We express our solidarity with the water defenders at Standing Rock and Bold Iowa, and their nonviolent struggle to protect their lands and rivers from the Dakota Access pipeline.

Peace Festival and Keep Space for Peace Week

The annual Jeju Peace Festival was held September 30–October 2 in Gyorae on the northern side of Jeju Island. The festival gathered many people from around Jeju, Korea, and other countries including many from Japan. This year the theme was ‘Family’ and many workshops and performances focused on sustainable ways of living together. Curry and Baram Mal shared about Inter-Island Solidarity in Jeju, Korea, and other countries including many from Japan. This year the theme was ‘Family’ and many workshops and performances focused on sustainable ways of living together. Curry and Baram Mal shared about Inter-Island Solidarity in Jeju, Korea, and other countries including many from Japan.

How You Can Help
1. Write a letter to the South Korean government to close the Jeju base project and to the US government to stop the support for it.
2. Write letters to the South Korean government to drop the lawsuit of USD 3 million against the people of Gangjeong.
3. Stay updated by joining our Facebook groups and following us on twitter.
4. Organize a solidarity event (concert, movie screening, protest, etc.)
5. Then share about it on social media.
6. Visit Gangjeong!
7. 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.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

Calls for Park Geun-hye to resign in wake of “Choi-Gate”

South Korea has been in uproar, with masses of citizens rallying and calling for President Park Geun-hye to resign in light of the evidence that was broadcast on October 24, revealing that Choi Soon-sil has been reviewing classified documents and directing the president on policy matters. Choi Soon-sil has apparently carried on the role of her father, Choi Tae-mi, founder of the cult ‘Church of Eternal Life’ who mentored Park after her mother died in 1974. A leaked American diplomatic cable stated that Choi Tae-mi “had complete control over Ms. Park’s body and soul.” Additionally, Park Geun-hye was reportedly with Choi Soon-sil’s ex-husband when she was missing for seven hours at the time of the sinking of the Sewol Ferry. This scandal also implicates all South Korea’s largest business conglomerates including Samsung, which could face bribery charges for giving hundred-billions of won (hundred-millions of dollars) in donations to the foundations Mir and K-Sports which were being directly managed by Park Geun-hye and Choi Soon-sil. Even though we have only seen the tip of the iceberg so far, this scandal makes it clear that the President of South Korea is incompetent, anti-democratic and must step down.

Security meeting amid protest

On Oct. 20 the Seoungju candle light vigil in opposition to the deployment of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) in Korea reached its 100th day, and the vigil in the neighboring city of Kimcheon reached its 61st day. It was also the day of the 48th annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) between South Korea and United States. Korean news reported that the ROK and US military authorities successfully agreed to strengthen naval cooperation in the face of North Korea’s submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) threat. Previously on Oct. 13, Lee Soon-jin, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the Korean military stated that “it is necessary to strengthen naval cooperation in the face of North Korea’s submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) threat. Previously on Oct. 13, Lee Soon-jin, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the Korean military stated that” It was also the day of the 48th annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) between South Korea and United States. Korean news reported that the ROK and US military authorities successfully agreed to strengthen naval cooperation in the face of North Korea’s submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) threat. Previously on Oct. 13, Lee Soon-jin, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the Korean military stated that it is necessary to strengthen naval cooperation in the face of North Korea’s submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) threat.
Gangjeong Case at The International Tribunal on Evictions

The 5th International Tribunal on Evictions (ITE) was held in Quito, Ecuador on Oct 17th. Along with other diverse housing rights programs, it was part of the People’s Social Forum in Resistance to Habitat III. Local Ecuador and international NGO groups co-organized the forum out of dissatisfaction with the new city agenda of the UN Habitat III conference, which was held simultaneously in Quito. “Forced eviction by Jeju’s militarization” is one of 7 out of 89 submitted cases chosen to be reviewed and presented to the jury and the public during the ITE. While it’s our first time to frame the militarization problem as part of the global struggle for habitat and housing rights, it’s also the first time for ITE to include a case of forced eviction by militarization. The selection of the Jeju case recognizes the trend of large scale destruction of habitats caused by the new cold war. Taiwanese activist HungYing Chen, steering committee member of ITE and member of the Taiwan Alliance of Anti-Forced Eviction, explained “First, no military could defend the peace of earth’s habitats. Gangjeong’s struggle over the past decade has proven that the existence of the military base seriously violates the lives of non-human and human beings in Jeju Island. I believe the issue of militarization should be one of the most critical issues in the spectrum of the anti-forced eviction movement. Second, Gangjeong people’s struggles are emblematic to inspire and empower others who are confronting similar threats of forced eviction. This fight is not only defending their homes but also standing at the forefront to secure peace in Asia. Third but not least, Gangjeong village’s struggle is not only a struggle for defending homes but also it shows a responsible way of co-living in the world. It is far more valuable than the undemocratic networks of militarization which only leave the world with irresponsible harm.” This is precisely why we brought our case to the International Tribunal. The domestic judicial system is incapable to handle “national security” problems because human security, community security, habitat security... is never priority compared to national security. We can only bring it into international consideration. Besides bringing our case to the ITE, we showed a Gangjeong documentary; we joined peaceful marching to the site of UN Habitat III but were totally blocked by the local police force; also, we had the chance to share our case with the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing. Finally, we wrote wishes for our habitats, made a circle around them, and did 100 bows at the closing ceremony of the Resistance Forum. We used the 100 bows that Gangjeong people do everyday in front of the naval base to show our solidarity with others suffering from forced evacuation and to show our peaceful resistance to UN Habitat III.

