



Image: Gangjeong Friends
On December 14, Gangjeong Friends, the Gangjeong peace-keeper support group, celebrated its 1 year anniversary with a party at the Gangjeong Ceremonial Hall. It was a festive time joined by all.

ROK AIR DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONE AND IEO-DO

By Wooksik Cheong, Director of Peace Network

Through the recent Chinese declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), contention of influence in Northeast Asia has expanded to the sky. With the skies over Ieo-do, Senkaku/Diaoyu, and a U.S. airfare training area falling with the declared Chinese zone, Korea, Japan, and the U.S. are simultaneously being pushed back. Amid such a maelstrom, the issue of Ieo-do and overlapping Korean/Chinese economic water areas is refreshed. With the ROK including Ieo-do in its own ADIZ, the basis for conflict will only grow bigger, as military planes from China and Japan may on occasion pass through the area of that submerged reef without prior notice.

Only adding to the wave of tension will be the Jeju naval base, which, if completed, will bring the ROK navy and its patrols of the area, as well as the U.S. navy and its plans. Further calls for an Air Force base on Jeju will soon emerge if tension continues to increase. In other words, there is a great possibility that Jeju, the Peace Island, will deteriorate into “the military island” as the security of east, west, south, and north grows in a vicious cycle. An alternative that should be considered is a joint management of the water area by the ROK and China. All diplomatic options must be tried before resorting to military measures such as extending the KADIZ or creating an Ieo-do Naval fleet.

Pro-Government Agitators Sabotage Demonstrations

By Jeong Ok-Hee, Freelance journalist in Berlin

From 18th December till 22nd December, several Candlelight Demonstrations were held in the USA, Canada, Great Britain, France and Germany by South Korean expats to criticize the 2012 election scandal and call for the resignation of the president and for new elections. Radical right-wing South Koreans tried to disturb these peaceful candlelight demonstrations. In Berlin, members of the South Korean National Intelligence Service carefully watched the demonstration and the right-wingers also held a counter-demonstration in the same vicinity, attempting to drown out the peaceful call for resignation. They came over repeatedly to the candlelight demonstration, took pictures of each demonstrator and tried to provoke the demonstrators by insulting them as traitors. Similar stories and videos were taken of a similar protest in New York, also attacked in the same manner.

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 gangeongintl@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 #gangeong 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](#) / [DH Song](#) / [Regis Tremblay](#) YouTube: [Gang-Jeong II-Gi](#) / [Shalomsea](#) / [1234y2100](#) / [Sunghong2012](#)

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.

Solidarity is Not a One-Way Gift

By K.V., an international peace worker living in Korea

A meeting can “stir that which is deepest in us and bring it to consciousness.” This quote from Jean Vanier has been a theme for my recent visit to Gangjeong Village. Meeting the people of Gangjeong has stirred something deep inside of me. I’ve been so impressed by the strength and energy that sustains people’s hope and joy even though it is mixed with pain and anger.

During my first visit, I held Mama Song’s [Dr. Song’s wife] hand for the human chain and was impressed how she put away her cane and danced every dance, keeping strong while her husband was in prison. This time, as the line of construction trucks grew behind the dancing protesters, I laughed with joy to see Paco zigzagging back and forth across the street encouraging the dancers on both sides. The ability to sing and dance in Gangjeong could seem ironic to comfortable people, but it wasn’t the first time that I’ve witnessed how people who know well their own weaknesses and struggles have the freedom to fully celebrate, fully live, and fully love.

Solidarity is not a one-way gift that outsiders bring to a place like Gangjeong village. Visiting and being touched by the vibrant life is a gift. “All these can reawaken our deepest heart, recentre us, strengthen our faith, and renew our hope” (Vanier).

When I first visited, I appreciated the rituals of the daily mass and the 100 bows. A priest was blocked from reaching the protesters at the main construction gate by a wall of riot police, but finally after persistent pacing and prayer, he was allowed to pass and serve the Eucharist on the other side. During my 2nd visit, the police repeatedly carried away the priests, nuns, and other congregants from the construction entrance, but they returned again and again, as they do every day. I came with friends from Grace and Peace Mennonite Church and we sang Ubi Caritas together before the human chain, ‘where there is love and charity, God is there.’

