NEW "PILGRIM HOUSE" OPENS IN GANGJEONG

By Dong Seok

We cannot let the Gangjeong community be destroyed through this naval base construction. For this reason a new place to stay has opened. This place is called "Pilgrim House". Many priests and activists come as a sort of pilgrim to visit and live in the new construction. For this reason a new place to establish a foundation of Peace and a warm place to sleep. Pilgrim House invites peace activists from all over the world!

Pilgrim House is a place which anyone can visit and have a break. We hope visitors feel at home. At least one room will always be made available for international visitors as Gangjeong needs much international solidarity. It is hoped that Pilgrim House will help them by offering a kitchen to cook homemade food and a warm place to sleep. Pilgrim House invites peace activists from all over the world!

For more information contact gangjeongintl@gmail.com.

Jeju Life and Peace Forum: May 28-30

As a form of protest to the upcoming annual government run, "Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity"; a conference with no real interest in peace and arms, groups actually interested in peace will hold an alternative "Jeju Life and Peace Forum" from May 28 to May 30. The theme of the forum is "Dear Jeju, Let's Dream of Peace Now!" and will be held in the Venture MICE building in Jeju City. The forum was formed during discussions at the 2nd Demilitarize Jeju Movement event. As part of the event a press conference announcing the official Jeju Forum will be held near the haunted Haevichi Hotel where the government's Jeju Forum is being held.

Jeju Life and Peace Forum: May 28-30

Catholics Resist Increased Repression

By Oh Du-Hee, Peace Nomad

The Ministry of Land, Transportation and Maritime Affairs, the Ministry of National Defense and the Jeju self-governing province finally signed a Joint use agreement for the Jeju Naval Base on 14th of March. The Korean Navy has taken this chance to speed up the construction ahead of the phantom/navy season. So they once again increased the oppression on the peace activists and also are doing construction (destruction) 24 hours a day. Then on the 26th of April, A new police chief was assigned to Seogwipo and 830 police officers were dispatched to Gangjeong including 300 police from the mainland. Police removed the barricades which was installed by peace activists to disturb the construction vehicles.

Police even began to further disturb the daily 11 a.m. Catholic Life and Peace March. The Catholic Life and Peace march began on Gunston Rock in 2010 in memory of the village community and for the Peace of Jeju Island, the Peace Island Until September of 2011, while the New Pope's call was made on the Gureombi Rock. The Catholic March was called the "Catholic March". The Catholic March was a symbol of Gureombi and so, denial entry to Gureombi, we block the daily mass at the construction site gate since then.

The police have now begun to disturb the Mass to restrict the construction, pushing the construction truck through even in the middle of the Mass. The Catholic March had to cancel the barricades and ask the trucks to stop, insisting on their right to freedom of religious expression. However, the police continued to mistake the Catholics and the villagers, violently moving the people during March. In response, the Catholics set up an altar at the gate of the construction site out of protest.

The villagers and peace activists have been encouraged and given strength through the struggle of the Catholics and the police have stoned to slow down a bit after strong criticism of negligible opposition. The government cannot stamp out our prayer or our wish for peace no matter how hard the police oppression gets.
**NIS Sued for Defamation of National Base Opponents**

On March 18, Korean media outlet Hankyoreh revealed that Won Se-Hoon, Chief of the ROK National Intelligence Service (NIS) interfered in the presidential election by "indirectly providing false information in national politics." Part of his orders included instructing employees to leave comments on online sites defaming opponents of the Jeju naval base project.

**Village Chairwoman Returns from U.S. Speaking Tour**

Jung Young-Hong, a Gangejong farmer and Chairwoman of Woman Villager’s Committee to Stop the Naval Base, was invited on a speaking tour of U.S. sites recently and visited all across the U.S. to Hawaii, Maine, Boston, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles from June 21 to May 12. After her return she also had two chances to share her trip with the people of the village as well as with a group of college students. She said that she could feel Guamboi Rock blocking her wherever she went.

**SOS Completes Ocean Training in Indonesia**

Six people from SOS (Save Our Seas) who are now working in Gangjeong and 1 participant working in Acheh, Indonesia, have just rapidly finished 4 weeks of ocean training in Sulawesi, Indonesia. It was the 1st international ocean training since SOS formed. It was very intense, sailing around 700 km on a native Indonesian handmade wooden canarium sail boat. We had to rely on trust and the blessing of the wind, the compass in our hands, water bottles for drinking, and the power of prayer.

It took a total of 10 days to rest and repair the boat before and after sailing, and 16 days of sailing to reach our destination. We passed through 7 small islands and 6 seaweed towns. As we navigated the islands, the water and scenery became cleaner and more beautiful, and the local people on tiny islands became more friendly and innocent. There were several moments of fear and danger though, with even our mast breaking in half at near the end of our journey.

**Why did SOS decide to leave for training even though Gangjeong’s huge 24 hour-a-**

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However, they felt very清楚 that the training was important for the protection of the oceans, and the event was attended by students from the UK, South Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan and Vietnam.

**Talking about her visit to Maine, where huge Augost Dredgers are built and**

**Hawaii where the environment is contaminated by the military bases, she said**

Talking about her visit to Maine, where huge Augost Dredgers are built and Hawaii where the environment is contaminated by the military bases, she said she wished that the base being built is clearly a US base.

