ROK’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 a 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 southwestern sectors 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.

ROK’s army of 100,000 books

The project began on June 1, 2013 with Korean priests, nuns, and others, 200 writers in total, came together to donate books to Gangjeong. When others heard about this, they wanted to join the project grew to 100,000 books through the power of people’s solidarity. For 100 days, 100,000 books were gathered that brought the peace movement ship on Oct. 18. On the ship we danced and sang, bad poetry and book readings, and 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 suffered from the naval base construction.

ROK government wrongly claims Gangjeong conflict resolved

ROK’s Ministry of National Defense’s original plan called for the construction of 616 military residences. But the villagers claim that the project was unjustly arrested and imprisoned these monitoring citizens 55 times between January 2012 and now. It has also been confirmed that floating detritus from the construction is forming deposits in various locations. Their statement is based on the results of maritime investigation on the vicinity sea area 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 area.

National Assembly Inspections: Soft Coral Dying

The National Assembly inspection on government affairs including the Jeju naval base project is being carried out from Oct. 14 to Nov. 2. On Oct. 14, the General Committee of the National Assembly inspected the Jeju naval base project. It also inspected the Marine Environment Protection Law’s implementation and confirmed that the area is designated to be a “No Fish Base.” It also ordered the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries to promptly report on the marine construction status. On the other hand, 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’s Army of 100,000 Books

On October 18, the people dreaming of peace gathered in Gangjeong Village for a feast of books. Books filled the smelt and container libraries. When we look closely at Gangjeong, its skin is thin, perhaps it’s an endless story as long as books exist on earth. 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 earth. In other words, we will read Gangjeong long into the future because we cannot take our eyes off the story of this village.

Peace is Alive and Growing in Gangjeong

When I arrived at the Peace Center of Gangjeong 5 weeks ago, I was ushered what I would find this small village by the sea. But as I walked, I found repair of all the buildings of this village. I immediately fell at home in Gangjeong. By my second day living here, people had already started eating food off my plate. “Are you going to steal my food?” 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 as 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 join and the project grew to 100,000 books through the power of people’s solidarity. The project grew to 100,000 books through the power of people’s solidarity. For 100 days, 100,000 books were gathered that brought the peace movement ship on Oct. 18. On the ship we danced and sang, bad poetry and book readings, and 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 suffered from the naval base construction.

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In August 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 gate or the main construction gate. However, this promise was broken as the police arrived in Jeju the day before the incident, and destroyed the Eucharist during mass in Gangjeong.

Trials Updates
On Oct. 24 about 25 people, mostly charged with Obstructing of Business, had trials. Many of them were picked to the higher court, which means that they were missed or only slightly changed. Among the 25, former National Assemblywoman Hyan Ae-Ja received a suspended sentence of 4 months imprisonment, and 1-year probation. Fr. Moon-Kyoo-Hyun received a suspended sentence of 4 months imprisonment, and 2 years probation. Mr. Lee Jong-Hwa received a suspended sentence of 6 months imprisonment, and 1-year probation. Mr. Kim Suk-4 received a suspended sentence of 1 year probation and 100 USD fine (added by the higher court). Ms. Jeong Young-Sin (Tann’s Mom) was given a suspended sentence of 4 months imprisonment, and 5 years probation, and 30 hours community service with “supervised protective probation”.

Another 9 people, including Mr. Kim Hyung-Joo (Dijpar), had their appeals dismissed. Among them Mr. Kwon Seol-Yong and Mr. Park Yong-Sung both kept their 4-month imprisonment, suspended, with 1-year probation. Seven others, including Fr. Mun Jeong-Young and Dophalp Zo (Yul Gil Gol) were given fines of approx. $2,000 USD each, while Mayor Kang was given an appeal. $100 USD fine for each person (except against the police) the many people in Gangjeong usually are undergoing 3-5 trials simultaneously.

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**GANGGEUNG PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE**

**Please write letters of support to**

*Images: Lee Woo-Ki*

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

*By Georgia Panayotou and No Dal Molin Movement*

No Dal Molin is a citizen’s 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 bor-

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**THE CATHOLIC POLICE CHALLENGE THE EUCARISTY**

*Images: Gangjeong Village Association*