

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

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Monthly news on the struggle against the Jeju Naval base project

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Remember Gureombi: Neither Zumwalt Nor THAAD

Photos by Pang Eun-mi(color) and Song Dong-hyo(black and white)

It was Feb. 6th when the Korean media reported about the US Asia Pacific commander's suggestion in January to some of South Korea National Assembly members about the deployment of the Zumwalt 'stealth' destroyer (See page 2) in South Korean bases including the Jeju navy base. A people's press conference was promptly held the next day in opposition of in opposition to deploying Zumwalt to the Jeju navy base and Korea. People stated that the deployment of the Zumwalt into the Jeju navy base would make Jeju a dangerous US outpost to confront China and would intensify the military tension of northeast Asia. March 7th marked the 5th year to remember the blasting of Gureombi Rock for the construction of Jeju navy base building. On March 7th and International Women's day, March 8th, the

people of Gangjeong, again expressed their opposition to the militarization of Jeju: (the talks on the Zumwalt deployment and the building of an air force base) as well as to the enforcement of THAAD deployment and war exercises! Otherwise, March 7th would be remembered as the day the US military secretly completed the transportation of THAAD equipment to a US base in Pyeongtaek, for building THAAD in Seongju in the main land of Korea. This illegal activity has ignored legal procedures and the opposition of Korean citizens, including the affected residents of Seongju and Gimcheon. Two days later, the Jeju media reported that the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA) asserted the necessity of all three Zumwalt destroyers in Korea. It says that the forward deployment of Zumwalt in Korea would secure the

US military's ability for command & control on the South China Sea as well as the ability to target the North Korean coast. The media also mentioned that both South Korean and US authorities are presently abstaining their talks on the deployment of Zumwalt because of its expected effect especially amid the hot situation of THAAD. However, the talks on the deployment of THAAD and Zumwalt are already bringing backlash from China and threatening Korean's right to peace. On March 10th, the South Korean Constitutional Court righteously ousted President Park Geun-hye with a unanimous vote. Now is the time for Koreans to oust the deployment talks on THAAD and Zumwalt, too! The Gureombi Rock is still alive in our fighting spirit along with memories of people who fought to save Gureombi.

By Moon Sang-bean, co-representative,
Korean Federation for Environmental Movement of Jeju

Unilateral Enforcement of the Jeju Air Force Base

On March 7th, Kim Bang-hoon, vice-governor of Jeju Island stated that "the 2nd Jeju airport would be a purely civilian airport. There would be neither examination on the use of it as a military airport facility nor any examination or consultation with the Ministry of National Defense." However, two days later, Air Force Chief of Staff, General Jeong Kyung- Doo visited Jeju Island and officially stated the air force's intention to establish the ROK Air Force Southern Area Search and Rescue Corps, a defacto air force base in Jeju, bringing shame to the Jeju Island government with such an open declaration. Even though the Jeju Island government and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation have been consistent in their denial of the installation of an air force base in Jeju, the plan for the 'embarkation of the Southern Area Search and Rescue Corps in 2021' stipulated in the defense mid-term plan has been officially confirmed through the remarks by the Air Force Chief of Staff. Following the Jeju naval base which was enforced at the cost of Gangjeong villagers' sacrifice, if an air force base is set up in Seongsan-eup (in the southeast of Jeju), the Jeju islanders' daily life and basic rights would be seriously infringed even further. And the Island of Peace would face the crisis of falling into a Northeast Asia powder keg. On March 8, residents of Seongsan and Gangjeong and peace-loving civic groups officially manifested their solidarity to stop the installation of an air force base, demanding the cancellation of the 2nd Jeju airport project which was already a big controversy even without the air force base issue.



Despite the US and ROK government's illegal enforcement of the THAAD deployment in the former Lotte golf course in Seongju, main land of Korea, the residents of Seongju and Gimcheon, and Won Buddhists are continuing to fight and block the passage of trucks loaded with THAAD equipment. Photo by people's press office in opposition to THAAD

The 4·3 Massacre and the USA

By Curry

On the evening of March 7, the newly formed Gangjeong Travel Association hosted journalist Heo Ho-joon for a lecture at the Peace Center. He presented about the role of the USA in the massacre of Jeju civilians by Korean police, soldiers, and paramilitaries beginning in spring 1948. In the fall of 1945 the Japanese military handed over Jeju Island to the US military. Across Korea, the US rehired many police, soldiers and officials who had collaborated with the Japanese occupation. In March 1948 there were many incidents of police shooting and torturing civilians, which led to the April 3rd (4.3) uprising. The US military government continually turned a blind eye to tortures, massacres, and summary executions of deserters, and they praised the officers who carried out the scorched earth policy on Mount Halla. Then, as now, the US emphasized that Jeju was a 'strategic location.'

