurd trend is that the prosecutors have been indicting activists focusing on the time around the Catholic mass, 11 am to 12 pm, especially during last summer, when there had been an informal agreement last year with the police that entry/exit of construction vehicles would be stopped during the mass.
4. As the people's trials are increasing, the heavy burden to a few available lawyers is also reaching a difficult limit.

Another remarkable point is people's touching and cooperative efforts to raise funds for fines. Oh Young-Ae, mother of a young activist, Kim Gami, proudly reported that she has collected 14,000 USD for young activists, as of mid-Feb, by her fundraising effort with a 'healing' snack vendor.