

WHAT DOES GANGJEONG FRIENDS DO?

During a recent regular monthly meeting, the Seoul-Gyeonggi branch of Gangjeong Friends, which has about 20 members, decided to coordinate, carry out, and support Gangjeong-related projects, besides its own community-building.

Jo Ik-Sang of the branch says: “We are concerned with easy public access and database-building of the numerously produced but not systematized precious records on Gangjeong. For example, those will be many public relations regarding Gangjeong-related books published but not well known or on movies and web-sites widely distributed. Another project is to check donation materials, including their types and amounts, and coordinate and carry out future material donation projects. We also have plans to hold book concerts and presentations, as well as to support via public relations various Gangjeong-related events coordinated by other networks.”

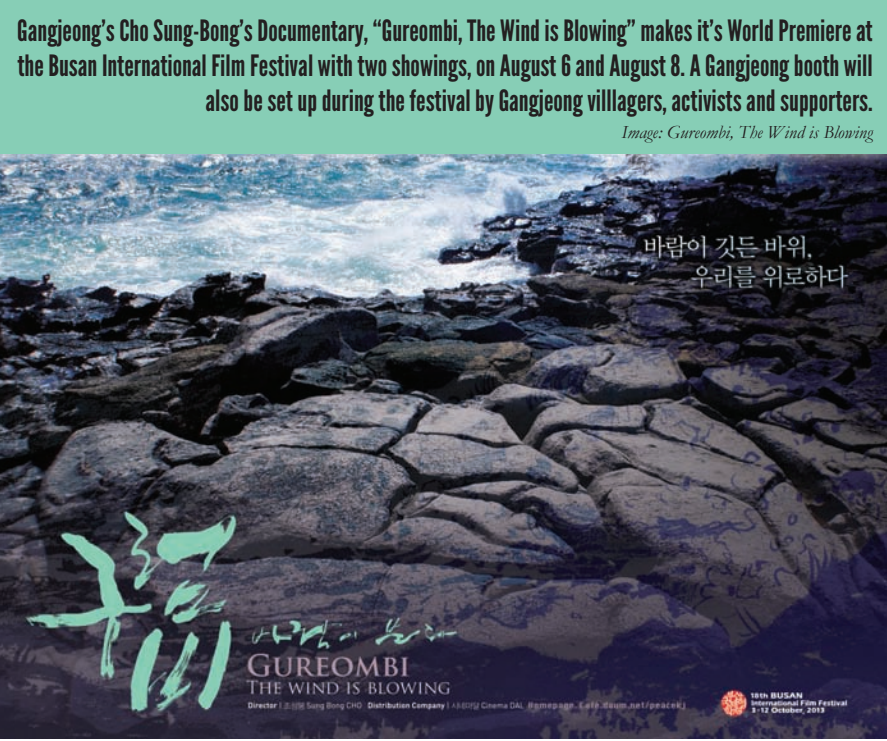
Gangjeong Friends launched last December to support the struggle and Gangjeong defenders, and is also the official financial sponsor of this news-letter. Please help us by becoming a member of Gangjeong Friends. Contact gangjeong79s@daum.net AND gangjeongintl@gmail.com.

Gangjeong Joins No Dal Molin Festival Video Conference

At around 12 midnight on September 1st, as a part of the Festival No Dal Molin, an anti-militarism festival organized by the movement against the expansion of a

U.S. Base in Vicenza, Italy, a special session was held. Activists from anti-base struggles around the world were invited for a two-hour video conference meeting, to share a short history of each struggle and discuss how to better to cooperate together in solidarity. Joining the live video conference were representatives from Guam, Hawaii, Jeju, Okinawa, Sicily, the U.S., Deigo Garcia, Vicenza, and the Philippines. Participants from Jeju included the international team, Mayor Kang, Chairman Go and Chairwoman Jeong Yeong-Hee.

Although late at night, it was exciting to meet together and dream of stronger future solidarity.



“REITERATIONS OF DISSENT,” JAIN JIN KAISEN EXHIBITION

Visual artist Jane Jin Kaisen, born in Jeju and adopted to Denmark when she was a baby, is having a special exhibition of a 5-channel video installation called, “Reiterations of Dissent” at the Jeju April 3rd Peace Park, Jeju, from Aug. 30 to Dec. 30. Previously, in August, she exhibited the same work at the Arts Space C Gallery in Jeju City. The work is about the Island people’s suppressed memories of 4.3. She masterfully weaves her various research, interviews, and recordings of current scenes of the Jeju with her personal story and political history. In 2011, Kaisen visited Gangjeong with her husband Guston Sondin-Kung and made a wonderful video interview with Yang Yoon-Mo who is currently incarcerated.