A Future of Hawaii and Today of Jeju

By Hosu

Jeju folklore researcher and a Jeju native Han Jin-oh gave a presentation about his recent visit to Hawaii with Byeopssi School, an alternative school located in north Jeju. He traced the path of his great grandfather who had immigrated to Hawaii in the early 1900's. He witnessed ongoing issues that have a lot in common with those of Jeju Island such as militarization, excessive tourism, destruction of native culture and so on. Fortunately, he also experienced the bright sides of the island by meeting different people who are doing a great job to preserve their culture and trying to keep the bases out. He brought his tears and worries to Jeju Island with him, but also brought friendships, solidarity and a realization of how much he cares about his home, Jeju. His last words seems like a lesson for those who are living on Jeju in these days: "Surviving as Jeju islanders itself is being a part of the struggle."

Transcending Conflict with Trust and Creativity

By Curry

Invited by Gangjeong Peace School, Professor Kyoko Okumoto gave a lecture on Friday, February 17 and led a workshop on Saturday February 18. Apologizing that she, a Japanese person, was coming to teach about peace in Korea, she emphasized how she came to learn from Gangjeong, as well. She discussed the importance of remembering history, listening to victims, and engaging the whole society in order to bring about transformation. Gangjeong activists joined and discussed 'peace approach' and 'security approach' frameworks. The security approach is based on mistrust and using strength to stop violence, but the peace approach is based on trust and uses empathy, creativity and non-violence to prevent a conflict from becoming violent. Asked whether we sometimes use the security approach, a number of participants shared stories about how difficult it is to deal with our anger, even though we want to use creative, non-violent methods.

On the 18th, Kyoko led participants from Gangjeong and around Jeju in an interactive activity. Lukasa has been adapted from traditional symbolic maps created by the Luba people in the Congo. We made models of imaginary villages facing potential conflicts. Though we were creating fictional stories, they reflected our real life. In one scenario an old Zumwalt Destroyer had been converted into a museum, but people forgot about it, until a new Zumwalt appeared. Thankfully, it was destroyed by a natural disaster and the parts were used to build a hospital. When a scissors attacked another village, a participant used non-violent direct action, blocking the scissors with her finger, and she successfully protected some houses. It was a fun way to reflect creatively about the conflicts that we face.



Participants explained the village models that they made during a workshop led by Professor Kyoko Okumoto on February 17. Team members worked together to develop a story about conflict and disaster relief with paper, clay, and various objects. Photo by Oum Mun-hee



On March 8th, the 109th International Women's Day, women and men in Gangjeong carried out Gangjeong Women's Peace Action. It is a peace action in participation with women's peace actions nationwide opposing war, war exercises, and THAAD. We also added other issues, ex. 'Stop the militarization of Jeju.' Photo by Pang Eun-mi

Zumwalt 12 Trial Update

By Memil

On June 18th, 2016, 12 peace activists (The Zumwalt 12) in Bath, Maine in the United States were arrested for blocking the entrance of the Bath Iron Works shipyard facility. BIW is home to the USS Zumwalt, a 4 billion USD stealth guided missile destroyer ship. Bruce Gagnon of the Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space and Jason Rawn, who have visited Gangjeong, were among the 12 to block the entrance of the shipyard on the day that the USS Zumwalt was being 'christened' by the United States Navy. The Zumwalt 12 read a solidarity statement written by activists in Jeju. The statement was read aloud for workers and personnel of the shipyard to hear. They were charged with a misdemeanor for obstructing a public way and were scheduled to appear in court on February 3rd. "We stand in solidarity with people around the world who are protesting at bases where the US will port these warships. Not only would these destroyers kill innocent people but their sonar also severely impacts ocean life...and the local environments where they are ported," one of the activists said at the time of the trial. The Zumwalt 12 were sentenced to 30 hours of community service and still plan a future action for the next warship christening ceremony.

Lecture on Women's Voices in Militarism

By Hosu

On March 10th, Gangjeong Peace School hosted a lecture on women's voices in militarism in modern Korean history. This event was held to commemorate the 5th year of Gureombi Rock's blasting and celebrate the 109th international women's day. The lecturer, Cho Seo-yeon is a feminist doing her Ph.D in Seoul. She spoke about the militarism of Korea through the perspective of gender, examining the experiences of Korean women during the war and militarized society from Japanese colonialism until now. We could learn that Confucian culture and patriarchy in Korean society has solidified militarism in personal life and systems. Lastly, she mentioned there have always been women who speak up and resist against militarism, but they couldn't have a voice, rather they are silenced. Therefore, we as citizens of the present time need to turn our approach to security from the national level to the human level.

