

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

APRIL
2014

Monthly news on the struggle against
the Jeju Naval base project

Published by Gangjeong Village in Jeju,
South Korea



Yang Yoon-Mo Released from Prison!

Image : Cho Sung-Bong

At five minutes past midnight, on April 12th, 2014, after 435 days in prison, his 4th imprisonment for his activities opposing the Jeju naval base project, Yang Yoon-Mo was freed. Although it was after midnight, and the Jeju Prison is in a remote area, around 100 people from around Korea and Jeju gathered to celebrate his release and greet him. For several hours leading up to his release, people began to gather in front of the prison, sharing snacks and tea, and shouting for his release or calling out his name. The gathered people were Gangjeong villagers, activists, priests, nuns, and other supporters, who all sang songs and danced the Gangjeong dances.

As the time grew near, people began to count down to his release, and as soon as the door opened, people cheered and rushed to greet him. As he came out he ate the raw tofu which is traditional for people getting out of prison to eat. He began to greet each person, warmly hugging everyone who had come. After greeting

those that had gathered he took the microphone and began a speech. The first words he shouted into the mic, "Absolutely no naval base!". He then began to thank many people by name, including Jeju Bishop Kang U-II, and further stated:

"It's thanks to you and your spirit of sharing, despite your desperate struggle, that I, who am insufficient, could get by daily. This is how I am able to return back to you healthy and with a stronger will after my prison life...I once ignorantly thought that as time went by our odds would grow against our struggle. But in prison, I realized that time is on our side."

"I have come to bear a dream to spread our struggle to make Jeju the Demilitarized Life and Peace Island. I will start a petition campaign to gain 10 million signatures nationwide and 200,000 signatures from the people of Jeju, one third of the Jeju population. The petition will be to build a legislative campaign to designate

Jeju as the Demilitarized Peace Island in 2017 during the next presidential election."

Yang also stated that while in prison he was greatly encouraged by the strong international solidarity with Gangjeong and said he had received letters in prison from people in over 30 countries. He appealed to everyone to build Gangjeong into a global life and peace village and not to stop struggling.

After his rousing and exciting release party, the next night there was another party in Gangjeong village at the Gangjeong Village Association Hall. There villagers and others who couldn't come to the prison met him and celebrated his release. All were greatly pleased to have Professor Yang back among them, and encouraged by his fresh energy and zeal. He has pledged to spend the rest of his life working to make Jeju the Demilitarized Peace Island. Let's hope it doesn't take that long!

Gangjeong is Jeju April 3rd

By Hosu

During the 14th Gangjeong Peace School, held the week of the anniversary of the Jeju April 3rd Massacre (4·3), the participants learned about the resemblance of 4·3 with the Gangjeong Struggle while examining these two events in modern Korean history. As part of their education, they visited historical sites related to 4·3 such as the 4·3 Peace Park, the Lost Village "Youngnam-ri", and Neobunsoongi Memorial Museum. They also met with Gangjeong villagers whose families were victims of 4·3. What can be heard repeatedly by villagers who both indirectly and directly experienced 4·3, is that both events have been unjust acts of state power for political and ideological purposes. During 4·3 the Jeju islanders were labelled as communist and now the Gangjeong people are labelled, "pro-

North Korea". One of the elderly villagers interviewed said, "The innocent Jeju islanders, who are not ideological at all, are killed by ideology. It has been done twice here in Jeju."

As a result, this hundreds of years old community of Gangjeong, which had thrived through trust, cooperation, and caring, has been broken. Jeju Island's long traditional way of sustaining community is called, "Sunuleum". Its foundation is equality, emphasizing sharing and working together for mutual survival and happiness. But 4·3 brought suspicion and distrust, as people began to be unjustly labelled as "commies". The Jeju naval base construction project has brought a similar brokenness to Gangjeong. Even within families, enemies are made, and family events are no longer

possible.