This was my second visit, but it is, I hope, one of many. I feel connected to Gangjeong; I want to come back because I have many more people to meet, places to see, and lessons to learn. I hope that other Americans can also learn from the people of Gangjeong and learn, on solid rock like Gureombi, to build hope from the strength of community, rather than trusting fickle, dangerous nuclear weapons, which can never be a foundation for deep and lasting peace.



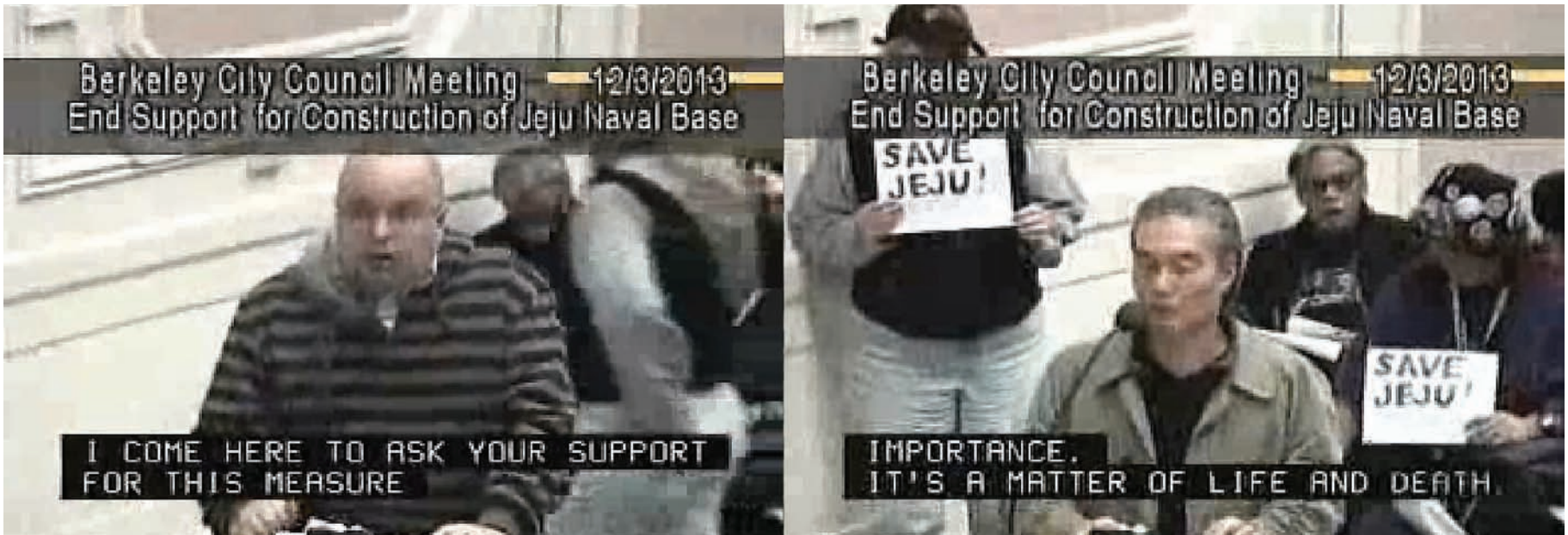
Image: Gangjeong Village Story
Dressed as Santa Clause, a Gangjeong activist did a daily one-person protest at the Naval base office construction gate during December. His sign reads, “You cannot love holding weapons.”

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

DEC 2013

Monthly news on the struggle against Jeju Naval Base

Published by Gangjeong Village in Jeju, South Korea



BERKELEY CITY/VFP PASS JEJU RESOLUTIONS

By K.J. Nob and Gangjeong Village Story

On December 3rd, 2013, the City Council of Berkeley, voted to support the Peace and Justice Commission's Resolution in support of the residents of Jeju Island and to End US support for construction of the Jeju Naval Base. Despite being stripped out of the consent calendar and placed almost at the bottom of the council agenda, the resolution ultimately passed (with 5 votes in favor and 4 abstentions) in the Berkeley City Council.

Huge popular support, an unusually vibrant and vocal group of speakers who

stayed late into the night--waiting for over 4 hours for the opportunity to address the council for a single brief minute--and a massive flurry of emails from concerned individuals all over the country may have influenced the final vote.

