



Images : Oh Sae-Young, Sato Hideaki
Jeju Peace Festival in Gashiri village, south-east Jeju Island

Jeju Peace: Dreaming of a Peaceful Future for East Asia By Shining Lake

The Jeju Peace Festival was held from October 17- 19 in Gashiri village, located on the south-east part of Jeju Island. The purpose was to bring hope for peace in East Asia as people from different countries in the region gather together beyond borders and nationality. On the last day, a small forum was led by participants who are involved in peace actions throughout China, Japan, and Korea. Its theme was 'Dreaming of a peaceful future for East Asia'. They presented peace initiatives they are working on and a discussion followed afterwards in shaping a common future for East Asia. The three countries have a shared experience of suffering in their modern history, the collective trauma's of violence. Among the countries were victims and also offender to one another in past wars. Today the wounds and effects of war still remain in destructive ways on the relationships between countries.

Many participants of the festival are already actively taking part in movements for change, addressing issues such as the environment, human rights, pro-democracy, education and anti-militarism. They showed their willingness to learn from each other's experience as they shared their difficulties. It was such a powerful moment for all to recognize how important it is to build solidarity and cooperate with one another by learning that there a lot of similarities in the movement against the bases in Okinawa and Jeju and in the growing concerns on environmental issues in China and Japan. At the end of the forum, all participants shared their vision for a peaceful future in East Asia, reflecting on what we can pass down to the next generations. After the forum, we felt the warmth of new friendships by gaining a better understanding and appreciation for one another's efforts to create a better world.

How You Can Help

1. Write a letter to the South Korean and US governments to stop the Jeju base project.
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

- Created and designed by the Gangjeong International Team, special thanks to Everyday Practice.
- 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.



Image : Emily Wang

On October 12th, Gangjeong Peacekeepers held a banner that reads, "War is not a game!" inside the Jeju Aerospace museum [JAM].

Keep Space for Peace Week By Emily Wang

Gangjeong peace activists joined the international campaign, "Keep Space for Peace Week 2014". Held from Oct. 4-11 while the Jeju Naval Base is being constructed, all kinds of militarization steps fall down in front of us more realistically.

On Oct 4th, the first day of Keep Space for Peace Week, also the 1st int'l joint action day against surveillance and killing drones, is the day for Gangjeong people to learn that in recent years, numerous innocent children in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen etc. have been indiscriminately killed while being the target of drones, these remote-controlled killers directed by US and NATO. It's also a time for us to be aware that South Korea has already been estimated as one of the top drone countries along with the United States and Israel. This year, South Korea decided to introduce the Northrop-Grumman producing Global Hawk, a drone called 'the satellite of the ground'. We learned these facts and protested in front of the gate of the naval base.

On Oct 7th, we stood in solidarity with Afghanistan friends remembering the invasion and occupation by the US that continue since Oct 7th, 2001 until today. On Oct 7th and 8th, while SPARK (Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea), a peace organization, organized a protest in front of the South Korean Ministry of National Defense in Seoul to stop the Korea government's purchase of F-35, additionally, in front of Jeju Gangjeong Naval Base, we had one-person protesting for the same issue too.

On Oct 12th, we planned the final action in the newly established Jeju Aerospace museum(JAM) where war games are being taught as a fun hobby and the improvement of aviation and space for war is regarded as the development of humanity without shame. We visited the museum with a banner, "War is Not a Game!", and distributed brochures to adults with small pinwheels for kids telling the truth which the museum doesn't choose to exhibit: how people die under the attack of unmanned aerial vehicle/drones.

While the base is under construction, the JAM supported by the Korea military is upholding the education for war on the Island of World Peace. We should prevent Jeju from being an Island of victim nor an Island of aggression by broadening our view on the struggle for peace. Gangjeong people's participation in the action for Space Peace annually is a meaningful act as a reminder of how the world suffers from war.

World Peace on the Island of World Peace!