U.S. Naval Forces to Open New Headquarters in Busan

On Aug. 29, the South Korean and U.S. military made a stealthy ground-breaking ceremony to build a new headquarter for the U.S. Naval Forces Korea in Busan, which will be relocated from its current location in Seoul. Vice Adm. Robert Thomas Jr., the commander of U.S. 7th Fleet was in attendance. The new facility is expected to be completed by 2015. The distance between Jeju and Busan is about 169 miles by ship.

Busan People's Solidarity, about 40 Busan civic social groups opposing the building, had a rally in front of the Busan-located ROK Baekwoonpo Naval Operation Headquarter where the USFK Naval Command will be built. It stated that its outrageous that the USFK would start construction without any consultation with the people of Busan, a city of about 4 million. “It is monstrous to hear,” said Kim Byung-Gyu, policy director of the BPS, remarking that Busan has already been the grounds for the entrance of nuclear aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines when-ever there is annual ROK-US military training.



TWO YEARS OF CATHOLIC SOLIDARITY

“One cannot love while holding offensive arms,” Pope Paul VI in his Address to the United Nations General Assembly, October 4, 1965

Catholic Solidarity to Realize the Peace Island, Jeju, a committee composed of 15 diocesan justice and peace commissions as well as many groups such as the Korean Catholic Women's Religious Superiors Association, The Korean Catholic Men's Religious Superiors Association, the Korean Catholic Human Rights Committee, and the National Association of Catholic People for Justice,

was formed on October 10, 2011 to declare the preservation of peace for Gangjeong, Jeju Island, and Northeast Asia. Since then, they have been a major force in the Gangjeong struggle.

On September 30, they held their 2-year anniversary celebration. Around 500 people gathered for an anniversary mass demanding an end to the construction of the naval base and release of Gangjeong's prisoners of conscience. During the mass they also pledged to continue to work for the peace of Gangjeong and the world. The gates of

the naval base and the whole street were completely blocked people from around Korea including priests, nuns, lay Catholics, and observers.

Jeju Bishop Kang Woo-Il presided over the mass with strong words saying, “People in power pledge that they will work for peace but they actually bring death, destruction, and war. War cannot lead to peace.”

At the end of the mass, Catholic Solidarity released a statement titled “One cannot love while holding offensive

arms.” The statement urges the stop of base construction and appeals for the restoration of Gureombi to its original state. It also affirms that Catholic Solidarity will continue in prayer and nonviolent action for the peace of Gangjeong and Korea.

After the mass there was a concert in the street and then a meal together. The next day the people gathered again for an hour long prayer for peace at 10 a.m. and the daily Mass for Life and Peace at 11 a.m.

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 #gangjung - 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](https://www.vimeo.com/cho_sung_bong) / [DH_Song](https://www.vimeo.com/DH_Song) / [Regis Tremblay](https://www.vimeo.com/RegisTremblay) YouTube: [Shalomsea / 1234yz100](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1234yz100) / [Sanghong2012](https://www.youtube.com/channel/Sanghong2012) / [WoBaseJeju](https://www.youtube.com/channel/WoBaseJeju)

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.



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

God of life, lead us to justice and peace

Exhibition Booth EX189 Justice for Gangjeong Peace & Life Village 10/30 - 11/8 Learn about the anti-base movement.

Madang Workshop WS257 Inter-Island Solidarity for Just Peace 11/6 - 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.

“The Ghosts of Jeju” Shown to Forum in Sri Lanka

By Regina Pyon

The 90th Justice and Peace Workers (JPW) network meeting was held in Fatima Retreat house in Lewella, Kandy, Sri Lanka from September 3rd to 9th. It included an exposure program in the war-affected and highly militarized Northern Province. The meeting was attended by 32 participants from 16 countries in Asia. The theme for the meeting was: “Church and Human Rights: Building Solidarity with the ‘Joys and Hopes, the Grief and Anguish’ of Asian Peoples”. During the exposure program in the northern part of Sri Lanka, participants met with families of those who had disappeared in Mannar, families of political prisoners in Vavuniya, the displaced community in Mullikulam and also visited war-affected people in Mullaitivu, where the bloodiest last phase of the war took place.