Motivated activists from Starr King School, Pacific Lutheran Seminary, from the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, the Peace and Justice Commission, the Ecumenical Peace Institute, and others made passionate, informed pleas for support of the resolution. An activist in a wheel chair broke down in tears as she implored the

council to support the cause of peace. Also significant was a letter from Christine Ahn, a scholar at the Korea Policy Institute and peace activist, who wrote in a heartfelt and moving letter that she had named her daughter Jeju because of her passion for the cause of the peace activists on the island.

At the same time, the U.S. Veterans for Peace (VFP), already consistent supporters of Gangjeong, also passed a resolution, “Korea, Stop the Second U.S. Assault on Jeju Island.” which stated, “[VFP] reaffirms our solidarity with the villagers of Gangjeong in their opposi-

tion to the construction of this Naval Base and urges the Obama Administration and Congress to stop construction of the Jeju Island Naval Base as a first step toward a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula and East Asia.” The vote was nearly unanimous with 714 in favor and 16 opposed.

In response to the resolutions, Mayor Kang issued a statement, “...Gangjeong Village, bearing a greater hope, promises that we will live with more ardor till the day when Jeju Island becomes the true Peace Island and Gangjeong becomes the Life and Peace village”.

The 2014 Jeju Naval Base Budget & the Future

By Go Gwon-Il, co vice-mayor, Gangjeong Village Association

The 2014 budget for the Jeju naval base was cut by about 50 billion KRW from the originally proposed 306.9 billion KRW. Members of the opposition party in the National Assembly convinced The Gangjeong Village Association and various civic groups to focus their efforts on small cuts, focusing on the military residential housing and the entry road to the base area, reminding them of their experience in 2013 when they had hoped to cut the entire 2013 budget, but instead it was later passed after being railroaded through by the ruling Saenuri Party. Remembering this, they were pushed to focus on more realistic partial cuts to the 2014 budget.

In 2013, the Gangjeong villagers have several times managed to interrupt and prevent the navy from presenting its plan for military residential housing construction. They also held an official vote opposing the project. Further, the proposed construction area for the entry road intersects with a Camphor tree habitat and the Camphor tree is an officially designated ROK Natural Monument. Above all, it is clear that the project would critically encroach upon such a small village like Gangjeong, especially combined with the large naval base area. Meanwhile, we have called for the entire land and maritime construction budget to be slashed in light of the navy's consistent violation of proper procedures, unreliable and environment-polluting sea construction, and continuing human rights violations among other things. However the result of our efforts was only a meager cut to this budget.

Compared to 2013, when the National Assembly called for a 70 day construction cease and verification period (despite that the navy violated the conditions of the verification period), the 2014 budget has been given in order to “promote construction without setback”. In light of this it is anticipated that the navy will accelerate construction. However, we are still determined to raise the voice of opposition to the Jeju naval base project. We oppose the base as a U.S. strategic position and a fuse for intensified confrontation and tension potentially leading to war. We are also determined to save the village from encroachment by this project.



Image: Jang Hana

Assembly Woman, Jang Hana, originally from Jeju and a strong supporter of the anti-base movement with a sign calling for the resignation of president Park Geun-Hye in light of election scandals.





Image: Gangjeong Village Story

Members of The Frontiers Jeju held a session about Gangjeong and Inter-Island Solidarity for Peace at the 4th International Conference on Human Rights Education at Soochow University in Taiwan.

We Will Overcome the Violence of this World

By Paul Schneiss,

This morning’s newspapers are full of reports on the new borderlines around Senkaku Islands. They overlap: China and Japan, but also South Korea, Jeju-do has been mentioned...There seems to be no space for mediation, it looks like war is looming at the horizon and in the center of the dispute are places like Okinawa and Gangjeong. There may be still years to go until the marine port of Gangjeong village will be finished for use by the US navy. And the burden of the US camps on the Okinawa people may have to be endured for many more years. But if a real war with modern weapons starts, the people of Gangjeong and Okinawa will be the first and most afflicted people.