Image : Gangjeong Village Story

"Dancing Gureombi, Breathing Gureombi" is the new Gangjeong Poongmul Team. Every Wednesday, those interested in traditional Korean music and dance gather together to learn and to later perform in several Jeju Festivals. Each of us is a small rock in Gangjeong, but together as one, we become Gureombi, dancing and breathing in the village of Life and Peace.



GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

October
2014

Monthly news on the struggle against the Jeju Naval base project
Published by Gangjeong Village in Jeju, South Korea



Ignoring Villagers' Strong Opposition, Military Housing Construction Underway

Image: Song Dong-Hyo
Article by Sister Roselina

As I start to write this article, I gloom that the scary looking navy houses may soon be seen inside our village. As the pain of Gangjeong caused by the tyrannical government seriously worsens, Gangjeong villagers have become exhausted and feel that they are too weak to stand against this tyranny.

In 2007, the Navy decided to build a naval base in spite of the fact that 94 % of Gangjeong villagers voted against it. In 2012, this same Navy destroyed Gureombi Rock violently, and more recently, this October, began the process of constructing military housing, ignoring the villagers' opposition. In past voting, 98 % of Gangjeong villagers had expressed their opposition. The navy's residential Briefing on Military Family Housing was canceled 3 times in 2012 and 2013 because of the strong objection by residents. In response, the Navy's chief of staff sent letters to every villager with the message, "I

promise that there will not be military family housing without Gangjeong's consent". Villagers replied, "it cannot, must not be put inside our village." Despite this, the Navy has merely reduced the total number of housing units to 72 (with a total size of 6400m²) from 690 in order to receive building permits, evade environmental impact assessments and avoid getting residents' agreement.

The location of the planned military housing is situated between Gangjeong Elementary School and Gangjeong Port, near Soddaewat Pension. In response, on Oct 24, Gangjeong villagers held an Anti-Base Committee meeting to oppose the military family housing and discuss how to resist. Since that day, Village Mayor Cho Kyung-Chul, villagers, peacekeepers and other supporters have worked in shifts both night and day to prevent cement trucks from passing through the intersection in front of the Peace Center.

Finally, a press conference was held on October 30th in front of the Peace Center at 12:30pm to demonstrate opposition to the military housing. Mayor Cho, alongside the villagers' coalition, appealed earnestly to the public to come out to help, shouting slogans such as "immediately withdraw the military housing decision that ignores and treads on the residents' autonomy!" Gangjeong residents know that if they don't gather their voices and power together, their once peaceful village will be transformed into a savage military area and their noble 450-year-old traditions will vanish.

In this situation it seems almost impossible to fight against the government, but in finishing this article I'd like to recall the words of Jeju Bishop Kang U-Il who once said, "We must find hope where there is none, for hope is a desire which we must strive to obtain." This means to me that Gangjeong has real hope.

Villagers Skeptical Over Truth Investigation

Won Hee-Ryong, the new Island governor from the Saenuri Party (conservative) who was inaugurated on July 1 has made a public pledge to hold a truth investigation on the naval base drive process to pacify Gangjeong villagers. On the evening of Oct. 15, villagers held a nearly 4-hour long meeting with him to examine his sincerity and consider the feasibility of conducting a truth investigation through the enactment of the very abstract Island ordinance that he is proposing.

Above all, villagers denounced the wrongdoings of past Island governments in the construction process. Village Mayor Cho Kyung-Chul pointed out that the truth investigation would be much more powerful if it were done by the central government, not by the Island, However, Won remained passive saying he could only propose it to the central government.

Many villagers including Lee Dal-On stressed the necessity of a central government and presidential apology and pointed out the problem that the proposed ordinance fails to guarantee the enforcement of judicial and executive justice. The villagers also problematized Won's close relationship to an officer who has played a leading role in instigating inner village conflict by inviting the base in 2007, and pointed out that the chairman of the current Island Council helped to push through the annulment of the village's absolute preservation area in 2009.

