

...such as the Hyundai Autoworkers sit-in in Ulsan, and the anti-transmission tower land grab struggle in Milyang.

29 civic society groups such as PSPD, Democratic Lawyer's Association, and National Network of Korean Civil Society for Opposing to the Naval Base in Jeju Island made a joint statement saying, “The South Korean government should acknowledge the seriousness of the Korean human right situation pointed out by the UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur and should make their best effort to set up concrete performance plans to carry out the applicable recommendations.”



A FILM BY REGIS TREMBLAY

A shocking documentary about the struggle of the people of Jeju Island, S. Korea. Set in the context of the American presence in Korea after World War II, the film reveals horrible atrocities at the hands of the U.S. Military Government of Korea.

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JEJU LIFE AND PEACE FORUM 2013 HELD FROM MAY 28-30

From May 28-30 the 1st Jeju Life & Peace Forum 2013 was held in Jeju City, Jeju. The aim was to offer an alternative counter forum in response to the annual government and corporation run “Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity” a conference with no real interest in actual peace and from which Gangjeong and Gangjeong villagers are banned from sharing their story. The theme of this alternative forum was “Dear You, Let's Dream of Peace Now!” During the forum there were speakers from Gangjeong as well as around Jeju and Korea. The primary topic was related to the Gangjeong naval base project as well as Jeju, Korea, and Asian peace in general. There were also a number of performances by musicians. On the last day, a press conference was held in front of the luxury Haevichi Hotel where the government's forum was being held.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Make a donation to support our international outreach and public education efforts. Visit savejejunow.org to donate. Alternatively, join Gangjeong Friends to give regular support to activists. Contact 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-si, Jeju-do, 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 / 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 or check these Youtube sites:
 1234y2100 / Shalomsea / Sungbo2012 / ShealEum / Regis Tremblay

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An International's Call for Global Solidarity

By Noba (Noba is an international volunteer spending time in Jeju)

Initially, my motivation to travel to Jeju came from the unfortunate paradox in which a land of peace and majestic scenes could be encompassed by its own eradication of military might. The villager's worries from such a paradox are no doubt justified and realistic. Such worries encompass a potential arms race with China, the rise to a re-enactment of Korea's past of the U.S. military's “scorchedearth campaign,” and the destruction to a land that is home to more UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites in any single location.

But since my stay I've discovered a much deeper, simpler truth. Jeju being my first international trip, I've seen in all the villagers the same smiles, laughs, tears and urge for liberation that exist in every corner of the world. It exists in every caring mother or growing child. From Palestine to Okinawa, Brazil to Jeju; we are all an entangled web composed of the same motivations to fight for what we think is true. As the Mayor of Gangjeong recently stated, “Gangjeong's strength not only comes from us alone, but from the world.” Thus, while every movement is its own and must remain its own, international solidarity is the answer to tackle the very issues of each region. From the love I've shared from Gangjeong's people, I am now convinced that if we stand together as a unified whole through our diversity, we can live out what Einstein once claimed to be our duty:

“A human being is part of a whole, called by us the Universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us...Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace...the whole of nature in its beauty.”

This is now my motivation, for no man or woman who acknowledges this simple truth should allow his or her self to accept an island of great beauty to perish.



Image: Noba
Gangjeong activist Te -Ra reads during the opening party for the new Gangjeong Peace Book Room.



Image: Gangjeong Village Story
Jeju Folk Singer Choi Sang-Don sings in remembrance of shaman Jeong Gong-Cheol during a special evening hosted by Gangjeong Friends. Contact us to join Gangjeong Friends!



Back image sources: Gangjeong Village Story, Gangjeong Village, Hwang Hyun-Jin, Park Young-In, Cho Sung-Bong, & Park Han-Baek



GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

Monthly news on the struggle against Jeju Naval Base

Published by Gangjeong Village in Jeju, South Korea

JUNE
1
2013



GANGJEONG VOICES STRUGGLE TO UN

On June 4, 2013 Margaret Sekaggya, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, visited Gangjeong to meet with villagers and activists and see the situation. The visit came as part of a two week visit to South Korea, visiting Korea's unfortunately numerous sites of struggle for human rights and justice, such as Milyang and Gangjeong.

In the afternoon, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. a meeting was held in the village ceremonial hall with the villagers and activists to hear of their struggle. Sekaggya said that she will take her findings from her visit to Korea and would compile a report to be released in March of 2014. At that time the report will be released to the Human Rights Council in Gene-

va as well as to the Korean government and publicly.

