



Image: Gangjeong Village Story
Gangjeong villager Yoon Sang-Hyo (L) with Gureombi, The Wind is Blowing director, Cho Sung-Bong (C), during the Guest Visit at the final screening of the Gangjeong documentary at the Busan Film Festival.

ROK-U.S. MISSILE DEFENSE TO BECOME INTEROPERABLE?

South Korea's possible future active participation in the U.S. missile defense system has become a hot issue recently with the Park Geun-Hye administration asking the U.S. government to delay the return of War Operational Control (OPCON) from the U.S. to South Korea. Under the current agreement, the U.S. maintains wartime control of Korean forces in event of regional war. In return for the delay, the ROK is expected to purchase more US arms, such as F-35s and also join the US missile defense system.

On Oct. 2, the U.S. Defense Department Secretary, Chuck Hagel, stated that, "the South Korean and US missile defense systems don't have to be identical as long as they are interoperable." On Oct. 15, the ROK government stated that it is considering purchasing THAAD, the core of the U.S. missile defense system.

Meanwhile further ROK-US-Japan war exercises were held in the eastern and southern waters of the Korean peninsula in early October with U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier George Washington mooring at the port of Busan from Oct. 4-7.



Image: Gangjeong Village Story
Following the imprisonment of Kang Bu-Eon and Kim Eun-Hye, Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon began a sit-in at Jeju Prison. In turn, Gangjeong supporters began nightly candlelight vigils in front of the prison on behalf of the peace prisoners.

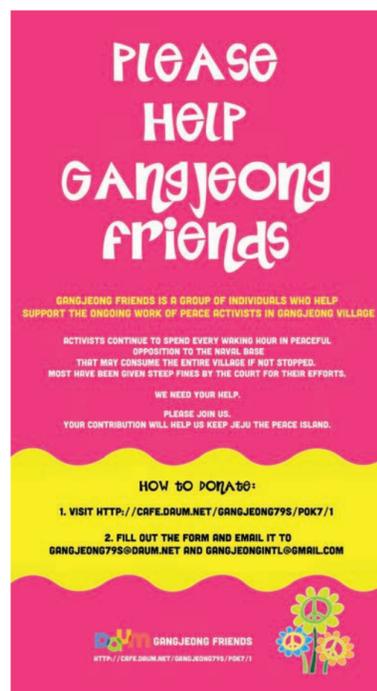
Simultaneously, it was timely that the annual Keep Space for Peace Week, an event against militarization of space and such missile defense systems, was held around the world. As the Jeju naval base is suspected to become a key part of the US missile defense system, South Korea's current move in that direction must be closely watched.

Peace is Alive and Growing in Gangjeong

By Ifjka, an international activist who stayed in Gangjeong

When I arrived at the Peace Center of Gangjeong 5 weeks ago, I was unsure what I would find in this small village by the sea. But as I watched Mr. Go repair all of the bicycles of the village, I immediately felt at home in Gangjeong. By my second day living here, people had already started eating food off my plate. "Are you going to eat that, Ifjka?" A Catholic missionary smiles at me eagerly. And while I am unable to speak with most of the people of Gangjeong, this has not stopped everyone I meet from offering me food, clothing, bicycles, computer assistance, and sharing their holiday celebrations with me like I am a member of the family.

Every day since I have been here, I have attended the 100 bows at the gates of the navy base. I have watched the police lift my friends from the road and move them to the curb so the lumbering construction trucks can slowly kill the living beauty of Gureombi Rock. I have watched hundreds of riot police swarm out of the gates of the base to prevent a priest from offering the body of Christ during mass. I have seen hoards of officers surround activists and priests sitting on the main road. And then I have danced with even more activists, encircling that police huddle with our cries for justice. Despite the shocking repression enacted against the people here, everywhere I look I can see that peace is alive and growing in Gangjeong Village. My humble goal is to make myself into an island of peace, as I have lived in an island of peace here.



