



Image: Kim Tae-Hyung, Hangeureoh

In front of a U.S. armored vehicle, Gangjeong Activist, former Gangjeong prisoner of conscience, and SPARK member Park Suk-Jin demonstrates against the “Ulji Freedom Guardian” (UFG) joint U.S.-Korea war exercises (held August 19-30) in Paju, near the border of North and South Korea.

Civilians will be war shields with Civilian-Military Port

“Given that the name of the Jeju naval base is ‘civilian-military complex port’, it is a civilian port. Therefore it will not be a target of any attacks, according to the Geneva Convention.” Woo Keun-Min, Jeju Island governor made this absurd remark on July 23, 2013, during a general meeting of the island promotion committee for the construction of a new airport, held in the Jeju Chamber of Commerce and Industry building in Jeju City.

In response, the Gangjeong Village Association released a press release on July 25th criticizing the statement. In the release, they pointed out that, “Even though it can be mistaken for a civilian port due to its name, it is in fact a military port by law and the whole port was designated a military restriction area.” Ultimately, they went on to state that what Governor Woo really means by his statements is that he does not mind “civilians and civilian facilities being used as shields in war, which is strongly in violation of the spirit of the Geneva Convention.” The Village Association strongly denounced the governor saying that he is merely playing the role of a rubber approval stamp for the conservative Park Geun-Hye government and bringing Jeju into the middle of the United States war-provoking conflict with China.



Image: Gangjeong Friends

Every Tuesday evening in Jeju City, Gangjeong Friends, a group dedicated to financially supporting Gangjeong activists in need, especially with their massive fines, advertises in downtown Jeju City, to raise awareness about Gangjeong and support for Gangjeong’s supporters.

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

For Gangjeong related videos, visit savejejunow.org or check these Vimeo/YouTube users:
Vimeo: [cho sung dong](https://vimeo.com/chosungdong) / DH Song / Regis Tremblay YouTube: [Shalomsea / 1234yzt00](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC234yzt00) / Sanghong2012 / NoBaseJeju

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-si, Jeju, the Peace Island.
Special thanks to Gangjeong Friends for financial support.

Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon and Artist Koh Gilchun in the Hospital

Jeju artist, Koh Gilchun, who is well known for his art activism in Gangjeong and brought the Jeju struggle to the attention of Noam Chomsky when he met with him in both 2011 and 2012 passed out due to cerebral hemorrhage on the final day of the Gangjeong Grand March, August 3rd. He had emergency brain surgery and was in intensive care for six days and then moved to general care. He is currently undergoing a slow and long rehabilitation process, including many basic things such as walking. Meanwhile, the prominent Catholic priest leader of the struggle, Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon, accidentally cut off his left hand pointer finger with a grinder while doing traditional Korean wood carving calligraphy on August 11. His finger was reattached through surgery and he is also in the hospital recovering.



Image: Gangjeong UK Solidarity

On August 4th, together with the Gangjeong Human Chain which surrounded the base construction site, supporters in Birmingham, UK also had a small solidarity human chain.

NAVY ANNOUNCES MILITARY HOUSING, PLANS TO ENLARGE BASE

On August 19, the Ministry of National Defense made public that it would build military housing after the construction of the naval base. It said that the housing would 1/10 (9,407 cubic meters) of the originally planned size (99,500 cubic meters)

Gangjeong villagers and activists have blocked the naval and government presentations on the military house plan three times and officially decided not to allow military house in Gangjeong on a vote on April 10 of this year. Upon hearing this statement of the MND they protested strongly, releasing a statement demanding the revocation of the base project saying, “the idea of building additional military housing in the village is the navy’s acknowledgement that the so-called ‘Jeju Civil-Military Complex Port for Tour Beauty’ is in actuality, merely a naval base.”

Meanwhile, the MND also reported on August 1 that the size of the Jeju naval base project will be expanded from 480,000 cubic meters to 630,000 cubic meters. The navy plans to finish the base on Dec. 30, 2015.



Front headline image sources: Lee Woo-Ki & Ryu Woo-Jong
Back image sources: Licky Rooney, Lee Woo-Ki, Ryu Woo-Jong & Jum Jom-Bbae,



2013 GRAND MARCH AND HUMAN CHAIN



Under a relentless sun, Yellow flags sweep through the air, sweaty yellow shirts stick to backs, and folk songs old and new fill blast from an old speaker on the back of a brightly painted van. Hundreds have given up a week of their time to march around Jeju in this incredible heat. Yet, despite sore feet and looks of exhaustion, these people are some of the most joy-filled and excited people you will meet. Yes, it's the

2013 Grand March for Life and Peace of Gangjeong, and Gangjeong supporters are well known for really putting the Life in “Life and Peace”. Celebration is key to a sustainable community struggle and the Grand March is a celebration to behold!