Back in Kandy, the Participants gave presentations on issues that they grapple with as Justice & Peace workers back in their own countries. Korean participants showed Regis Tremblay’s 80-minute-long film, “The Ghosts of Jeju”. After intense discussions, the JPW network participants agreed to focus on the two issues of Militarization & Migration-Human Trafficking as Asia-Pacific regional priorities. At the same time, participants also agreed to extend solidarity and support to each other in their struggles.

Gangjeong Peace Co-op Re-launches

On Sept. 2, the second anniversary of the completion of the construction fence around Gurcombi, the Gangjeong Peace Co-op held a re-opening ceremony at its office next to the Gangjeong Peace Center. Although the Gangjeong Peace Co-op was already running, its future direction and substance have been changed, leading to a re-launch. Originally established by activists to simply raise money for activist fines, It has now been expanded to include both activists and Gangjeong villagers. It’s goals have also been expanded to more long-term general support for the village and activists.

The ROK government has prohibited Gangjeong village from officially collecting donations as the donations received are deemed “against national infrastructure”, the peace co-op acts as a legal organization which can receive donations, among other things. 30 villagers and activists joined on the re-launch. All profits made by the Gangjeong Co-op will be directly re-invested in the Gangjeong community. The focus of the co-op is much larger than just donations, but hopes to involve things produced by villagers and activists, joining together with their talents and labor to truly bring about the “Life and Peace Village” in a more concrete way.



Remember Ignored History of Neighbors Beyond Borders

By Emily Wang

I was invited to Asia-Pacific Students and Youth Gathering (ASYG) as a work-shop speaker, the youngest one there. It was there to share about my experiences in Gangjeong as speaker. Some looked at me and were surprised that I was denied from entering Korea. I answered that I was just one of the many foreigners who got deported or denied entry by the South Korea government because of the Gangjeong issue. This kind of treatment was unrealistic to me in the past, but not anymore after encountering Gangjeong. It was truly my pleasure to meet with the youth who gathered for justice and peace. Some of them are also heading to the WCC (World Council of Churches) Assembly in Korea this November, where Gangjeong will hold a workshop and have a booth.

The ASYG has took place in the Philippines, a close neighboring island country to Taiwan. During WW2, the U.S. military was going to attack Taiwan (then occupied by Japan), but General MacArthur decided to take the Philippines (also occupied by Japan at the time) instead of Taiwan. Because of this, although Taiwan still suffered air raids, it did not see the terrible suffering that was seen by others such as Okinawa. Of course though, later Taiwan faced the terrible 2.28 Massacre. I am from Taiwan but I only recently became aware of these historical issues. Visiting the Philippines reminded me of how ignorant I have been about the history of neighboring countries when thinking of semi-domestic issues in Taiwan. Sea conflicts between Taiwan, China, and the Philippines are a good excuse to give way to growing nationalistic militarism. I think building friendships among neighbors is the only way to resist this militarism.

The indigenous people in Taiwan are Austronesian people, and share the same ancestors with others in Southeast Asia. Taiwan is the northern-most island for the Austronesian people’s sea migration, which shows Taiwan could be an interesting location for diversity. Some ancestors of the Tao people in Lanyu came from Batanes Island in the Philippines, where they share a very similar language. Where can we, these islands, go? The cry Gangjeong comes to mind: “Peace is the way!”



BORDER ISLANDS, PART TWO

Excerpted from an article written from prison by Dr. Song Kang-Ho. Part One appeared in the July Issue.

In what direction can these border islands go?

Independence/autonomy declarations: Independence and autonomy is the path to recover lost history, community, and self. The people of Yonaguni wish for a peaceful autonomous island so that they can engage in friendly mutual exchange with neighboring countries. But the government of Japan rejects this. For central governments, its hard to see a bigger meaning for marginalize border islands than just tools to control for defense. Border island’s cultures, traditions, and rights are rejected in favor of the empty concept of “security”. Jeju Island is designated as a “special self-governing province” but this designation is actually in order to attract foreign capital not for the protection of Jeju residents political opinions and situation. Jeju is till subordinate to the central government. Even though the people of Jeju are against the naval base construction and want a peace island with military bases, the central government enforces the construction. For true autonomy, a small self-governing assembly and judicial branch should have been formed by the island people and they should also have an autonomous constitution. Without true autonomy or independence, border islands will be abandoned places of discrimination and repression.