ROK GOVERNMENT WRONGFULLY CLAIMS GANGJEONG CONFLICT RESOLVED

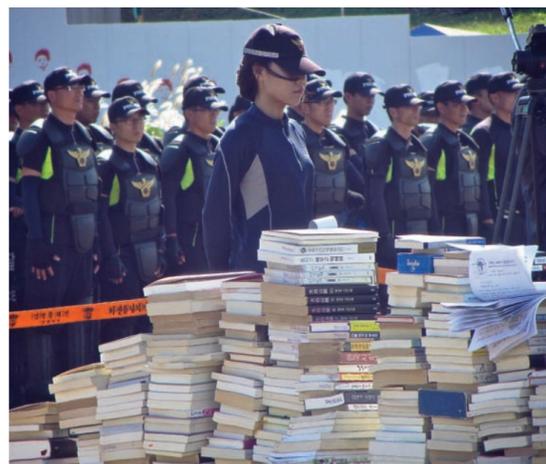
Recently, it was disclosed that the ROK Office of the Prime Minister has suddenly and unilaterally classified the Jeju naval base project conflict in Gangjeong village as resolved. The disclosure came as a surprise to the villagers, who still meet hundreds of police everyday. They denounced the Park government, asking how the situation could be considered resolved when the village is under a Marshall Law-like situation with even rallies prohibited. They further criticized the government for pretending that the villagers' claims are unreasonable or that there is nothing wrong with the base construction.

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

Monthly news on the struggle against Jeju Naval Base

OCT 2013

Published by Gangjeong Village in Jeju, South Korea



GANGJEONG'S ARMY OF 100,000 BOOKS

By Kim Sun-Woo, Korean Poet

The project began on June 1, 2013 with Korean poets, novelists, and others, 420 writers in total, came together to donate books to Gangjeong. When others heard about this, they wanted to join and the project grew to 100,000 books through the power of people's solidarity. For 100 days, 100,000 books were gathered then brought to Jeju on a cruise ship on Oct. 18. On the ship we danced and sang, had poetry and book readings, and a various other events on the all night voyage to Gangjeong. This movement is a book movement, to help

bring back the peace to this village suffering from the naval base construction.

What is the meaning of a book placed in Gangjeong Village? The writers' suggested the book village and Gangjeong accepted. The book village is like a beautiful and strong cloth sewn together by those that donated books together. A book of shaking hands, a book of nonviolence, a book of mercy, a book of love, a book of comfort, and a book that is you, are sewn together into this soft cloth. It is this cloth that makes the book village that we dream will be Gangjeong village's comfortable coat.

On October 18, the people dreaming of this gathered in Gangjeong village for a feast of books. Books filled the street and container libraries. When we look closely at Gangjeong, its skin is thin, when touched it easily tears. When the village struggles to deal with and overcome its pain, we dwell on the meaning of "books". We don't need to explain the power which books have. We can save our words and just put books in empty spaces. Put a book in the empty space where democracy should be. Place a book where proper process must be. A book where environmental

protection should be. And one in the space where the villagers and people sit. These books make the book village.

If the Gangjeong Book Village were just one book, then how many pages would it have? Artists have made street bookshelves; this cooperation is perhaps only the second page. We have so far to go. Maybe the book called Gangjeong Book Village will take 30 years to be read. Or perhaps it's an endless story as long as books exist on this earth. In other words, we will read Gangjeong long into the future because we cannot take our eyes off the story of this village.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