Okinawa and Gangjeong, the outposts of the US military machine, are the two focal points of this scenario – and it is real. The long struggle of the people of Okinawa with the two governments in Tokyo and Washington, their suffering and discrimination seems not to end. The discrimination and suffering of the people on Jeju-do especially at Gangjeong began just a few years ago. But the massacre of 1947 (the responsibility for that rests with both governments, the ROK and the USA) is still in everybody’s mind and memory. The Island of Peace, so labeled by a former President of the ROK, is becoming a new battlefield again: 1947 as a joint effort by US and Korean military, and now this cooperation happening again.

Those who struggle with these powers that be have to look beyond, they will need a lot of physical and psychological strength to endure, power to resist, people to rely on, friends to support from all over the world and trust in peace which will be achieved some day. Longing and laboring for peace is much stronger and will last longer than all the dangerous war games. No single action for peace will be lost and finally all together we will overcome the violence of this world. The struggle on Okinawa and at Gangjeong is a pilgrimage to peace. It involves all the neighbors around the pacific, all the islands and the continents. The net of peace-minded people is growing and nobody should be afraid of this. The pilgrimage to peace is peaceful and without violence.



Images: Afghan Peace Volunteers

Members of the Afghan Peace Volunteers in Kabul, Afghanistan. The APV have been building solidarity for Peace and an end to the war and injustice in Afghanistan via skype meetings all around the world. Solidarity with Jeju begun in late 2013.

idealistic presumptions have to be made in order to support a naval base on Jeju Island. That the U.S. and South Korean governments are ‘good and noble’. That the people of Jeju Island are so ignorant and troublesome they need heavily armed forces to civilize them. That China and North Korea are so ‘evil’ that a base at Jeju is needed to ‘contain’ them. We are confident that if ordinary Chinese or North Koreans ever gave you trouble, you would have tea with them, using your imagination...to calm the troubles, non-violent paths which are far more effective and kind, and a far better use of tax-payer money (it takes no tax-payer money to drink tea!) than the multi-million...war equipment. Such is the priceless power of humane relationships...(continued at <http://savejejunow.org/love-letter-to-friends-on-jeju-island/>)

MILYANG IS ANOTHER GANGJEONG

By Go Gwon-Il, Co-vice mayor of Gangjeong village

Gangjeong and Milyang are too similar: the government pushes a project with the villagers’ agreement under the name of a national policy project, the people are charged and indicted with obstruction of business, police crackdowns, and the oppression of villagers through the mobilization of state power.

When I visited Milyang with Mayor Kang Dong-Kyun via the Hope Solidarity Bus from Nov. 30 to Dec. 1, Milyang was a living hell. The police were blocking all roads from the village to the mountain where the residents were doing their sit-in. They couldn’t even leave to give water to their small farms, or to prepare meals. I heard that the villagers are no longer allowed to freely harvest persimmons from the mountain. I couldn’t help but to be reminded of the Seogwipo Police come to Gangjeong who refused to give compensation even though they trampled down the villager’s garlic fields.

A grandmother told me, “Because we are powerless, 23 transmission towers to empower nuclear power plants have been set up. There is only one left. We will stop this with all of our effort until death. They cannot use any of the transmission towers if one of them is not completed.” I thought, this is the same as the Jeju naval base project. If the last caisson is not placed for the pier the navy is building, the base will be useless as well. We thought that the Hope Bus would encourage the people there. Instead, it was we were more encouraged!



The Catholic Church Must Follow its Mission in Korea

By Jesuit Fr. Kim Seong-Hwan

At the end of November, a mass was held at Susong-dong Catholic Church in Gunsan. This mass was held in regards to the current state of affairs in Korea, and at the mass, priests called for current president Park Geun-Hye to resign and take responsibility for the illegal and fraudulent election. However, the next day, the Blue House (the president’s office), the ruling party, Saenuri Party and extreme right wing conservative groups, without mentioning the issue of resignation, denounced the Catholic Priests Association for Justice (CPAJ) as North Korean sympathizers. Many conservatives complained that the priests were “getting involved in politics/political intervention”. But at that mass, what the priests did was not political intervention. They merely practiced the teachings of the church, as per The Catechism of the Catholic Church 2246, “It is a part of the Church’s mission “to pass moral judgments even in matters related to politics, whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it.”