Friendship and Mutual Exchange with Neighbors: Border islands are sometimes closer, for transportation and trade, to neighbor countries than the mainland. However, in such cases the border itself is an obstacle to these ends. For the independence and self-reliance of islanders, the border should be torn down to enable free exchange with neighbors. Okinawa, Jeju, and Taiwan should carry out cultural, art, and sports exchanges between students and be able to exchange and cooperate in the matters of politics, society, and economy. This will bring restoration of a re-centered self. To create a peace zone in Northeast Asia, these three islands need to teach each other’s language, history, and culture significantly. We should reject exclusive nationalist history education and teach common historical experience based on mutual understanding. We should seek an education that raises Peace Citizens. As we make a special economic zone for these three islands with special ports, we can promote regional peace and prosperity while decreasing military confrontation.

Inter-Island Solidarity for Just Peace: I hope that even though Jeju, Okinawa and Taiwan can form an independent league based on international agreement. Let’s promise to form a Demilitarized Autonomous Neutral Peace Zone between the three islands. Let’s draw up a peace treaty where any war, military training, including war supplies transport and/or stopover will be disapproved. Ultimately, perhaps the UN and international society can respect this agreement and resolve to denounce violations of this internationally.

Islands are small and vulnerable. It’s easy to be isolated and divided. Because of this vulnerability, they are easily discriminated against, exploited, marginalized and ignored by the central government. Powerful nations used to expel islanders unjustly and have been building military bases illegally. Jeju, Okinawa and Taiwan have been and continue to be the sacrificial offering of militarization. The realization of these three islands’ demilitarized peace triangle will bring hope to other islands suffering in similar circumstance like Hawaii, Guam and Diego Garcia.

UPDATE ON FR. MUN AND KOH GILCHUN

Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon who cut off his finger during woodworking was released after two weeks in the hospital. Mr. Koh Gilchun who collapsed due to cerebral hemorrhage on the last day of Gangjeong Grand March on Aug. 3, has moved to a rehabilitation-specialized care hospital in the vicinity of Seoul. He is practicing hard so that he can walk and work on his art again. Many prominent people, including Noam Chomsky, have expressed concern and encouragement for him.



Image: Moon Sangbeom

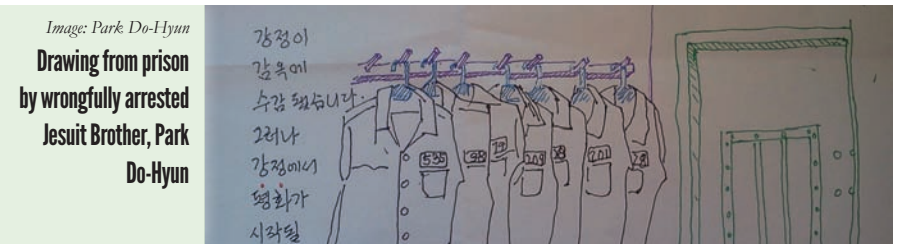
On Sept. 16 Kim Young-Jae was released from prison after 158 days. He is still currently on trial. On Sept. 9, Park Yong-Sung was released after 20 days in prison in refusal to pay fines.

Violence on the Rise in Atmosphere of Oppression

On Sept. 16, Veronica a Catholic believer and mother in her 50s was arrested, charged with biting the arm of a policewoman while the police forcefully removed protestors from the construction gate. Before her arrest, a drunk construction worker had damaged a Catholic priest’s robes and then ran away into the naval base site. Her arrest happened as people were demanding an apology from him peacefully. But the police ignored the people’s request and more harshly repressed the protest. She later said that she felt that self-defense was the only way to protect herself during the harsh police response which left many bruises on her body. People were surprised to see her in handcuffs at the police station, which in Korea are only used for very serious crimes, not protest arrests.