One of the peace school participants mentioned that Gangjeong seems like the historical result of the unresolved story of 4·3, which still has not found its full truthful telling through just and honest history. Another remarked that both 4·3 and the Gangjeong struggle are still ongoing events which must be resolved by the government and the people in order to move forward toward a truly democratic society and for a better future for Korea.

Images : Emily Wang

On April 3rd, Gangjeong people attempted to hold a short peace dance in remembrance of the massacre. However, despite there being no vehicles, police surrounded and blocked them.



The World Needs to Hear Your Message

By David Hartsough,
following his recent visit to
Gangjeong



Image : Hua Suhn

Longtime peace activist and nonviolence advocate David Hartsough dances in front of the Gangjeong naval base project gate during Gangjeong's daily dancing time.

I am deeply thankful to have had some time with you in Gangjeong in March. Your nonviolent witness and resistance to this horrendous military base is a powerful

message to the Korean and US governments AND to the peoples of the world. People of every community in the world have the right to say "No" to a military base which will destroy their community.

I was deeply touched by the daily Mass with Priests and Nuns blocking the main gate to the base. My time standing with them blocking the main gate was the highlight of my time there. I cannot think of a better way that people of Faith can say to our governments "Building a naval base which could be the focal point for a war between the US and China is the height of immorality and against everything all our religions stand for. We have been taught to "Love one another," not prepare to kill one another and to destroy one another's communities. Your message to "Let Jeju Island be an Island of Peace" (not an island of war and preparations for war) is the message the world needs to hear.

Your daily nonviolent witness including the Mass and the blockade of the gates is the best way of sending this

message. I hope some of you will take the time and effort to visit other people and groups on Jeju Island who also want Jeju Island to truly be an Island of Peace, and invite them to join you even once a month to show their support for your valiant efforts. The farmers and fishermen of Gangjeong, the students, the women, the teachers, ordinary citizens of Jeju Island who have suffered the horrors of the massacres of 1948, and the many visitors from around the world who visit Jeju and share your desire for peace in the world, could help get your message out even more strongly.

In the spirit of Gandhi and Martin Luther King and nonviolent warriors around the world, may your movement grow and touch the consciences of the people of Korea and the United States. Let's encourage our governments to stop building this monstrous military base and respect Jeju Island as an Island of Peace.

Ghosts of Jeju US Screening Tour Ends Successfully



Image : Gangjeong Village Story

Following a briefing on the U.S. Tour, Gangjeong people posed in solidarity with Kyoto/Ukawa.

The Ghosts of Jeju documentary was invited to the Chicago Peace on Earth Film Festival. When the village heard about it, they wanted to send someone to Chicago. Money was raised and Joyakgol of the Gangjeong International Team was sent to join filmmaker Regis Tremblay for a month-long screening tour of the U.S.

The tour kicked off with winning the Expose Award at the festival on March 8, then continued on to 15 screenings in 13 cities in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Around a thousand people attended the screenings in total.

The film has been received enthusiastically everywhere: Fresno, Santa Rosa, Santa Barbara, Berkeley, LA and San Diego. One screening in LA was in Korea Town for over 100 Koreans and the other was at UCLA for the faculty and some grad students in the Korean Studies Department.

The reaction to the film has been identical everywhere: shame, anger, tears. Most of the audience said they were really sorry and apologized for what

their military has been doing to the island of Jeju. Then they thank us for making the film and always ask, "What can we do?" We brought a stack of postcards for people to write peace messages on and send to the Vatican, requesting the Pope's visit to Jeju in August.

We met with several journalists who ran newspaper articles and broadcast radio interviews that have helped to spread the word about Gangjeong. After each screening we take a group photo with the No Naval Base flags and the Pope Francis banner.

It seems like nearly everyone has wanted a copy of the film and all promise to share it widely. We've given copies away to folks who can't afford them and to students who all promise to share them. Along the way, we keep hearing from people that the film has been screened in cities all over the U.S. It's amazing how it has taken on a life of its own with grassroots groups and activists.