In a press conference on June 7, the Rapporteur emphasized the need for limitations on the use of state power on participants of peace rallies and guarantees of residents' participation in national policy projects such as the Jeju naval base project. She said this should be guaranteed, saying, “most local residents pointed out that the biggest cause of their complaints has been the lack of effective consultative process and of residents' participation in the developmental projects. The villagers are claiming their rights to live in clean and healthy environment, as well as to protect the nature environment in

the places they live.” She also expressed concern about excessive fines for charges of “Obstruction of Business” and damage compensation charges:

“During this visit to Korea, I saw various cases and situations where people's basic rights to peaceful rally are unjustly limited while the police used overly excessive state power in their response to protest. Human rights defenders and residents who oppose large developmental projects such as the construction of transmission towers in Milyang and the Jeju naval base project in Gangjeong have faced violence and arrests.”

“Residents used to be accused and/or charged under the ‘Obstruction of

Business’ while they carry out their rights to peacefully oppose large size developmental projects. They also get charged tremendous amounts for compensation of damage and provisional seizure of estates. There also used to be the cases where foreign activists entering the country to support them are forcefully denied entry.”

Aside from Gangjeong, the Rapporteur also met with various human rights defenders throughout Korea including of labor, environmental, peace, sexual minority, disabled, immigrants, student, media, and art groups...

“GANGJEONG UN” CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

Jeju's UNESCO Status Renewal a Fraud

On May 28, despite the ongoing massacre of sea-life in the UNESCO-designated Gangjeong Sea by the naval base construction, the UNESCO International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme adopted a completely false report from the Jeju Island government during its every 10-year re-evaluation of UNESCO designation statuses. It is criminal hypocrisy that the Jeju Island government neglects this ongoing disaster while filing for renewed status. Moreover, it is now working to promote Jeju as the world's first “Environmental Capital” by 2020, a giant international fraud, co-sponsored by the IUCN. The National Network of Korean Civil Society for Opposing to the Naval Base in Jeju Island sent a letter to the UNESCO MAB secretariat on May 29th to request an objective review from UNESCO. In the letter, it raised matter of “inconsistent maps of the Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zone” around the core Biosphere Reserve Beom Island. They claimed that this “brings confusion and raises doubt about the Government's performance.” Regardless of the confusion, the letter explained that it is clear, in any of the three inconsistent maps, that the sea route of the Jeju Naval Base will cut through the Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zone. Finally, the letter raised concerns regarding pollution and damage to the adjacent sea water by the naval base construction, giving examples of unreliable silt-protectors and the disastrous and careless dismantling of the enormous damaged caissons, directly in the sea.

Relatedly, on May 31st, several groups, including the Office of National Assembly woman Jang Hana, environmental group Hot Pink Dolphins, and the Gangjeong Village Association filed a lawsuit against the ROK navy, and the two main contractors Samsung and Daclim. The lawsuit was in relation to their irrecoverable destruction of the sea through poisonous cement dust and debris, in violation of the law on maritime environmental management. We all still remember when, during the time of the WCC 2012, Captain Yoon Seok-Hwan stated in a press conference that the navy would “float away the damaged caissons and then dismantle them on land so as not to badly effect the ocean environment. We will never use underwater blasting.” Of course, this promise was not kept and now even the sea-diving Haenyo women in the neighboring villagers of Wolpyong and Beobhwan are already suffering from accelerated sea contamination.

2013 GANGJEONG GRAND MARCH FOR LIFE AND PEACE

Let's Meet! Let's Walk! Let's Shout! Peace for Gangjeong!

On July 29, 2013, people from across Korea will march in two groups, east and west, to circle Jeju Island, meeting in Jeju City on August 3.

Participation Fees	Participant Sign-up	How You Can Help
(Food/Housing/Water/Souvenir) 1 Day: 10,000 KRW* 2-3 Days/1-2 Nights: 30,000 KRW*** 4-6 Days/3-5 Nights: 50,000 KRW*** (*shirt not included, **shirt included, ***shirt included.)	Contact: gangjeongintl@gmail.com For more info: www.savejejunow.org Donate: Nonghyup Bank 351-0603-6444-93 Gangjeong Village	Walk together Give your talents (song, art, etc...) Volunteer (staff, medical service) Donate materials or funds

WHERE DOES ONE FIND HOPE?