At the end of July and the beginning of August, after months of preparation and anticipation, Gangjeong was as lively as it's ever been and maybe more

so. Hundreds of people joined the 2013 Grand March for the Peace and Life of Gangjeong, the 6-day march encircling Jeju Island, with thousands coming together to celebrate at the final August 3rd concert in Jeju City. Then the next day on August 4th, 700-1000 people, one of the largest gatherings in Gangjeong yet, gathered together to stand hand in hand and form a human chain around the base! Jeju, Korea, and

the world came together to make something special.

Gangjeong is a tiny village on Jeju, a small island on the farthest point south of Korea. We often feel small, ignored, and marginalized. So you imagine our joy and cheer at still having so many friends. Even after 7 years of struggle we are not alone, and neither are those around the world in similar struggles. Let's unite! Justice will win in the end!

Oliver Stone Visits Gangjeong

By K.J. NOH, *Veterans for Peace*

Highly acclaimed film director, Oliver Stone, whose films have been about revealing the hidden workings of power, critiquing injustice and oppression, and telling histories that have been silenced, erased or distorted, came to Gangjeong on August 2nd. He came to Jeju Island to demonstrate his solidarity with the cause of the Gangjeong villagers and their struggle against the naval base. Oliver's first act was to visit Film Critic Yang Yoon-Mo in Prison. He expressed his concern about the conditions of incarceration to the prison warden, and denounced the incarceration of Professor Yang as a political prisoner.

“The courage of Professor Yang inspires me,” he stated to the press. “I believe without a doubt that he is a prisoner of conscience and I call for him to be released immediately.”

He also joined the Grand March for Peace and Life, putting on a yellow T-shirt and walking with the protestors for several miles. The following day, Oliver joined in the “Hundred Bows” peace ceremony, toured Gangjeong village, and witnessed the oppression of non-violent protestors. He then marched with the protestors again, this time leading the march with Mayor Kang, Fathers Moon Kyu Hyun & Moon Jeong Hyun, marching all the way to Tapdong Civic Plaza in Jeju City, to join the final rally, the closing event of the epic, 6-day Grand March for Life and Peace.

Asked about his opposition to the base he said, “This base will host US Aegis missile destroyers, aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines. It's part of Obama's Pacific pivot...put in place to threaten China...We have to stop this. All this is leading up to a war, and I've seen war in Asia. I do not want another war here.”



Image: Lee Woo-Ki

During his tour of the village, Oliver Stone stops to pray and meditate at Gangjeong's 2000 year-old “God Tree” near Naetgiriso, Gangjeong's sacred water source.

Third Meeting of Movement to Demilitarize Jeju Held

On August 15, the Korean Independence day, we held the 3rd Jeju Demilitarization Peace Island rally at Alddreu airfield and Mt. Songak, Daejeong-eup, Seogwipo-si. Alddreu Airfield was built from 1926 to 1930 during the Japanese Imperial period and then used for by Japanese Army Air Service and then the United States Air Force until 1963. Mt. Songak was also occupied by the Japanese army during its invasion of China in WWII. There are remains of their presence including an airstrip and airplane hangers. Cut into the face of the sea cliff, there are still 15 caves dug to hold torpedos. From 1987-1989, There was a struggle against and ROK plan to re-build and Air Force base there, but the people rose up and the Anti-Moseulpo Air Force Base Construction Daejeongeup Committee was formed and after two years finally won and the plans were scrapped. 34 people from all around Jeju and Korea participated in this 3rd Jeju DMZ meeting. In the morning they joined a short history tour to Alddreu Airfield and Mt. Songak led by Mr. Yang Young-Woon who was the chairman of the Moseulpo anti-base committee. In the afternoon, there was a meeting all together to hear more about Daejeong, meet each other, and tell of our dreams and hopes for a demilitarized peace island.

No to U.S. Pivot to Asia-Pacific and Militarism!

Sung-Hee Choi, a member of the Gangjeong Village International Team, recently joined the “Conference on U.S. Strategic Pivot to Asia Pacific, U.S. Militarism. Intervention and War,” held in Manila, Philippines, from July 16 to 18, 2013. The conference was co-convened by Ban the Bases, Asia-Wide Campaign, People’s Forum on Peace for Life, Asia-Pacific Anti-US Bases Network, and International League of People’s Struggles (ILPS)

Joining the conference were around 80 peace activists from around the world. What was clearly felt was a common urgency for sharing information about different regions’ struggles against bases and militarization and for strengthening solidarity across a globe dominated by corporations and militarism, especially in light of “Obama’s pivot” of 60% of U.S. military forces into the region in or to contain China. The conference also came at a time when the Philippines and the U.S. are negotiating to increase access for American forces to the country’s military facilities. As Gangjeong has been struggling with military build up and the construction of the Jeju naval base in order to contain China, it was an exact match for this conference and became quite a hot issue. The quite productive conference ended with a plan for regional campaigns against U.S. bases and military presence and a resolution for future solidarity.