The 5th Anniversary of the Gangjeong Life and Peace Mass

The street mass for Gangjeong Life and Peace met its 5th year. The anniversary mass was on Oct. 11th. Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon, who led the street mass, stated that “despite the completion of the Jeju naval base, the street mass will be continued until it is closed.” On August 24, 2011, Kang Dong-Kyun, ex-mayor of Gangjeong and symbolic figure of the struggle was violently arrested and imprisoned by the government in front of the main gate of the base construction site. Fr. Mun in protest to this incident, called the site the ‘Golgotha of Gangjeong’, and started to hold mass daily on the very site, since then. From that point, villagers and peace activists have struggled to stop construction during the mass, such as sit-ins, protests, blocking construction vehicles, and building barricades in front of the main gate of the construction site every 11 am. And priests, religious sisters and brothers, and followers made solidarity together through the resistance of sacrament. As such, mass has become a pillar of support for nonviolent peace action in Gangjeong. For five years, there have been more than 600 arrests and around 60 people who have been jailed. Now, as the navy base construction is completed, there is no more direct action to stop construction vehicles during the mass. However, the forward steps by peace pilgrims who wish for peace in Gangjeong are never pausing. They are struck with reverence, saying that, through mass, they can feel an urgency for peace which can be felt only in the protest site. As such, the Gangjeong Life and Peace street mass is an important space by which we reflect on peace, even beyond our religions.
Cultural relics found, buried, destroyed again at Jeju naval base site

As excavations for buried cultural relics near Jeju naval base sites go on, the vicious circle repeats itself; important cultural heritage is unearthed, but soon buried under the military base facilities and destroyed. The first series of full-scale excavations began in September 2011 after the navy blocked the road to Gureombi Rock. At that time, a number of so-called relics experts came down to the proposed navy base site and carried out several months of field investigation, only to decide that the unearthed cultural objects and assets were not important enough to stop the military’s desires. The area was too vast to dig at once, so they split the land into several investigation blocks, which diminished the importance of the treasures; house sites, bones, tools and pottery from the Bronze Age, and pottery which dates back to 1,000 to 2,000 BC.

Gangjeong villagers believe that the abundance of clean fresh water in the area may have provided perfect conditions for people in prehistoric times to settle down on this volcanic island where fresh water is scare. However, if you split the village into several blocks, it’s not easy to see the whole picture. Now the digging is going on at Jungdeok Samgeori until the end of this year. Another digging is being carried out at the new main gate area for some months, as if the village was cut off into pieces. I talked to a field researcher who oversees the team, and he said he personally opposes the naval base project because it destroys cultural assets, but he has no real power to say no since the important decisions are made way above his pay grade. He was busy making a thorough inventory.

Letter to UN Special Rapporteur

Dear Leilani Farha,

The Jeju naval base occupied the habitats of humans and diverse species. We have been forcibly evicted from our housing, farming lands, sea shore and coastal waters. Our community has been divided and discriminated against during the struggle against the naval base. Some villagers must leave since they are not able to afford the rising rent due to land speculation. Furthermore, the navy filed a civil lawsuit (claiming about 3.1 million USD) against the anti-base villagers. This is not simply a violation of property rights but a tool to threaten the people who stand against violence and war. None of the domestic legal system can support us as the project is declared a matter of "national security." It is unapproachable. So, we decided to bring our case to the International Tribunal on Evictions (Quito/ Oct. 17th, 2016). We need international solidarity to put political pressure on the Korean government. The solution for the militarization problem can only be reached on an international level. Countless local communities are impacted by the new cold war between the US and China. In South Korea, it includes at least Gangjeong and Seongju, and in Japan, it includes at least Amami, Miyako, Ishigaki, Tonogun, Henoko and Takae. China has broken its anti-imperialist policy by constructing new bases. It is a "base race" between China and the U.S. Bases are spreading like cancer. As we know, bases bring suffering to local communities and destroy the environment. They also require constant military practice, which is a constant war on the local people. (Quote from K. Paik).

We demand your visit to our communities to officially address the problem caused by militarization from the perspective of housing rights as UN Special Rapporteur for adequate housing. Living with a military base is never an adequate environment for housing.