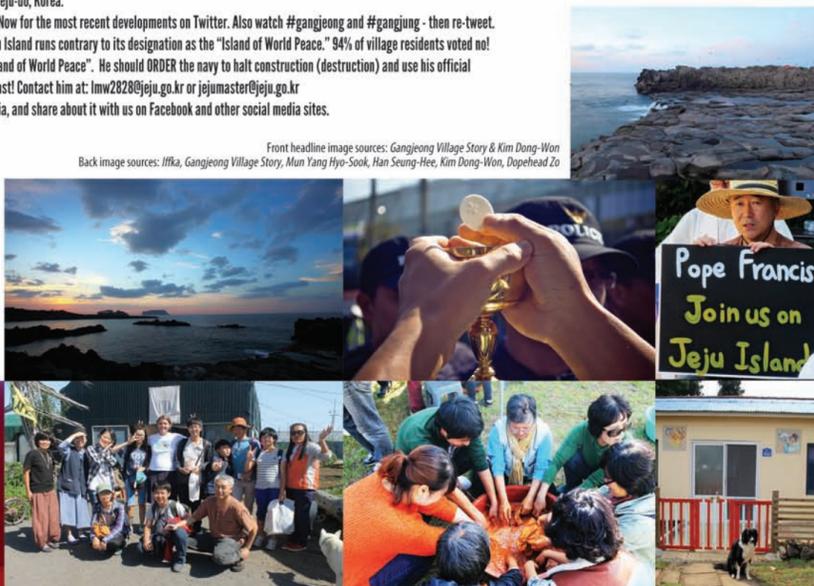
1. Make a donation to support our international outreach and public education efforts. Visit savejejunow.org to donate. Alternatively, join Gangjeong Friends to give regular support to activists. Contact gangjeongintl@gmail.com for details.
2. Write letters to Gangjeong's prisoners of conscience (See 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 bong / DH Song / Regis Tremblay](https://www.vimeo.com/user1234567) YouTube: [Shalomsea / 1234567 / Sanghoon2012 / NoBaseJeju](https://www.youtube.com/user/1234567)

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Back image sources: Ifjka, Gangjeong Village Story, Mun Yang Hyo-Sook, Han Seung-Hee, Kim Dong-Won, Dopehead Zo

National Assembly Inspections: Soft Coral Dying

By Kang Hojin, Policy Team Director of The Jeju Pan-Island Committee for the Stop of Military Base and for the Realization of Peace Island

The National Assembly investigation on government affairs including the Jeju naval base project is being carried out from Oct. 14 to Nov. 2. On Oct. 14, Jeju congresswoman, Jang Ha-Na, declared that, "Compared to last year, the soft corals, endangered species in the Gangjeong Sea, are dying from mysterious causes or have stopped growing. It has also been confirmed that floating detritus from the construction is forming deposits in various locations." Her statement is based on the results of maritime investigation on the vicinity sea areas of the Jeju naval base construction site on Aug. 25 and Sept. 11, jointly researched by the Gangjeong Village Association, The National Network of Korean Civil Society for Opposing to the Naval Base in Jeju Island, The Jeju Pan-Island Committee for Stop of Military Base and for Realization of Peace Island, and Jang Ha-na's National Assembly Office. Jang pointed out that even though the village and citizens' volunteer sea monitoring team have reported to the island government many times about the levels of pollution, the Island government responded only through formal letters while the responsible corporations and their supervising teams made routine false reports on the maritime construction status. Furthermore, she said that the police and prosecutors have unjustly arrested and imprisoned these monitoring citizens 55 times between January 2012 and September 2013.

On Oct. 21, Jang also stated that regarding the matter of possible future military housing, the ROK navy is attempting to avoid an environmental impact assessment (EIA), which would also require a public hearing with input from the citizens. By law, any construction of more than 33,000 square meters should have an EIA. The Ministry of National Defense's original plan called for the construction of military residences for 616 households. However, after the Gangjeong villagers twice blocked the public hearings on the issue, they have reduced their plan to 380 and now 80. It is suspected that they simply plan to build in smaller increments up to the original size so as to sneak around the regulations.

Gangjeong is attending the World Council of Churches 10th Assembly
30 October to 8 November 2013
Busan, Republic of Korea

Exhibition Booth #50
Gangjeong Village Life & Peace Village
10:30 - 11:15
Learn about the anti-base movement.