Images: Pang Eun-Mi & Save our Seas
(Top) Catholic mass in Jeju City and (Bottom) all-day protest at Jeju Coast Guard HQ demanding the release of the wrongfully arrested Dr. Song and Br. Park.



Images: Gangjeong Village Story
Participants in the 3rd Jeju, Demilitarized Peace Island meeting in Daejeong pose at the abandoned Alddreu Airfield. They hold signs reading, “Demilitarized Jeju Island, Peace Island.”

ISLANDERS, CONNECTED BY THE OCEAN, SHARE COMMON PATH

By Emily Wang

On August 3rd, The International Dialogue Conference on “Seeking Peace from Oceanic Perspectives” was held in Taipei, Taiwan. I was invited as one of the speakers in the session, “An Oceanic Deconstruction of Geopolitics”. I begin by sharing about the concept of “islands” because I think the long suffering of many islands will provide an inspiring source to deconstruct geopolitics and for the peace in our region.

A long time ago, Jeju, Okinawa, and Taiwan were embraced by the ocean and developed unique cultures. Then influence and exchange came from the mainlands or big islands. Islands have been “marginal” places for the “center” of the mainlands or big islands, but islands as their own center have gone on their own paths from generation to generation. However the idea of only one center is fundamentally counter to the nature of islands, embraced by the ocean in all directions.

Take our common history as example. Imperial Japan was once the one center point for Okinawa, Jeju, and Taiwan when these islands became the stepping-stones for the expansion of Imperial Japan. During Japan’s colonization, lots of people exchanged and communicated with ferries between Japan-Jeju and Japan-Okinawa-Taiwan. However, this kind of exchange promoted under militarism finally dragged all the islands into the disaster of war during World War Two and after. It brought disastrous ground battles in Okinawa and air raids in Taiwan. Jeju was highly militarized through forced labor as well, but following the battle in Okinawa, did not see war at that time. However they later faced the terrible, extended massacre of 4.3. The partial continuity of the sea once built up by Japan’s militarism was broken right after the fall of Imperial Japan and left as its remount lots of disputed territories which further drive militarization and deepen the divisions across the sea until today. I truly hope we don’t make a stupid fake peace in our region by holding hands with the US military while refusing to face the historical issues that caused our region to become one of the most militarized in the world. There are many things we islanders can do as we dig through the layers of our history and seek to find a common future peace across the ocean, between the islands within it.

I am Kim Young-Jae, Defender of Gangjeong

Written from prison by Kim Young-Jae

I am Kim Young-Jae, defender of Gangjeong.

I’m a defender but at the moment I’m away from Gangjeong. I’m incarcerated in prison on Jeju, the beautiful island of peace. I’ve been imprisoned for four months so far, after ironically being arrested for talking of peace on the island of peace.

As you already know, construction of a naval base is being enforced in Gangjeong, a village on Jeju Island. The project has a name both incomprehensible and pompous, “Jeju Civil-Military Complex Port for Tour Beauty” and it plans to anchor state-of-the-art battleships and passenger liners at the same time.

For some people this naval base construction must be carried out at the cost of ruining Jeju’s peace, desecrating its beautiful natural surroundings and destroying the local community that has existed for 400 years.

There are numerous reasons why the people of Gangjeong, the people of Jeju Province, and other peace activists work to put a stop to the construction of the naval base in Jeju. Just to list a few: The undemocratic procedures of the site selection process; the undemocratic procedures of lifting the Absolute Preservation Zone title which Gangjeong used to hold; the unsuitable conditions of the location; [base] design errors; a manipulative and contrived [base design] simulation; an unlawful construction that perpetuates the destruction of environment; the government’s severe violence and dereliction of its duty in its protection of this unlawful construction; a fake national security project that facilitates anxiety; the unexecuted resolutions of the navy, construction company, national assembly and local assembly; and finally the immorality of the construction companies, Samsung Corp. and Daelim Industries. As you can see, the naval base although plagued with problems from its birth, is still being enforced.