International Solidarity



Image : Emily Wang

In April, Professor Toh Sweehin from Costa Rica's Peace University came to visit Gangjeong. He observed the struggle and then gave a lecture in the Gangjeong Peace Center about Costa Rica, the Peace University, Demilitarization, and other general peace topics.

Daily Practice of the GDAMS Spirit in Gangjeong

By Emily Wang

On April 14th, many people from around the world joined the annual Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS). For the people of Gangjeong, who make pickets and protest in front of the Naval base every year on the date of GDAMS, I'm not sure whether I should say that Gangjeong joined the GDAMS movement or the GDAMS movement joined the Gangjeong struggle. Because everyday here is practice of the spirit of GDAMS.

Everyday in front of the naval base construction project, there are the morning "one hundred bows", the "three steps one bow", the Catholic mass, the human chain, the Gangjeong addictive dances, Dirty Radio, and "one person protests". All of these activities

speak out for a transformation which surely includes military spending.

Besides these daily actions, a closer look at life in Gangjeong village reveals, the "Book Village Project", music, art, and eco-friendly farming courses, film nights, exhibitions, peace dialogues, candlelight vigils, Gangjeong Peace School...all these suggest possibilities for budgetary spending on human welfare. Through just small voluntarily given funds, the people create their own welfare, yet with huge amounts of money, the government only creates warfare.

GDAMS, thanks for joining us even for just one day. We would like to remember your participation the rest of the year in Gangjeong. See you next year!

Four Arrested on April 7

By Jesuit Fr. Kim Sung-Hwan

Everyday, the police forcibly remove and encircle believers, ascetics and priests attending the 11 a.m. Catholic mass in front of the naval base construction site gates. Occasionally, under the watch of the previous Seogwipo Police Chief of Security and Traffic, they would forcibly remove people without giving any warning announcement. Sometimes they would also continuously encircle people, even when there were no vehicles attempting to enter or exit the construction site. According to the Act on the Performance Duties by Police Officers, before forcibly removing people, they should make a warning announcement. Additionally if there are no vehicles entering or exiting, then they should release their encirclement of people. In the past, whenever the police did not keep this law, I would complain to them and then they would relent. But as time went by, they would once again begin return to thier old ways.

From the middle of February, a new Chief of Security and Traffic came to Seogwipo. This new chief also sometimes did these things as well, to my indignation. I started to feel that the police treated me as a piece of

luggage. In early April, public transportation laborers belonging to the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) came to Gangjeong. On that day, even when there were no vehicles, the police kept their encirclements for more than 10 minutes each time, without apology.

Finally, on April 7, after the mass during the rosary prayer, the police once again forcibly removed and encircled me without any warning announcement. Additionally during the human chain and Gangjeong dancing time, despite their being no vehicles entering or exiting, the police completely blocked everyone, continually forcefully everyone to the edge of the road, and maintaining their encirclements for more than 20 minutes at at time. In protest, I blocked a truck exiting the site. I planned to withdraw my protest if the chief apologized. But for thirty minutes not only did he not apologize, but pretended that I was the one in the wrong and ordered my arrest. To protest my arrest, Fr. Mun, Sister Rosalina, and Lee Jong-Hwa were also arrested. Fr. Mun was taken to the detention center with me. We were released after 48 hours.



Image : Emily Wang

On April 22, Oh Chul-Geun, a quaker peacekeeper famous for his daily "3 steps-1 bow" protest ritual around the base cosntruction site, reached his 500th day of doing the protest. In celebration, other activists and villagers joined him on that day.

Bp. Kang: Gureombi is Golgotha

By Regina Pyon & Pat Cunningham



Image : Mun Yang Hyo-Suk/Catholic News Now and Here

Jeju Bishop Peter Kang U-Il leads the Easter Mass in Gangjeong in Catholic mass tent front of the naval base construction site.

The third week of April was Holy Week according to the Christian tradition. Catholics and activists of Gangjeong celebrated each day with traditional ceremonies beginning with the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday. The Stations of the Cross took place on Good Friday with pilgrims for peace pausing at various stops around the village of Gangjeong and the naval base building site.