Some villagers including ex-mayor Kang Dong-Kyun cross examined governor Won saying that his sincerity would only be proved when he used his authority as a governor to order a halt to the construction and reinstate the unjustly annulled absolute preservation area, as well as when he stops a so-called local development plan that is betraying the villagers. Moreover, suspicions were raised that Won regards the truth investigation as a mere formality to ensure the smooth progress of the base's construction while avoiding his responsibility with sugary words.

While it was clear that many villagers have long suffered from the government's unjust wrongdoings, Won could only repeat the answer throughout the whole meeting that the Island government would do its best. The South Korean authorities has even labeled them as pro-North Korean leftists simply for opposing the base construction in their home town.

*Multiple references & Gangjeong village Korean newspaper

Sister Stella Will Appeal Sentence

Image: Jung Hyun-Jin
(Catholic News Now and Here)
article by Regina Pylon



Sr. Stella Soh Hee-Sook was sentenced to 5 months imprisonment and 1 year probation on charges of obstruction of business, etc. She was indicted in 2013 for her activities blocking the vehicles during the mass at the gate of Jeju navy base construction site. This is the first case in Korean history that a Catholic nun has been indicted.

She will appeal to a higher court, her lawyer Baek Shin-Ok said. Lawyer Baek also added, "Jeju naval base has been illegal from the onset and in the whole construction process, therefore we will continue to insist that Jeju naval base construction work is not a just business that could be worth protecting socially. If it is not a legitimate business, it cannot be an obstruction of business."

We are the Endangered Residents of Jeju Island by JoYakGol (peace activist)

It was early September that Gangjeong activists started preparing for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Pyeongchang. It was a government-sponsored international event on the environment where we thought we would get the word out about the peace movement against Jeju naval base construction that is detrimental to the local environment. More than 10 Gangjeong people registered for the event and we planned actions to let the world know how the naval base project is destroying the marine environment and killing biodiversity in the sea. We made a brochure about soft corals. We made costumes of dolphins, shrimps and crabs. We were the endangered residents of Jeju. We were desperate to cry and reach out to people because our livelihood was under threat.

CBD should have been more concerned with Gangjeong's voice but it wasn't. Instead, the security chief of the United Nations made us leave the site when he spotted us taking photos wearing the animal costumes with a banner that reads 'No Naval Base on Jeju'. There was no freedom of speech or association during the UN event. Any action critical of the Korean government policies was not allowed in the remote Pyeongchang resort.

Finally, CBD security confiscated our banner. It was outrageous, but despite the oppressive atmosphere, we attended the side event about military bases and their disastrous impact on Jeju and Okinawa. At the event, we were able to raise 'no naval base' banners we had hid and chanted peaceful slogans with international participants. The point we tried to make was simple and clear; military bases threaten and kill biodiversity.



Image : JoYakGol

On October 9th, Gangjeong peace activists and Okinawan activists promote their struggle to attendees of the side event themed, 'Threats to the biodiversity by military base constructions in Okinawa, Japan and Jeju, South Korea' at the Convention on Biological Diversity [CBD], Pyeongchang, South Korea 2014.

Faith-Based Actions in the US By Michele Naar-Obed

I grew up in a very close knit Italian family, with strong ties to the Catholic Church. I was educated in Catholic school, and studied the sacraments. I was baptized, participated in the sacrament of reconciliation, received Holy Communion in the 2nd grade and was confirmed in the Catholic faith in 7th grade, all completed according to schedule. I was a post Vatican 2 child taught by pre-Vatican 2 priests and nuns. And so I memorized doctrine and creeds and went through the rote performances and practices none of which were ever really explained or talked about, but were strictly enforced.

I was also a product of the 1960's. I came of age in a time of turmoil, questioning, rebellion, and experimenting. So one of the ways that I put this faith into practice was through the plowshare movement.