Two days later, theater director Pang Eun-Mi was shockingly assaulted while in the Catholic mass tent across from the construction gate. An older man known to be a pro-base Jeju resident from a nearby town physically attacked her for being against the base. During the attack she was struck and hit her head on the asphalt, and was also dragged, tearing her clothes. The attack left her forehead and knee bleeding. Confusingly, after she called the police and he left, he was shortly seen getting out of a police car down the road. Pang was hospitalized and then moved to a mental hospital diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Finally, on Sept. 26, a pro-base villager working inside the construction site struck anti-base villager and community cook Kim Jong-Hwan, after Uncle Jong-Hwan expressed his anger that he was working in the base. He was struck in the face twice causing a problem with his eyes.



Trial Updates

Activist Regina Pyon’s appeal to the higher court was dismissed. She was arrested along with 26 others for Obstruction of Business while blocking the construction gate on Dec. 26, 2011 (she was fined approx. \$3,000 USD in the 1st court) On Sept. 26, the higher court also dismissed female activist Jeong Young-Shin’s two appeals (she was fined approx. \$2,000 USD and \$100 USD each in the 1st court). International activist, Paco Booyah’s appeal to the Supreme Court was also dismissed (His first sentence was suspended then overturned and charged approx. \$700 USD in the higher court). All were charged for Obstruction of Business.

On Sept. 25, a male activist, Park Han-Baek was given a suspended sentence of four months with 1 year probation, while another male activist, Jeong Dawoori was given a suspended sentence of eight months with 1 year probation. On the same day, Mr. Park Seung-Ho, another male activist in his 40s was given a suspended sentence of 18 months with 3 years probation. He was arrested on Sept. 14, 2012, imprisoned for 144 days.

In good news, a male activist, Ahn Geun-Kyu was found not guilty on Sept. 12. He had been charged with Obstruction of Justice, Obstruction of Business, Violence, and Property Damage all for supposedly poking a policeman in the eye while being forcefully removed form a protest site in spring of last year. However it was found in court that another policeman had poked the policeman in the eye. On Sept. 26, three male activists, Mr. Bae Gi-Cheol, Hong Young-Cheol, and Kim Guk-Nam were also found not guilty on appeal. A lower court had given the three approx. \$2,500 fines each, but the higher court found there was no proof that the three committed obstruction of business in early 2012.



During the recent Chuseok harvest holiday, Gangjeong villagers, Pro-Base and Anti-Base came together for a small sports and games festival.

It is Deeply Inspiring to Resist with Gangjeong

By Father Bix, Guadalupe House Tacoma Catholic Worker

Gilberto P. and I were moved to journey to Gangjeong Village on Jeju Island after learning from the visit of Dennis Apel of the Pacific Life Community that the U.S. was behind the construction of a naval base here. We had never heard of Jeju Island much less of the village that was undergoing the destruction of it’s sacred rock formation and soft coral forests. Little did we know that the village had been resisting US military expansion for 7 years. It also came as a revelation that Samsung was the main contractor for the expansion of the U.S. military might--that insures endless war. Gangjeong Village of Jeju Island is a sacred international island of peace. Let it be here that the violent forces of American militarism and its Samsung co-conspirator be stopped. This community of faithful resistance and joyful dance is more powerful than American militarism.

The generosity of this community reaches out and includes all peoples. It is a most alive and vibrant community living out their faith working with a servant bishop who inspires the resistance. It is deeply inspiring to resist with the many nuns who come from the main land to join the resistance work. We were also inspired by Gangjeong’s prisoners of conscience, Prof. Yang Yoon-Mo, Dr. Song Kang-Ho, and Br. Park Do-Hyun.

There is a rhythm and routine to each day which begins with 100 bows in front of one of the main gates. Most of the time the participants are removed by the police to let huge cement trucks enter. The participants return to their blocking places after. It is repeated many times. The grounding center of the resistance is the Eucharist which begins at 11:00 AM and is broadcast from its roadside chapel. While the Mass is being sung other priests in robes and nuns and villages line up in chairs blocking the entrances of the two gates. When the cement trucks come, many police come and do their removal work. Their carrying away is a free chair ride! The Mass is followed by the rosary and then live music and Korean dance. It brings joy to me and I have never experienced such a caring, lively resistance community. Each week many nuns come from the Korean mainland to join the blocking resistance.

I feel deeply that the experience and spirit of Jeju is much stronger than American militarism with its deadly nuclear threat that insures endless war. I believe that a rollback of U. S. military bases in our world can become real with the rollback on Jeju. This is another David and Goliath chapter.