I believe that the strong protest in Gangjeong is a struggle between those who support and try to disclose the truth and those who try to obscure it. At the moment it looks like those who try to cover up the truth are winning but I have no doubt that in the end, truth will prevail and those who support justice and truth will be able to put an end to all the lies and the construction of the military base in Gangjeong, where peace begins.

This is my conviction and hope and with it I will continue to be with those who love nature and peace in its natural state. I ask for your continued interest and solidarity with Gangjeong village where truth and justice triumph

Image: Gangjeong Village Story

Aug. 19 was Prof. Yang Yoon-Mo’s 200th day in prison. To mark this day Gangjeong villagers and activists as well as Prof. Yang’s friends and supporters, gathered in front of the Jeju Prison where he is being held. There they held a candlelight vigil, with songs, poems, shouts, and of course, ending with Gangjeong’s famous dances.



3rd Activist Chooses Prison in Protest of Fines

Park Yong-Sung, a member of the group Life and Peace Fellowship, chose prison labor instead of paying his fine of 2 million won. He is the 3rd activist after Park Sung-Soo and Kim Jong-Il who chose prison labor in 2013 for the naval base struggle. His fine is the result of entering Gurecombi Rock in February of 2012, putting up a temporary vinyl tent to avoid rain, and staying there for four days together with several others. He was charged with Trespassing, Illegal Occupation, and Building a Structure with the Intent of Obstruction of Business. In his statement to the court he expressed his will to reveal the oppression of the state and to build a peace village.

GANGJEONG TRIAL UPDATES

The trial of Dr. Song Kang-Ho and Br. Park Do-Hyun, arrested on July 1, begun heatedly on August 9th, with fierce controversy regarding whether the coast guard’s arrest of them under the charge of obstruction of business was just and reasonable. Member of 10 different religious and civil groups filled the small court room. Their lawyers pointed out that the two had demanded the coast guard to monitor the illegal construction/destruction numerous times before crossing the silt protector line to monitor the construction themselves. The coast guard not only ignored their requests but arrested them, even though it was later admitted that the construction had paused before the entry of Song and Park. Their second hearing on August 26 further exposed the illegality and unreliability of the construction. Through testimony by a supervisor for Daelim it was discovered that those responsible for monitoring the silt protectors merely relied on oral reports by divers, and that there were not even any specific guidelines used.

On August 13 and 20, woman activist Jae-In was given an 8-month suspended sentence with 2 years probation and representative of the Jeju Pan-Island Committee for the Stop of Military Base and for the Realization of Peace Island, Bae Gi-Cheol was given a 6-month suspended sentence with 2 years probation both for the charge of Obstruction of Business. Mr. Bae claimed in his defense, that though the National Assembly had agreed to stop the construction for 70 days while passing the 2013 base budget, the navy did not observe this and did not stop the construction. On August 19, Kim Young-Jae, hit his 130th day in prison and had another hearing, along with Catholic Fr. Kim Sung-Hwan and activist Lee Yong. The trial was regarding the 5-person occupation protest of the Hwansoon Caisson dock on Sept. 6, 2012. Summoned to appear in court were a police officer who arrested him and two barge captains. Additionally, Kim Young-Jae refused to apply for bail. On August 21, Yang Yoon-Mo hit his 202nd day in prison, had the final sentencing on a different trail than the one which gave him his current 18 month sentence. He was given a 10-month suspended sentence with 2 years probation charged with assault, despite a clearly false and exaggerated accusation.

On August 22, around 30 Gangjeong activists and villagers had the final result an appeal. The 30, which included Mayor Kang Dong-Kyun and Dr. Song Kang-Ho, protested unjust decisions of the higher appeals court turning the court room and hallway outside into a Gangjeong protest site. While the fines of some people were reduced, Most of the cases were dismissed. The fine for Mayor Kang who was imprisoned for three months under false charges of Obstruction of Business on August 24, 2011, was reduced from 10 million won (around \$10,000 USD) to 5 million won (around \$5,000 USD).

Finally, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea dismissed an appeal regarding the police’s illegal arrests on Gureombi Rock on Feb. 18, 2012, arrested for violating the law on rallies. However, by law, the Police cannot arrest people for cases which would be under a 500,000 fine (around \$500 USD). The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights who visited Gangjeong in June, pointed out that the HRCK was not doing a proper job protecting human rights.

GANGJEONG PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Please write letters of support to

Since Feb. 1	Since April 12	Since July 1	Since July 1	Since Aug. 21
No. 301	No. 435	No. 409	No. 535	No. 305
Mr. Yang Yoon-Mo	Mr. Kim Young-Jae	Dr. Song Kang-Ho	Br. Park Do-Hyun	Mr. Park Yong-Sung

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