The first plowshare action took place in 1980. It came at a time when U.S. citizens were told that the Vietnam war was over and we were now in "peace time". We should all go on about our lives without fear. We should eat, drink and be merry and not forget to thank the government for preserving capitalism and propping up the empire.

The little group of faithful followers stumbled upon Isaiah's vision as they were searching for guidance from the Spirit. They found Isaiah 2:4, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not wage war against nation, nor study war anymore." Through the symbolic but real act of beating the swords of that time into a life giving instrument, they began the process of disarmament which our government was incapable of doing even though we had the nonproliferation treaties and laws that demanded we do so.

Well that first plowshare action led to another and another and more than 200 others and now, 34 years later we are blessed with the latest Transform Now Plowshare action. On July 28, 2012, Sr. Megan Rice, Michael Walli and Greg Boertje-Obed set out in the dark of the night into the Oakridge Tennessee Y-12 National Security Facility. Without any interference, they symbolically chipped at the cornerstone of the building that would hold even more highly processed weapon-grade uranium. This Y-12 nuclear facility is in clear violation of the non-proliferation treaty that was signed in the 1960's. It is in clear violation of international law. And it is in even clearer violation of God's law and the covenant our ancestors made with God long ago. But none of that matters because the empire through its minions in the courts, have made those treaties and laws irrelevant and created new laws that protect the weapons and those that manufacture them.

Sometimes I can't help think that every plowshare action was a response to asking God to save us from ourselves. We followed God's advice which was given to us through God's prophet Isaiah, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks..."

My county has become more and more militarized seeking to use the military to repress anyone who challenges it. Like all empires it will fall and maybe we can take a moment to breathe a sigh of relief but we have to ask ourselves, when it falls, what will take its place?

In conclusion, and on behalf of the peace and justice activists and activists of faith, we thank you for the years of resistance you have spent to stop US aggression and expansionism in your region. We want to offer our encouragement and our prayers for you to keep going. Know that we join you in the struggle as we continue to resist the beast on our side of the world. Know that Sr. Megan, Michael and Greg give their lives in jail so that we all may taste a nuclear-free world. We believe that our faith can move mountains.

*excerpts taken from longer article

Entering Prison for 12 days in Refusal of Fines By Gangjeong Village Story

Choi Sung-Hee, a Gangjeong peace keeper, has recently volunteered to chose prison for 12 days instead of paying fines. She has been arrested along with Dr. Song Kang-Ho and Kang Young-Sil on Nov. 8, 2011 when the ROK-UN disarmament and non-proliferation conference was being held in the Samsung-owned Shilla hotel and the three made a non violent protest holding a banner of no naval base, etc. The three were indicted later under the charge of refusal to leave despite Dr. Rebecca Jonson's appeal letter to the court at the time. The Supreme court dismissed Choi's final appeal this August.

For Choi, entering prison by choice had two purposes. First of all, it is a reminder of the great judicial oppression against the opponents to the Jeju naval base project. The alarming numbers of more than 650 arrests, more than 550 indictments, and 46 imprisonment times (some people serving more than 3 sentences), in the struggle against the Jeju naval base construction for nearly 8 years. Remembering also the secret authority personnel meeting including the NIS that discussed judicial oppression in the early years of the struggle.

Second, it is to remind the people on our deteriorating democracy even under the name of UN. The ROK-UN disarmament and non-proliferation conference held as part of the so called 'Jeju Process' during recent years has not been really about peace discussed in open and democratic ways, but rather a closed meeting that cannot even accept people's non-violent peaceful protest. Is it surprising that the venue had been in a hotel owned by Samsung, one of the main construction companies working on the Jeju naval base project? Is it surprising that a self-claiming foreign affairs government officer threatened an international peace activist of deportation in the venue at that time? Is it surprising that the same guy later came to the village as an intelligence police officer?