**We are human beings - where there is a will there is a way.**

**Deported French Activist Shares about Gangejong at SOAS, University of London**

By Andrew, French Activist and supporter

In March, Benjamin Monnet (Beni) a French national who lived in Gangejong for ten months, was invited to talk at SOAS in London. He was violently and illegally deported from South Korea following a non-violent attempt to defend Gangejong Rock from destruction. British peace activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Angela Zeiler was also arrested at the same time and eventually subjected to a deportation order.

The event was attended by students from the UK, South Korea, Japan, Norway, Germany, Italy and Tahiti. Beni said he hoped to ‘generate some inspiration’, and did exactly that with a delivery that was at once calm, good humoured and energetic.

**“As a non-violent defender of peace was one of the countless human rights abuses enacted by Lee Myoung Bak’s corrupt government. The innocence have continued under Park Geun-Ho’s regime with the indefensible and inhumane deportation of Emily Wang (Wang Yu-Hsuan) in April and recent political imprisonments. So, should there be no last word goes to Beni:**

‘Of course we can stop this naval base. We are human beings - there is where there is a way. But we need your help.’

**Gangejong Prisoners of Conscience**

**Reflections on Entry Denial and Deportation**

By Emily Wang (Wang Yu-Hsuan)

On April 24th, after a short overseas trip, I returned back to Korea, excited to go back to my second hometown, Gangejong. But then a ridiculous but not really surprising thing happened to me. It was Entry Denial. I am the person who has gotten into trouble from the Korean government in relation to the Jeju naval base, being thrown into prison time after time that justice and peace are very inconvenient in Korea right now. Looking at me, I’ve never been counted or received any investigations from the Korean police. I’ve never seen on trial. I didn’t often tell people my real name and in the beginning not even my nickname. But now I’m rejected to enter the ROK because I’m on the “Blacklist”.

For giving me this special label, I want to say thank you. With the support of many friends, I decided to walk with dignity, not carried by the police, a situation of mass disappearance almost everyday in Gangejong, and I won this dignity clearly. It’s a present. Dear ROK, you gave me a big present to continue the vision of inter-island peace solidarity, outside of Gangejong. For giving me this special label, I want to thank you. With the support of many friends, I decided to walk with dignity, not carried by the police, a situation of mass disappearance almost everyday in Gangejong, and I won this dignity clearly. It’s a present. Dear ROK, you gave me a big present to continue the vision of inter-island peace solidarity, outside of Gangejong.

**PRISONER UPDATES**

Apart from Prof. Yang Yoon-Mo (57) and Mr. Kim Young-Jae (41), two more peace activists were imprisoned in the last month. In April 28th, a bright Sunday, Mr. Lee Jong-Hue was arrested around 11:30 while sitting in front of the gate of the C&T building project site, and was detained for 98 days in prison.

On May 7, the court sentenced F. Lee Young-Chan on the charges of “Obstruction of Business” and “Driving a Car Without License”. He was given 10 months imprisonment with a suspended sentence and two years’ probation. Mr. Lee was arrested on October 26, 2012 and imprisoned for two months for his protest, before being released on bail. On May 3, Park Su-Jin, an international peace worker living in Gangejong stood court on an appeal of his original case by the prosecution. On February 8, he was sentenced to a 7,900 won (around $7 USD) fine but with a suspended sentence. On May 10, its peace activists who covered their bodies in red paint and held at anti-Samsung “Boiling Guarde” protest in front of the Samsung C&T building in Seoul on March 26, 2012 started their trial at the Seoul Central District Court. The prosecutor accused them of “Obstruction of Business”, “Property Damage”, “Protesting”, and “Violation of the Law of the Special Security Protection Act”. The protesters claimed that the Seoul C&T building project means that the protestors around 20 million won ($20,000 USD) in damages from the protest. If the court decide that they are guilty, then a civil suit by Samsung may also follow for damage compensation.

Finally, in good news on May 8, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea acknowledged that the 2nd August of the arrest of Shimzoleol hand, composed of three Gangejong peace activist people, was illegal. Band member Jo Yol Gang from an appeal the commission last month.

**“Gangejong’s Daughter”, Mi-Lyang, Badly Hurt by Police**

Here, there is a native-born woman of Gangejong whom president Park Geun-Hye should face. Has been fighting for over 6 years for the protection of her hometown and for the water of Jeju to not be turned into a war playground for the U.S. Military.

On May 10, 2012, Mi-Lyang, a native-born woman, 42 years of age, was attacked by four police officers at the police station in her hometown. She suffered a large 15 cm gash torn across her stomach over a ledge falling nearly 6 meters. During the fall she over a ledge falling nearly 6 meters. During the fall she suffered a large 15 cm gash torn across her stomach and an injured finger. She was rushed to the hospital and had an injured finger. She was rushed to the hospital and had an injured finger.

Fortunately the wound was 1 cm short of cutting her internal organs.

As the first police claimed that she was walking and fell over on her own. But then a video was found showing clearly that the police had kicked her over the side. So the police stopped lying but still had no public apology was given. Even the mayor of Seogwipo refused to come and meet with Mi-Lyang or the villagers while showing clearly that the police had knocked her over.

This Mi-Lyang said to him, “How can people from the same hometown respect each other? How can you hear the realization of this?" She will never this realization of state power. Let all the arrestee be free for the sake of my sacrifice.”

**Gangejong Village Chairwoman Returns from U.S. Speaking Tour**

Dr. Song Kang-Ho who participated in and coordinated this training told us, “The...