By “Howard”, U.S. Veterans for Peace

It was my extraordinary privilege to stand in solidarity with the people of Gangjeong and other supporters during the month of April. Since the morning of my departure from the village I have struggled to articulate my feelings.

As a proud member of the founding chapter of Veterans for Peace, I had been aware of the campaign on Jeju nearly from the beginning. The consequences of the United States’ exceptional dedication to militarism has long been my focus. Before learning of the proposed base in Gangjeong I knew the stories of the Chagos of Diego Garcia, the Inughuit of Thule, Greenland, the Chamorra of Guam, and the people of the Marshall Islands. They represent only four of the populations of many foreign lands whose lives, livelihood, environment, whose very culture have been violated by a renegade America hell-bent on garrisoning the planet. All of these people, victimized since the middle of the last century, still seek restitution and return to stolen lands. The construction of the military bases that forever altered their lives was as inexorable as the construction progress I witnessed in Gangjeong.

As Sung-Hee Choi escorted me to my bus from Gangjeong, I found myself desperately seeking some hopeful, parting words. I reminded her of a victory just won by activists in my home state of Maine. In 2011, DCP-Midstream, one of America’s largest producers and marketers of liquid natural gas, had submitted a proposal to construct a gas import distribution site to include what would be one of the largest propane tanks on the east coast. Among other onerous ramifications, tanker trucks would barrel through the coastal town and nearby villages every 10 minutes. Thanks to a tireless and savvy campaign waged by the committed residents and their regional neighbors the noise, the traffic, the environmental degradation, the devastation of reduced commercial and residential property values, and an unwanted transformation of an idyllic village had all been averted. After a year and a half DCP had finally recognized they were not wanted and had withdrawn their application.

I was not suggesting the respective struggles were equal in magnitude but that there were striking parallels. The victory in Maine represents a win for the people in a country where the pursuit of profit, short-term greed really, is seldom trumped. The Korean people are allied against the same foe---an extreme strain of capitalism that governs each of our countries that has no respect for the environment, none for its people, and really, none for the planet.

While the Maine victory over corporate power serves as a hopeful testimony to organized resistance I, nonetheless, fully appreciated in the end that it was and is the people of Gangjeong who give me hope. Their relentless campaign is the embodiment of the brilliant words of the great American abolitionist Frederick Douglass, “If there is not struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. The struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”



Image: Gangjeong Village Story

Father Mun Jeong-Hyeon usually spends all day in front of the construction site. When he is not doing sit-in protests or Catholic mass, he does “Seogak” or calligraphic wood carving signs and boards.



Images: Save Our Seas (SOS)

(L) Although just recently made, these caissons are already falling apart. (R) Construction trash and debris floats out of a gap in the silt protectors. Gangjeong was once famous for it’s clean sea water.

Continued Sea Monitoring Reveals Gross Violations

As usual, the SOS (Save Our Seas) Ocean Team in Gangjeong has been taking to the seas for ocean protest and environmental monitoring. On one recent trip, June 12, they were joined by a large group of students from an alternative school who had come to visit Gangjeong. The students had a short experiential learning session about the ocean construction and the Joongdoek Sea.

Without change, the construction continues with the same violations which always occur, despite half-hearted claims to the contrary by both the companies and even the complicit provincial government. Even basic environmental regulations continue to be ignored, and the sea is a disgusting mess of pollution. Construction trash and debris float amidst dead fish in the poisoned waters. Silt protectors, when used, are often barely functional and often badly installed or damaged. Knowing typhoon season is coming soon, the ocean construction is going at an insane pace with total disregard for regulations. And yet the coast guard sits idly by, and when pushed they even claim they have no power to stop it! They are more worried about whether a kayaker will commit “Obstruction of Business”.



Image: Gangjeong Village Story

Gangjeong Int’l Team hosted a talkshow with Mayor Kang Dong-Kyun, Chairwoman Jeong Young-Hee, and Bro. Song Kang-Ho about recent travels.

Gangjeong represented at U.S. conference: Moana Nui

By Paik Koohan, International Forum on Globalization

On June 1 and 2, 2013, 50 scholars and activists from 20 Asia-Pacific nations gathered for “Moana Nui 2013,” produced by the International Forum on Globalization of San Francisco and Pua Mohala I Ka Po of Honolulu. The conference presented a series of compelling public discussions on the devastating, interconnected crises now plaguing the Pacific hemisphere, which contains 55 countries, 60% of the world’s population, the planet’s greatest cultural diversity, and our most expansive resource base: the Pacific ocean. Mayor Kang Dong-Kyun of Gangjeong Village spoke on the Korea panel, offering insights into the struggle against the Jeju naval base.