International Solidarity



Image : Andrew

October 25th saw the London launch of the new edition of The Handbook for Non Violent Campaigns. Among the speakers at the well attended at Housmans radical bookshop was Jungmin Choi of World Without War. Jungmin is a campaigner for conscientious objection against South Korea's compulsory military service and is a frequent visitor to Gangjeong. She used her time at the event to speak about the resistance to the Jeju naval base.

Contamination Due to Damaged Caissons

by Metbburi Park

Oct 7th 15:50 pm, patrol boats passing by Beomseom, an UNESCO designated Island. Many fishing boats work in this area at the same time, making it dangerous. It is also the route for New Paradise ferry departing from Seogwipo. A group of south dolphins often swim near the coast of Gangjeong Sea. I have seen them twice since my three year stay in Metbburi with pure delight. I hope Gangjeong Sea is home for dolphins, not warships.

I feel compelled to share that originally there were seven damaged Caissons from Bolaven Typhoon in Gangjeong Sea. Now only two are left. It causes cement debris when they break caissons under the sea. Broken cement will cause serious contamination with buoyant force. It also creates noise pollution, but they force the construction 24 hours. Iron pipes are piled up on barge that are used for dredging pumps which means reclamation work will begin soon. Dredging pumps take out everything including garbage and will send it to landfills. They are ready to begin reclamation work and only need to finish crushing the caissons causing the contamination in Gangjeong Sea. In addition, Caisson construction waste includes chemicals and heavy metals. People would get sick if they ate fish caught in polluted waters. They pretend to not know, but if the oceans die then human beings will die as well. Destroying and polluting Gangjeong Sea must be stopped before we all get sick.



Image : Metbburi Park

Sometimes military vessels appear in Gangjeong Sea for unknown reasons.



Image : Shining Lake

Japanese visitors from Jeju Peace Festival plant a tree of peace next to community dining hall

3 Steps, 1 Bow

By Shining Lake & Mr. Oh

At the end of October, Mr. Oh Cheol-Geun returned to Gangjeong village after several months away, staying with his family on the mainland. When he left this spring, he had completed his '3 Steps and 1 Bow' for 500 days. At the time, he had already decided to do another 500 days so that he could complete a total of 1000 days. While he was away from Gangjeong Village, he purposely did not hear any news related to Gangjeong struggle because he would feel too sad and sorry to handle it. Now, he is here with us again. We can see him performing the bow in the village in the morning and afternoon. We deeply respect his dedication to peace work. Below is what Mr. Oh would like to tell people welcoming his return.

"The future is ours. Peace cannot be made naturally, nor can it be made coincidentally. Rather, it can be made by our own will. In the book of Genesis, it says that God created the whole universe, the sky, and the land. It means the cosmos governs itself. In religion, people use the words God's grace. This grace won't be given to animals. It is a fruit that a being with personality has capability of showing a will can have. There is no way that we have owed someone forever which has never happened throughout the history. The sin of history can be paid fully only when we carry it on ourselves. We can't get rid of it by burdening someone else with it. For me, performing the '3 Steps and 1 Bow' clothed in mourning clothes is a symbolic action to wash off greed, anger, and foolishness."

Author Chossudovsky & Nation-Ruining SCM

Michel Chossudovsky, author of 'War and Globalization', recently visited Gangjeong village, voicing concern that the Jeju naval base will be used to facilitate the US' Asia Pacific domination strategy. He stated that South Korean taxpayers should be aware that through their payment for the naval base construction, they are currently supporting to facilitate the work of the Pentagon and taking over the financial burden of the Asia Pivot policy.

A recent US congressional report even suggests that South Korea should take financial charge of the Guam military build-up to counter a 'North Korea threat'. Separate from the Guam and Jeju projects, the US' Asia pivot policy has rapidly intensified, with 60% of US nuclear aircraft carriers and submarines housed in the Asia Pacific region at this time.