Gangjeong villagers Joan, Emily, DongWon
(Editors note: this article has been edited from the original letter)

International Solidarity
**No life can live near Jeju naval base**

Gangjeong Village Association revealed on Oct. 31 the results of a 6-month investigation of the marine ecosystem near the Jeju naval base. According to the report, the water quality has been deteriorating since the completion of the base, due to the decomposition of accumulative deposits. The newly built breakwaters alter the flow of currents and stop the floating materials from the Gangjeong River from spreading towards the deep sea, which accelerates the decay process in the shore area.

The results show that Gangjeong sea shore's average depth level was 5 to 6 meters before the construction, but now it is a mere 2.5 to 3 meters due to accumulation of debris. The chemical oxygen demand (COD) test results were also shocking; at level 4, it is very dangerous for living organisms. Gangjeong villagers believe this year's disappearance of sweetfish in the river is related to the change of the marine environment.

Cancer-causing arsenic was also found in the water near Jeju base, four times higher than the permitted level. The toxic chemical travels westbound following the currents and slowly contaminates Jungmun and Hwasun beaches, too. The problem is beyond the naval base; the damaging effects of overdevelopment extend everywhere on Jeju Island. Currently, the amount of sewage exceeds the treatment capacity, causing hundreds of tons of untreated filthy water to be emitted directly into the sea every day. However, the Jeju provincial government is authorizing more large-scale development plans, such as Ora Tourist Complex, the second airport and the new Jeju harbor, ignoring environmental concerns.

**Military Secrets?**

By Park Inchun

At Metburi, the beginning of the Jeju navy base faces K resort with the Gangjeong stream in-between. In recent years, on the top floor of the K resort, I used to take photos of the site of the base construction and the base after its completion. I have shared almost daily with the people what I saw through photos and writings on facebook. I have shared how the government, despite the opposition of most villagers, enforces base construction in violation of numerous regulations and laws, and how people's hard-earned taxes are needlessly wasted. This is the place where not only me but resort guests also smoke sometimes, enjoy views, and take photos. You cannot see any warning notice that says that one should not observe the base or take photos here. However, on August 18, three navy sailors came up and threatened me that I should not take photos here. They said that even though the area is not a military restriction area, photos are not allowed since it is a military base. I told them that the navy has no right to say no to me taking photos. I also told them, it any of my photos in social media have brought worries for them, I would hold back. Then, on Oct. 4 the navy brought me a copy of a document which read that my activities taking photos and posting on social media are in violation of the laws on the protections of military secrets and military base/facilities. But the Jeju navy base is also called the Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Port for Tour Beauty, which means it is a facility for tourists, also. How can things that anybody could see be military secrets?

**Trial Updates**

- **On Oct. 9,** the higher court of the Seoul Central District Court ruled against the plaintiff, seven activists who had filed a civilian lawsuit against the government in relation to the police's illegal detention of people, including these seven, for more than two hours in the Jeju navy base project committee building complex on June 28, 2012. The attorney of the seven stated that it is hard to understand how the court can make such a decision on a case in which illegal activity of the government is clear. The 1st court last December had ruled that the government should pay damage compensation to the plaintiff.
- **On Oct. 12,** the 1st court of the jeju local court made a decision against a male activist M of 8 month imprisonment suspended with two years' probation along with 80 hours' social service. He had been accused of the charge of obstruction of justice for his protest to the police on Dec. 2, 2015 when a base construction vehicle hit a woman activist.
- **On Oct. 13,** the higher court of the jeju local court made a court decision against Mr. Bang Jong-Woon, a regional chairman of the Court/Cortex guitar workers'union with 1 year imprisonment suspended with 2 years' probation. The 1st court had ruled against him with 1 year imprisonment suspended with 3 years' probation. Mr. Bang had joined people's struggle on Jan. 31, 2015 when people resisted to the government crackdown on people's sit-in tent against the building of military residential housing. He was arrested then was almost to be imprisoned for that solidarity activity.
- **On Oct. 14,** the Supreme Court dismissed a civilian lawsuit filed by 22 people including ex-village mayor Kang Dong-kyun who claimed that Won Sei-hoon, an ex-chief of the National Intelligence Service had damaged the honor of the Gangjeong activists and civic groups. The defense committee of the South Korean National Assembly carried out an inspection of the navy headquarters on Oct. 11. The focal point of the inspection was the navy's reimbursement lawsuit against Gangjeong villagers and activists.
- **On Oct. 22,** women activists protested when civilian security guards at the base took away their strings and scissors used for hanging anti-base banners. A soldier who removed the name tag from his military uniform led a group of men to surround those women, threatening them to remove their banners in front of the gate. There were even women soldiers who joined the men. The police did nothing but watched the scene. It was only after people's infuriated protest that the men withdrew themselves.