Love letter from Dr. Hakim & the Afghan Peace Volunteers

Excerpted from a longer letter by Dr. Hakim with the Afghan Peace Volunteers

...For seven years I lived in a gorgeous agricultural village in Afghanistan’s Bamiyan Province and like yourselves on Jeju Island, I woke every morning to a window scene of ‘heaven’. No one with eyes to see such a view would believe that the hell of wars has been occupying this land. My friends, I imagine you walking the simple yet unpolluted pathways of Gangjeong Village and, should you take a moment’s rest, being caressed and cared for by the tree shadows dappled with sunlight, the chatty play of the neighbourhood children, and the wafts of floral perfume dancing by. I cannot believe that you, any more than the villagers I lived among in Bamiyan Province, would want to lose such a beautiful and sky-kissed aviary home to the ravages of hatred and greed.

The Afghan Peace Volunteers and I celebrate the love and dedication which has compelled so many of you to stop the construction trucks with your young and old bodies, trucks used to build the military base on your island - we thank you for demonstrating once again that the human spirit can speak to heavy, metallic machines. Those ‘doing their jobs’ to establish the naval base have forgotten their duty to their fellow human beings. Hopefully, they are amenable to the persuasion of your love. How else can we strengthen ourselves against what seems so massive a force, against the largest and most powerful military in history, except by love?

My 74 year old mother advises, “Don’t be naïve or idealistic.” But I ask myself, “Isn’t it naïve to think that the peace of Jeju can be promoted by a U.S. /South Korea naval base?” Naïve, so massive a force, against the largest and most powerful military in history, except by love?



Image: Gangjeong Village Story

On Dec. 19, The 12th Korean Experimental Art Festival held a special 3-hour performance in the Gangjeong Port called, “The Sea is a Mother’s Bosom” with performers from around the world. Pictured above is the finale.

Jeju Court Declares Imposing Fines on Destruction-Monitoring Activity Illegal

Since April 12, 2012, The Seogwipo Coast Guard has defined the naval base construction site sea area off the Gureombi Coast as a “Leisure Water Sports Prohibition Zone” and attempted to impose fines and arrest Gangjeong villagers and peace activists who entered the area for the purpose of monitoring the maritime construction, which is continuously conducted with wanton disregard for environmental regulation and protection.

However, on November 22 of 2013, the Jeju local court finally made an official statement staying that navigating with a kayak to monitor the illegal construction cannot be considered a “Leisure Water Sport” and that therefore imposing fines is illegal. The statement was released in response to a claim submitted by Dr. Song Kang-Ho against fines received for entering the prohibited zone.

Following the court’s decision, on December 26, the Gangjeong Human Rights Committee released a statement demanding that the Seogwipo Coast Guard promptly annul the prohibition area designation and officially apologize for the illegal arrests and imprisonments of Dr. Song Kang-Ho and Br. Park Do-Hyun on July 1, 2013.

The Nov. 22 letter also illuminates more clearly the infringements of human rights in previous rulings by notorious Jeju judge Heo Kyung-Ho. In July of 2013, he dismissed a claim to review the arrests of Dr. Song and Br. Park, even rejecting to examine critical video evidence which clearly illustrates the Coast Guard’s dereliction of duty and illegal arrests. He then imprisoned the two under the false charge of obstruction of business for their attempts to monitor the illegal construction (destruction).



Image: Go Gwon-Il

Former Korea University’s Prof. Kim Young-Gon holds a protest in front of the National Assembly on Dec. 17, 2013. He was fired after giving lectures against the Jeju naval base construction and publishing a book on security which was banned by the ROK Ministry of National Decease under the dreaded National Security Law.

GANGJEONG PRISONERS

Please write to

Since Feb. 1

No. **301**

Mr. Yang Yoon-Mo

Since July 1

No. **535**

Br. Park Do-Hyun

Since Oct. 8

No. **12**

Ms. Kim Eun-Hye

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

TRIAL UPDATES

On Nov. 28, 2013, the Jeju local court ruled that five villagers including Mayor Kang Dong-Kyun and anti-base chairman Go Gwon-Il (co-vice mayor for the term of 2014-2015) should pay damage compensation of 261 million KRW (about \$261,000 USD) to Woochang Co., one of the naval base construction companies. On the same day, there were many appeals by Gangjeong peace keepers, most of which were dismissed. A male activist in his 20s named “Song” who was found not guilty in his first trial was found guilty on appeal by the prosecutor. He was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with a suspended sentence and two years probation, 80 hours’ community service, and protective supervision.