The name “Moana Nui,” which means “Great Ocean” in many Polynesian languages, is a reference to the seminal essay, “Our Sea of Islands,” by Pacific scholar, Epeli Hao’ofa. Hao’ofa reminds us of the ancient celestial navigators who routinely traversed the Pacific using only the stars and waves as their compass. They saw the ocean as a kind of giant superhighway connecting and empowering all the islands, rather than as a vast body of water that isolates and renders insignificant the thousands of islands throughout the Pacific. The purpose of Moana Nui is to revive the empowering, indigenous vision of islands connected – not isolated – by the ocean.

Although the original vision of a connected Pacific concerned only islands, the organizers of Moana Nui 2013 extended the definition to include all lands touched by Pacific waters, since these places all find solidarity in their shared struggles. As a result, people from all over the region were able to see great commonality and compare resistance strategies, while presenting these observations to a North American audience. The conference focused on four pressing issues: militarization, trade, environment and indigenous rights.

Just a few of the speakers joining Mayor Kang at Moana Nui 2013 included Victoria Tauli Corpuz of the Philippines; Ralph Regenvanu from Vanuatu; Bruce Gagnon, Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space; Rosa Koian of West Papua New Guinea; Korean-American Christine Ahn; Hideki Yoshikawa, Citizens’ Network for Biodiversity in Okinawa; Galina Angarova from Siberia, Julian Aguon from Guam; David Vine: author of “Island of Shame: The Secret History of the U.S. Military Base on Diego Garcia.”

Returned US Base in Jeju: “Most Oil-Contaminated”

It was reported on June 3 that the vicinity of returned US base, Camp McNabb, located on the peak of Moseulpo, Seogwipo City, Jeju, is the most oil-contaminated among 16 US bases that were returned to the ROK on July 15, 2006.

As a result of several investigations from late 2011 and early 2012, the degree of TPH (Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon) was measured to exceed about 85 times the standard in the area.

The base, though small, was actively used as a radar base from 1958 to 1973. From 1995 until it’s closure in 2005, it was used primarily as an MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) facility, a vacation/retreat area for US soldiers. It was the only remaining US base in Jeju until it was returned back to Korea when the Island’s people demanded the following:

“The McNabb base was used as a Japanese base during the Japanese occupation of Korea (1910-1945) as the 9th regiment of the ROK National Defense security unit. It is known for its suppression of the 4.3 uprising during US Military Government control after Korea’s liberation from Japan. It was then used as a US base for 53 years after the Korean War. It is a vivid site which displays 100 years of Jeju’s modern history. We hope the facilities can be used in the future to uphold the image of Jeju as the “Peace Island.”

However, such a wish was hindered as the ROK Ministry of National Defense (for the ROK Air Force) took it over after its return; which, unlike any other returned US base, could cause more contamination in the area.

The base and the nearby old air field, Alddreu Airfield, is now owned by the ROK MND. It is quite clear that it should be a concern in the people’s efforts to demilitarize Jeju. These areas should be fully returned to the people so that Jeju, as a demilitarized Peace Island, can be made a reality.



Image: Seogwipo Daily News

Camp McNabb seen in 2006.

TRIAL UPDATES ON NON-PRISONERS

On May 30, Paco, an international peace worker, received a court sentence of a 700,000 KRW fine demanded through prosecutorial appeal. The 1st court had given him the 700,000 KRW fine but with a suspended sentence. In both of the trials, there was no explanation as to why sitting in front of the naval base gate for 8 minutes during Catholic mass while trucks were not exiting or entering is “Obstruction of Business.” Paco filed a final appeal to the Supreme Court.

On May 31 and June 21, two young peace keepers, Kim Hak-Ku and Park Young-In, received sentences of six months in prison, suspended and with two year probation. On June 14 and June 20, Rev. Song Young-Seop and Rev. Kim Hong-Sool received sentences of a 6 month imprisonment, suspended, along with a one year probation and 3 million KRW fine respectively. All were charges with “Obstruction of Business”. All have filed appeals to higher courts.