Madang Workshop WS257 • Convention Center 208
Inter-Island Solidarity for Just Peace
11:15 - 14:15
A discussion aimed at building better solidarity between islands struggling against militarism.

Gangjeong will join the World Council of Churches (WCC) 10th Assembly in Busan, Korea at the end of October. They will host a workshop and also have an information and history exhibition booth.



Images: Gangjeong Village Association
Gangjeong villagers and activists in Miryang, holding a banner in support and solidarity.

Gangjeong and Miryang: Same Struggle, Same Crackdown

By Dopehead Zo, Peace Activist

On October 7, about 10 Gangjeong villagers and activists went on a solidarity visit to Miryang in South Gyeongsang Province of Korea. Miryang residents are fighting against the construction of 765kv high power electricity transmission towers through their village. These ultra high voltage transmission lines are thought to be unhealthy to humans living near them. KEPCO (Korean Electricity Corporation) wants to build these towers to transmit power from nuclear power plants, but the Miryang residents, mostly in their 70s and 80s don't want them, and just want to live in their village peacefully.

The struggles of Gangjeong and Miryang have much in common. The government is forcing construction plans in the name of a national project against the will of the local people. Massive mobilizations of police troops are sent to these construction areas, leading to clashes between these young riot police and elderly residents. The residents get hurt, arrested, charged, and imprisoned. On October 2, the government sent 3,000 police officers to oppress the people's protests in Miryang. Because of this recent increase in the intensity of the struggle, Gangjeong felt it was important to visit in solidarity.

Just like in Gangjeong, when we arrived one of the construction sites, a Catholic mass was underway. About 40 priests and nuns from around the country were gathered. The Gangjeong villagers held a banner that read, "Gangjeong is in this for fight for justice together with Miryang." The mass was interrupted by the incredibly loud noise of construction material carrying helicopters. Then we moved to the 127th transmission tower construction site located at the top of a mountain. The entrance road was blocked by tractors and cultivators and other farm equipment parked by the locals who have been holding a sit-in struggle in the area. They told us the construction workers and police would come soon, at anytime. Although we only spent one night at the resistance camp, it was great that the oppressed people from different regions are holding hands together in the fight for justice.



Images: Ijflka
After a visit in 2011, Retired U.S. Colonel and current peace activist Ann Wright, returned to Gangjeong village to show support.

A Short Introduction to Italy's No Dal Molin Anti-Base Movement

By Giorgia Panozzo and the No Dal Molin Movement

No Dal Molin is a citizens' and associations' movement against the new American base in the Dal Molin airport in Vicenza, which will consolidate existing American settlements like and Site Pluto base in Longare. Dal Molin is nestled along the border between the towns of Vicenza and Caldogno and close to the Bacchiglione River. In this land blessed with water - the surrounding area possesses the most extensive aquifer in all of northern Italy - the U.S. built this new military installation to unite the 173rd Airborne Brigade, currently divided between Germany and Italy, transforming it into the single most powerful combat unit deployed outside North American borders. A secret agreement between the Italian and U.S. governments confirms "the friendship and the eternal gratitude" of the peninsula towards its overseas ally. In 2004, U.S. representatives advanced new requests to the Italian government - then headed by Silvio Berlusconi. Negotiations also involved Mayor Hullweck of Vicenza. Everything was agreed among the parties without it being considered necessary to inform the citizens. Only in 2006, after an initial evaluation of the project by the Joint Regional Committee, were the citizens of Vicenza made aware of a project that affects the territory in which they live. While acknowledging that "the majority of the city is opposed to the project," the then Mayor Hullweck succeeded in obtaining a favorable ruling on the U.S. proposal from the Vicenza city council. The council's consent, however, came with five conditions attached - none of which has been met to this day. In effect, Italian taxpayers are called upon not only to foot 41% of the cost of stationing U.S. troops on Italian soil, but also to fund the infrastructure works that are incidental to the military project, such as roads, sewerage and electricity.