On December 19, the imprisoned Kim Eun-Hye had an appeal trial. Despite the fact that police officer witness Koo Seul-Hwan was unable to provide evidence against her, the prosecutor baselessly demanded three years’ imprisonment. Her final appeal trial will be on January 9th, 2014. Also on that day, many other Gangjeong people had trials. Many of the trials were related to the case of December 26, 2011 when 10 people, including Fr. Mun Kyoo-Hyun, were arrested on charges of obstruction of business. On the appeal they each had their fines reduced by 1 million KRW (around 1,000 USD) to 2 million KRW. Otherwise two other appeals were dismissed, and a female activist who was only counting the daily 100 bows received a 1 million KRW fine.

In the case of April 16, 2012, when more than 10 peacekeepers were arrested for connecting themselves with lock-on pipes in order to stop the truck moving explosives to the construction site: all fines were reduced from the original 4 million KRW (around 4,000 USD) per person to 2.5 million KRW (around 2,500 USD) each. One person was found not-guilty. Meanwhile, Dr. Song Kang-Ho and Br. Park Do-Hyun and several others were on trial for setting up a tent on Gureombi Rock in 2012. On Christmas Day, it was reported that Koo Seul-Hwan, the infamous Seogwipo Police Security Director was found not guilty in the case against him. Various Gangjeong people had sued him for the police’s excessive violence against Gangjeong villagers on May 10, 2013, when village women Kim Mi-Lyang was pushed over a steep ledge by a policeman, causing serious injury and an extended hospital stay.

On December 26, there were many appeal trials, most of which were dismissed as usual. Therefore the original court decisions stood. Among them were such decisions as 1 year imprisonment with a suspended sentence. two years probation and 100,000 (around 100 USD) fines for six people including Rev. Song Young-Seop and Rev. Lim Bo-Rah charged with property damage. Another case included 9 people including Mayor Kang Dong-Kyun, who kept his fine of 7 million KRW (around 7,000 USD), Film Director Cho Sung-Bong, Village Mr. Jung Kyung-Bo, and villager Mr. Kim Young-Woo who are still fined 4 million KRW (around 4,000 USD), and Dr. Song Kang-Ho, who still kept his sentence of 6 months imprisonment, suspended with 1 year probation. All were charged with obstruction of business. Also dismissed was the appeal of Mr. Kim Min-Sou and 5 others who were charged with violation of the Public Waters Act. They face fines ranging from 700,000 KRW (around 700 USD) to 4 million KRW (around 4,000 USD). Finally, the appeal of three people fined 700,000 KRW each for trespassing at the UN-ROK disarmament conference in 2011, was also rejected.

Fr. Mun Passes Out as Police Tear Off Nun’s Veil

By Grace

On December 10th, the daily Catholic mass was being held as usual in front of the gates to the base construction site, as it has for the last two years. Three catholic fathers, including Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon, and several nuns were seated in front of ones of the gates. From 11 a.m. for about hour, the priests and sisters would pray and then about every ten minutes the police would come and forcefully remove them. Then trucks would pass through the gates. After the trucks had passed the police would release the sisters and priests and they would go back and pray again.

During one of these sessions, the elderly Fr. Mun was carried away and locked in a circle of policemen. A nun who was dragged into the same circle noticed that Fr. Mun seem unwell and started calling for help. When the police didn’t respond she attempted to escape the circle of police, but was blocked. Finally she managed to escape, but as she was running a policewoman who thought she was running to block a truck rather than for help reached out grabbed her veil pulling it off. The nun burst into tears and seeing this sight, Father Mun was shocked, and passed out, falling to the ground. Fr. Mun, who suffers from chronic heart disease was carried to his house. Fortunately, he recovered the next day and was able to come back for his daily routines of the morning mass and traditional wood carving. The police faced strong criticism from those at the scene for ignoring the situation and then making it worse.