Furthermore, on Oct 23rd, the ROK and the US held the 46th annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM), and have agreed to postpone transfer of US war time operational control (OPCON) to an indefinite time. Currently, South Korea is the only country that does not own its war-time operational control. Civic groups believe the agreements are full of submissive content and that the Korean government has abandoned its national sovereignty and interest.

The war time OPCON transfer had already been postponed to 2015. This further postponement is believed to be the US aim to be able to undertake the first nuclear strike against North Korea if required and to strengthen the alliance of ROK-US-Japan militaries.

It is understood that the establishment of the 'comprehensive missile response operation concept and principle' at the Oct 23rd meeting, is for South Korea to make official their participation in the US missile defense system to contain North Korea, China, as well as Russia, within the enforced ROK-US-Japan military alliance. Although it has been denied, the United Forces of Korea's deployment of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defence) and the introduction of SM-3 intercept missiles would be unfortunately due to this alliance. The US decision to maintain Combined Forces Command in Seoul makes the USFK shift to the Pyeongtaek redundant. If the US military insists to remain in Seoul and near the DMZ, then the base-expansion in Pyeongtaek and the shared defense costs that the South Korean government has already paid to the US for the purpose of base relocation should be ceased immediately.

South Korean civic groups have proposed that instead of war provoking SCM agreements, more focus should be made on a peace agreement and de-nuclearization of the peninsula through prompt resumption of six party talks and the establishment of a joint cooperation body for the security and peace of NE Asia, the best way for true peace and stability.

*reference from various source, including SPARK Korean website

Trial Updates



- ▶ On Sept 25 and Oct 2, the Jeju higher court made a decision of not guilty on the charge of violation on general traffic applied to 8 people who stood in the court with 6 other people, while making decision of 1.5-2 million KRW fines (about \$1500-2000 USD) to each person charged for obstruction of business. The 8 people have made sit-in protest of police's unjust vehicle wall inside the village for the purpose of blocking people's march on April 1, 2012, when many workers protested the blasting of Gureombi Rock. The court stated that with only such sit-in, the charge of violation of general traffic cannot be established and it considered that the 8 did not interrupt vehicles other than police's. The 1st court has made decision of 4 million won fine against each of the 14 people, regardless of charges. As a result of higher court, 11 people appealed to the Supreme Court.
- ▶ On Oct 1, Oh Hye-Ran, ex-secretary of the Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea (aka SPARK), one of the leading organizations for the National Network of Korean Civil Society for Opposing Naval Base in Jeju Island got the Incheon higher court decision of not guilty on the charge of violation of national security, following the same decision in the 1st court. On Oct. 14, Kim Jong-II, Another ex-secretary of SPARK, also received the court decision of not guilty on the same charge. Before the Presidential election in 2012, the South Korean National Intelligence Service, targeting SPARK's media interviews, writings, speech on the claims of no ROK-US joint war exercise, withdrawal of US military from Korea, no ROK-US-Japan trilateral military alliance, searched SPARK's headquarter and some of its branch offices, as well as some staff houses, and indicted some activists with the charge of violation of national security (concrete charges of alignment with enemy to benefit them and carrying of expression materials that benefits enemy). SPARK exposed through its statement that the South Korean NIS search and prosecutors' unreasonable indictment against SPARK were caused by the Lee Myung-Bak ex-government's unjust political intention aiming for the declining of opposition movement against the Jeju naval base construction.
- ▶ In October alone, 2 female activists, Choi Sung-Hee and Choi M. K. chose whole or part imprisonment in refusal to fines of 600,000 KRW(about \$ 600 USD) and 3 million KRW(about \$3000 USD) respectively. Choi Sung-Hee was imprisoned for 12 days from Oct 13-24, while Choi M. K, for 9 days from Oct 23-Nov 1. Otherwise, Deulkkot, a female activist carried out 80 hours' social labor, as a result of court decision of guilty on the charge of obstruction of business. She is also under so called 'supervised check' once a month for two years. It is an alternative of court decision of 8 month imprisonment suspended with 2 year probation.