The final go-ahead was granted by the government headed by Romano Prodi on January, 16 2007. Thousands of residents met on the streets and in the squares of the city, discussing the situation, giving birth to innumerable meetings and public events. On February 17, 2007, more than 150,000 citizens joined hands to symbolically encircle the city walls, collectively declaring their intention to oppose those who would wish to impose a military plan on a city that prefers to decide for itself about the future of its children. The following months saw many examples of civic and social commitment in defense of the territory. Vicenza becoming a symbol of the clash between public policy and the expression of popular will. In the end, Dal Molin was built but the movement keeps working to sending the Americans away. We illegally cut our way into Dal Molin and Site Pluto; We hold political and musical festivals in the summer which always involve thousands of people. For more information, visit our website: nodalmolin.it.

MAYOR KANG COMPLETES EUROPE TOUR

By Gangjeong UK Solidarity

Recently, Gangjeong Mayor Kang was invited to the Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders, a three day conference attended by 145 human rights defenders from 94 countries. His testimonial about the struggle on Jeju brought much Interest from other attendees and journalists. While in Dublin, he also attended one of three screenings of Regis Tremblay's film, 'The Ghosts of Jeju'. He was then invited to address the CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) Annual conference at Liverpool as keynote speaker, and to Leeds Metropolitan University to address Peace Studies students. His characteristically powerful speeches were well received.

At Harrogate, Yorkshire he met Lindis Percy, veteran peace activist and co-founder of CAAB (Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases). Mayor Kang saw the huge US spy base in the beautiful Yorkshire countryside at Menwith Hill, managed and staffed by America's discredited NSA (National Security Agency). The UK government co-operates in subterfuge by calling it 'RAF (Royal Air Force) Menwith', even though no British military are stationed there. Similarly the base at Jeju could become a US base, Korean in name only.

Next was London, where he was interviewed by English and Korean independent media, and gave a public speech at SOAS, University of London. His brief European tour finished in Paris. Benjamin Monnet coordinated a conference which included 'The Ghosts of Jeju' film. The event was well attended by Korean and French supporters. Mayor Kang and Benji conducted a lively Q&A afterwards. Earlier in the day the two friends sung 'Peace on Gangjeong' outside the iconic Arc de Triomphe!



Image: Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders
Group photo from Dublin Platform. Mayor Kang is in the green jacket.



Images: Ijflka
Visiting Catholic Fr. Bix and Buddhist Monk Gilberto sit at the construction gate during a stay in Gangjeong.

Two Recent Cases Highlight Gross Injustice in Courts

On Oct. 8, elderly villager Mr. Kang Bu-Eon (72), and young peace defender Ms. Kim Eun-Hye (22), also known as Kim Gun, were arrested directly from court receiving prison sentences of six months and eight months respectively in separate trials. They were both falsely charged with Aggravated Obstruction of Justice (for violence against the police) among other charges including Obstruction of Business and Trespassing.

In the case of Kim Eun-Hye, she was accused of kicking a policewoman as police encircled and forcefully carried her away from the construction site in August of 2012. According to the testimony of the accusing policewoman, she was kicked by Eun-Hye and then unable to walk away without assistance. She claims she was later given a two weeks to heal diagnosis by a Jeju doctor. Mysteriously, this diagnosis changed to 12 weeks after the officer returned to her home in Seoul. However, Eun-Hye and others with her strongly deny this accusation. The police have no visual evidence that it occurred, and in fact video recording by activists of the event shows no such incident. Furthermore, the eyewitness accounts by other police officers on the scene varied greatly and contradicted one another. Incredibly, the judge declared that she was guilty, stating that the eyewitness accounts could vary as the event was a year ago, and more absurdly, ruled that while there was no evidence that the event occurred, it seemed like something that could have happened!