In good news, on May 23, Jeong Jae-Eun, a Media Choongchung reporter who had been charged with trespassing, was found ‘not guilty.’ Jeong had entered the Gureombi Rock accompanying Catholic priests and peace activists on Oct. 4 and Nov. 7, 2011 for the purpose of a news report. The judge ruled that entering a prohibited place for the purpose of reporting is considered ‘just’ and that the freedom of media stipulated in the Constitution should be respected.

TRIAL UPDATES ON PRISONERS

On May 31, Mr. Park Suk-Jin, who was imprisoned again on May 7 for violating his bail conditions, was released after a court decision gave him one year imprisonment, suspended, and three years probation. The trial was regarding the climbing and occupying of the caisson dock in Hwasoon on September 6, 2012. On the same day, a young woman named Gwak was arrested in Seoul and moved to Jeju prison the next day, June 1. She had been accused for her protest to stop explosives in March 2012 and was arrested by the court on May 31 for her refusal to respond to the court’s call. On June 5, she received a sentence of a 2,500,000 KRW fine and was released.

On June 5, Another new trial began for Prof. Yang Yoon-Mo. This time, the prosecutors charged him with Property Damage, Violence, and Obstruction of Business. The lawyer for the defense expressed disagreement on many of the prosecutors’ charges. He also said that the prosecutor’s evidence from the construction site CCTVs should not be accepted because the operation of those CCTVs is done in violation of the Law on Protection of Personal Information. His next trial will be July 17.

On June 10, Mr. Kim Young-Jae was on trial along with Fr. Kim Sung-Hwan for climbing the caisson dock with Park Suk-Jin and others on September 6, 2012. In additional, Kim was charged with 16 counts of Obstruction of Business. Much of the trial focused on the illegal operation of the construction site CCTVs, of which 10 are currently being used to monitor the moves of villagers and peace keepers on a 24/7 basis. Three witnesses, including two from Daclim and one from Samsung C & T, testified on the use of the CCTVs and the process of submitting photo/video material to make accusations. The next trial for Kim Young-Jae and Fr. Kim Sung-Hwan is on July 25. On June 11 and 22, Mr. Lee Jong-Hwa, a writer and poet, was on trial and was finally sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, suspended, and two years probation. He was released after 55 days in jail.



Image: Gangjeong Village Story

A Catholic father sits atop a cement truck after a driver recklessly threatened to hit him. But the police illegally encircled the protestors who joined him and threatened them with arrests for Obstruction of Business, letting the driver go freely without apology and ending a stand off of more than four hours.

Final Statement to the Court

By Lee Jong-Hwa (Excerpted and adapted from a longer statement to the court on June 11, 2013)

So far, I’ve considered living as a farmer and a poet, in harmony with nature, as the best way to live. So I want to be a farmer and a poet. Since I came to Jeju, I prepared for a such a life. And then I met the people of Gangjeong and saw their tender-hearts, all over the village, living in harmony with the ocean. Those people I met in Gangjeong, the generous smiles of the village elderly, the warm sunshine on Gureombi Rock, and the gleaming ocean seemed to share sadness and joy together, and can be considered as a model of a happy community.

In this court, regardless of what decision is made, I won’t give up my constitutional right to express my beliefs, nor my rights to realize a peaceful co-existence of humanity and the principles of humanitarian ideals.

The Gangjeong Gureombi coast was a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a Jeju Absolute Preservation Area, but everything has been ignored, and now a war base is being built which will only increase desires for killing and destruction. If we think of the Great Wall of China or castles has historic remains of bygone areas, then we must also realize how foolish this is. Good neighbors enjoy living together with others. If we spend much money and resources on humanity’s mutual prosperity and peaceful coexistence, instead of spending it on building a war base, then these kids who are in prison with me won’t need to suffer so much. Now these kids are suffering greatly because their parents couldn’t get jobs and eventually abandoned them. The gap between rich and poor is getting bigger and bigger with more people suffering from lay-offs and [continual] temporary employment. These social problems are bringing the collapse of our community and most of the victims are our children. Gangjeong’s issue is not only Gangjeong’s, but it is an issue for our world, and how we can make a just world. We know that peace comes from conversations and communication. In this way, I will do my best.

IN PRISON

Please write letters of support to

Since Feb. 1
No. 301
Mr. Yang Yoon-Mo

Since April 12
No. 435
Mr. Kim Young-Jae

Jeju Prison, 161, Ora-2 dong, Jeju-si, Jeju-do, Korea