Easter Mass was celebrated by Bp. Peter Kang U-il, Bishop of Jeju island in Gangjeong village on Sunday, April 20, in front of the naval base building site. Bp. Kang made the following remarks during his homily:

"...Many peace loving people have confessed and declared here at Gureombi that military force cannot achieve peace, and only true respect for life and love embracing all brothers and sisters as one beyond ideology and boundaries can achieve a true and lasting peace. The authorities have attempted to conceal the clamoring calls for peace with a fence, behind which is filled with cement, turning gureombi into a grave and attempting to silence the people with trials but all this is doomed to failure because these efforts...will not block the breath of peace that God has begun to breathe."

At the end of the mass, Bp. Kang introduced Kim Mi-Ryang, a Gangjeong villager who was baptized the previous evening. Bishop Kang consoled her for the hardships of Gangjeong and congratulated her as she celebrates her new life in the faith.

Trial Updates



➤ On April 3, the Jeju appeals court dismissed the prosecutor's appeal against Yang Yoon-Mo. His original sentence stood, which was 10 months imprisonment, suspended with two years probation. This trial is different from the trial which put him in prison in February of 2013. On the same day, the court dismissed the appeal of Father Kim Dong-Geon who was indicted for kicking the fence surrounding the base in protest of the police's destruction of the Eucharist in August of 2012. He was fined 2 million KRW.

➤ Meanwhile, Mr. Park Seung-Ho's sentence was reduced in the appeals court from 1 year, six months imprisonment, suspended with three years' probation, to 1 year imprisonment, suspended with two year's probation. Jeong Dawoori sentence was also reduced by the appeals court, from eight months imprisonment suspended with two years probation to six months imprisonment suspended with 1 year probation. The two were also charged with trespassing along with Park Han-Baek but the appeals court found them all not guilty.

➤ On April 10, the Jeju higher court dismissed the appeal of Mr. Bae Gi-Cheol who was sentenced to six months imprisonment suspended with two years probation for Obstruction of Business. The appeal of Mr. Oh Chul-Geun, was also dismissed. Although he sat for only a short time in front of the naval base project gate during a candlelight vigil in December of 2012, the 1st court gave him a sentence of four months imprisonment, suspended, and 1 year probation. The appeals court judge, in dismissing his appeal, stated that Oh's activity "is applicable to the scope of obstruction of business even though he had no intention".

➤ On April 17, Lee Jae-In, who had been charged with obstruction of business, had her sentenced reduced on appeal, from eight months imprisonment, suspended, with two years probation to six months imprisonment, suspended, with one year probation. Park Han-UI charged similarly, also had her sentence reduced from a fine of 1.5 million KRW to 1 million KRW. Both were also found guilty of residential trespassing for entering Gureombi Rock via the naval base project gate in June 2012, but the appeals court overturned the conviction a declared them not guilty due to lack of evidence.

➤ On April 24, the Korean Supreme Court dismissed 13 appeals related to protests and actions during the arrest and imprisonment of Mayor Kang in August 2011. The Supreme Court also dismissed 8 appeals which were indictments for actions during the blasting of Gureombi Rock in 2012. Final sentences: 5 million KRW fine for former mayor Kang; eight months imprisonment suspended with two years probation for Fr. Mun, Vice-Mayor Mr. Go Gwon-Il, Mr. Kim Jong-Hwan, Dr. Song Kang-Ho, and Mr. Kim Dong-Won; and fines ranging from 1.5-4 million KRW each against the 8 peace keepers including Mr. Kim Min-Sou. On the same day, a male peacekeeper nicknamed Dalme was arrested in Seoul for not paying fines related to his actions in Gangjeong. He was released that evening thanks to the Gangjeong Fines Fundraising Committee.