Meanwhile, Mr. Kang was accused with grabbing a policeman by the collar and throwing a stone (which hit no one). Most of the policemen are strong, healthy men in their 20s and 30s. Mr. Kang is a small man in his 70s who only has one functioning eye, prostate cancer, and a former stomach cancer patient. He takes care of his elderly Alzheimer stricken wife. It is obvious that he was only mildly expressing his outrage against the state that is taking his hometown of more than 70 years and destroying the many rich memories of Gureombi Rock for a pointless and dangerous war base. And yet he was given 6 months imprisonment. Following his arrest, many villagers have signed a petition asking to be jailed in his place, given his situation.

Coincidentally, Oct. 8 was also the 250th and 100th day in prison for Film Critic Yang Yoon-Mo, and Dr. Song Kang-Ho and Jesuit Br. Park Do-Hyun respectively. All prisoners are not guilty and are being punished absurdly and excessively. They must be freed immediately!



Images: Lee Woo-Ki
The recently absurdly and unjustly imprisoned Mr. Kang Bu-Eon (L) and Ms. Kim Eun-Hye (R).



Image: Gangjeong Village Story
A catholic priest is blocked by police as he tries to administer the holy Eucharist during mass in Gangjeong.

IN GANGJEONG, THE POLICE EVEN BLOCK THE EUCHARIST

By Jesuit Fr. Kim Sung-Hwan

On August 8, 2012, there was an incident in which the police destroyed the Eucharist being performed at the naval base office gate. 3 days later, on August 11, the Jeju Provincial Police Agency apologized, promising the Jeju Catholic Diocese that they would not block the Catholic mass being held at the naval base office gate or the main construction gate. However, this promise was tossed aside like an old shoe when a new police chief arrived in Seogwipo in April of 2013. Since then the police began to interfere with mass, but from the middle of May, they only disturbed the mass at the lower naval base office gate and not the upper main construction gate. Catholic fathers, sisters, brothers, and believers sitting at the naval base office gate were contained and removed by the police. Finally, from October 14, 2013, the police have begun to block fathers and sisters on their way to the naval base office gate to perform the Eucharist. This is the first time they have done such an action in two years of mass at the gates. This is clearly and obstruction of religious activities and a violation of freedoms. The police must guarantee the mass at the naval base office gate immediately!

Trial Updates

On Oct. 24 about 25 people, mostly charged with Obstruction of Business, had trials. Many of them were appeals to the higher court, which were mostly dismissed or only slightly changed. Among the 25, former National Assemblywoman Hyun Ae-Ja received a suspended sentence of 4 months imprisonment, and 1-year probation. Fr. Mun Kyoo-Hyun received a suspended sentence of 6 months imprisonment, and 2 years probation. Mr Lee Jong-Hwa received a suspended sentence of 6 months imprisonment, and 1-year probation. Ms. Kim Seri: 4 months imprisonment suspended with 1 year probation and an approx. \$100 USD fine (added by the higher court). Ms. Jeong Young-Shin (Taena's Mom) was given a suspended sentence of 6 months imprisonment, 2 years probation, and 80 hours community service with "supervised protective probation".

Another 9 people, including Ms. Kim Hyung-Joo (Dilpur), had their appeals dismissed. Among them Mr. Kwon Sool-Yong and Mr. Park Yong-Sung both kept their 4-month imprisonment, suspended, with 1-year probation.

Seven others, including Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon and Dopehead Zo (Jo Yak Gol) were given fines of approx. \$2,000 USD each, while Mayor Kang was given an approx. \$100 USD fine (for violating the Public Water Act). Many people in Gangjeong usually are undergoing 3-5 trials simultaneously.

GANGJEONG PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Please write letters of support to



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

Seong Dong Correctional Facility,
P.O. Box 177, Songpa Post Office,
Songpa-gu, Seoul, Korea