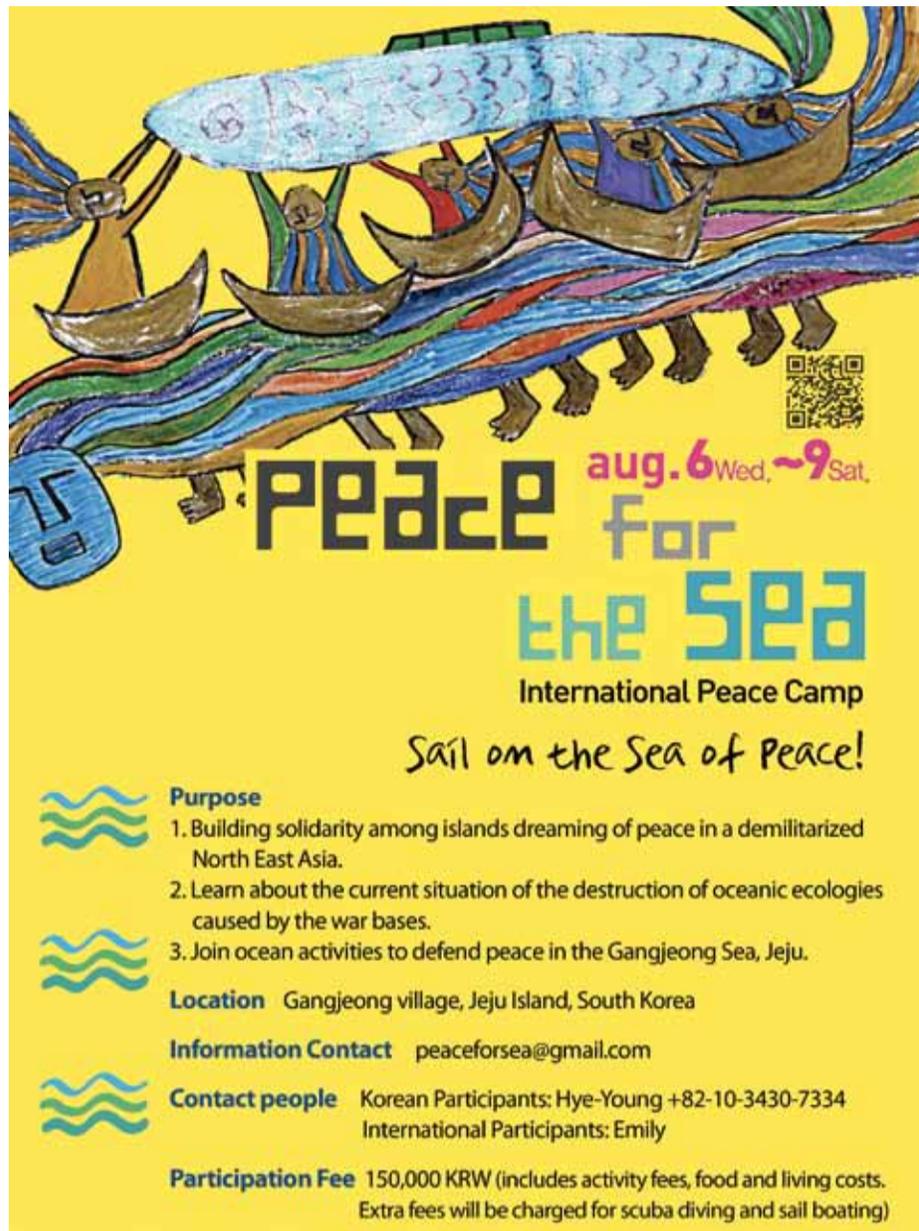
**Gangjeong
Prisoners
of
Conscience**

No.

717

Mr. Kwon Sool-Yong
Since April 26, 2014

Please write to Jeju Prison, 161,
Ora-2 dong, Jeju-si, Jeju-do, Korea



Peace for the Sea
International Peace Camp
Sail on the Sea of Peace!

aug. 6 Wed. ~ 9 Sat.

Purpose

1. Building solidarity among islands dreaming of peace in a demilitarized North East Asia.
2. Learn about the current situation of the destruction of oceanic ecologies caused by the war bases.
3. Join ocean activities to defend peace in the Gangjeong Sea, Jeju.

Location Gangjeong village, Jeju Island, South Korea

Information Contact peaceforsea@gmail.com

Contact people Korean Participants: Hye-Young +82-10-3430-7334
International Participants: Emily

Participation Fee 150,000 KRW (includes activity fees, food and living costs. Extra fees will be charged for scuba diving and sail boating)



Images :Emily Wang

On March 30, Jeju MBC International Peace Marathon took place in Jeju City. 23 people from Gangjeong joined running with banners and flags of peace and against the naval base.

How You Can Help

1. Write a letter to Pope Francis asking him to visit Jeju.
2. Write letters to Gangjeong's prisoners of conscience.
3. Stay updated by joining our Facebook groups and following us on twitter.
4. Organize a solidarity event (concert, movie screening, protest, etc...) then share about it on social media.
5. Visit Gangjeong!
6. For other ways to help and more visit us on the web.

For More Information

<http://www.SaveJejuNow.org>
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/NoNavalBase>
<http://www.facebook.com/SaveJeju>
<http://www.pope2jeju.org>
<http://www.twitter.com/SaveJejuNow>

For Gangjeong related videos, visit savejejunow.org or check these Vimeo/Youtube users :

Vimeo : cho sung bong / DH Song / Regis Tremblay
 Youtube : Gang-Jeong Il-Gi / Shalomsea / 1234yz100 / Sungbong2012

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UN and ICC concerned with Korean human rights situation

In March, the 25th Session of the UN Human Right Council was held in Geneva. During the presentation of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, the groups People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy and the Democratic Lawyers' Association of Korea shared on the serious situation of human rights violations in Korea, the South Korean National Intelligence Service (NIS) involvement in the presidential election and so-called North Korean spy incident, government oppression on labor rights, and also Milyang and Gangjeong. The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights urged the South Korean government to protect human rights defenders, emphasizing that the arbitrary application of laws such as the national security law and the law on protests and rallies, are restricting the free exercise of their activities.

In addition, on April 5, the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC) suspended the human rights grade of the South Korean National Human Rights Council as the human rights situation in Korea has been deteriorating for a number of years.

Stop Indiscriminate Recording by Police

On April 9, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea recommended that the ROK National Police Agency restrict its scope and targets of indiscriminate photo and video taking, saying such police behavior could infringe on people's freedom to rally and protest, which are protected by the constitution. This is the first time that the NHRCK has made such a recommendation. The ROK police have exercised such overreaching practices nationwide including in Gangjeong, where they continually infringe on people's rights by secretly recording video and photos while dressed in civilian clothes, sometimes even using their personal mobile phones instead of registered police equipment. This is in addition to their usual excessive media documentation of anyone preparing or engaging in a rally, protest, or other completely legal activities.

Peace Book Cafe One-Year Anniversary

By Dong-Seok

On April 6th, the Gangjeong Peace Book Cafe celebrated its' 1 year anniversary. It has already been one year since the writers group and villagers began the dream of the "Book Village" as a way past the pain of struggle. Many people gathered to celebrate with a party at the cafe. Many of the guests were students from Gangjeong Elementary School, who are regulars to the Peace Book Cafe and its programs. Kim Jae-Hun, a coordinator of the Gangjeong Book Village Project led the festivities with some friends from Jeju University. Musicians Kim Kil-Soo and Park Hee-Soo also visited and gave a surprise performance. They were traveling by camping truck around Jeju while singing about nature and animals. They sang the song "Dear Jedolee" which many of us like a lot. Omori from Okinawa and a friend came to visit in the evening as well.

Decorations for the party included a special photo exhibit and photo album. Also special foods were prepared. And a new sign was put up for the cafe. It was made out of pottery by Lee Kyung-Hwa who runs the pottery art shop, "Daltori Dojagol". Although the anniversary party was originally about the Peace Book Cafe, it was also for the whole village to dream of a better more peaceful future.