International Solidarity



In mid-February, Japanese and Korean women participants of the Women Theology Forum 2017 visited the village and joined in the daily street mass, human chain, and dance to express their solidarity for peace in Northeast Asia. Kozue Akibayashi, President of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom also visited the village to express her concern and solidarity. Photos by Pang Eun-mi and Prof. Mun.

Demilitarized Peace Island a Work in Progress

January 27 marked the fourth anniversary of the declaration of Jeju as a Demilitarized Peace Island by civil groups and the twelfth anniversary of Jeju's declaration as an "Island of World Peace" by the Korean government, but this year the lunar new year was also on the 27th. After the new year's celebrations, a small group of 15 committed people gathered on February 4 to commemorate the peace island

declaration and to discuss the steps forward for making Jeju a demilitarized peace island. Professor Shin Yong-In of Jeju University sparked a lively conversation about the possibility of utilizing Citizen Autonomy Committees as a way to give more power to smaller communities resisting unwanted development or military projects imposed by the provincial and national government. Though there

are many obstacles to using these committees, just as there are many obstacles to demilitarization, the group was undaunted and decided to meet again. It was a good opportunity for representatives from Gangjeong, Jeju City, and Seongsan (proposed site of the new airport/airbase) to share wisdom, suggest new ideas for future cooperation, and discuss many possible strategies for making Jeju a Demilitarized Peace Island.

No More Dolphin Imports from Japan

By Joyakgol

Ulsan Whale Museum announced a plan to import two baby dolphins from Japan in January, Hotpinkdolphins quickly formed an alliance with 20 social groups in Ulsan and Busan area to deter the importation. The activists held protests and demonstrations everyday, but the city transferred the dolphins on Feb 9th. The issue became big local news when one of the dolphins died of pneumonia after five days in the tank. In light of the death, people are demanding to close down the dolphin prison and the government is going to ban dolphin imports from Japan because it is inhumane and unethical.

'Set Captive Dolphins Free' campaign in Korea was initiated by Hotpinkdolphins in the summer of 2011. As a result, five captive Jeju dolphins were successfully rehabilitated and returned home. Catching dolphins in Korean waters for commercial purposes was prohibited, too. Local aquariums still import show dolphins from Taiji, Japan where thousands of whales, dolphins and porpoises were brutally hunted and slaughtered every year. Dolphins will not survive in small tanks. The first dolphin show began in the Seoul zoo in 1984. Since then, about 60 dolphins have died and dolphins in the pool survive only 4 years on average. They can live 40 years in the wild. They belong to the sea.

Community Lecture on Sexual Violence

By Hosu

On Feb 2nd, the Gangjeong activist group invited Go Myung-hee, director of the Jeju Women's Rights Association to give a lecture on sexual violence prevention. The group agreed to hold the event for to better understand sexual violence prevention and response on a community level. They felt a lack of education on how victims or witnesses can handle and resolve an incident after it happens. The informative and helpful lecture explained some concepts related to sexual violence to the audience. It was also meaningful that the community members felt the necessity of the education and could have this opportunity together.

A Civilian Military Complex Port?

At the end of last year, the Jeju Island government made public the simulation results of a 220,000 ton cruise ship's entrance into the Jeju Civilian Military Complex Port for Tour Beauty (Jeju navy base), and they claimed the necessity of building a new harbor. Gangjeong Village Association staff were concerned that the island government's claim could be used to justify the use of the port purely for military use, while the civilian function of the port would become useless. Now, this March, the navy is openly talking about its intention to define the whole basin area inside the port as a military restriction zone, despite refute by the island government which wants to guarantee the free entrance of cruises into the port. In people's eyes, the so called civilian military complex port was merely an excuse to build the navy base from the beginning. In 2012, it was already exposed that the base layout fits for a US aircraft carrier through the ROK National Assembly inquiry to the government.



Gangjeong elementary school has been demolished so that a bigger school can be built to accommodate the growing population due to the navy base. The current students must deal with constant noise, dust, and traffic in temporary classrooms at the construction site. The destruction caused by preparation for war reminds us of the much greater suffering of children in war zones such as Syria. Photo by Oum Mun-hee.

Navy's strategic lawsuit against participation

By Joyakgol

One year since the navy filed a \$3 million damage lawsuit against Gangjeong villagers and peace activists who, if lost, will have to pay the reimbursement fee for the delays of the naval base construction. Since the lawsuit, everyday has been a nightmare for the villagers. The Jeju local council criticized the lawsuit and the governor opposed it. 165 members of the Parliament suggested a special resolution to denounce the navy's move at the National Assembly. A lawmaker suggested a bill to stop lawsuits filed by the government aiming at shutting off dissident's voices. The navy abused the power to file the lawsuit to suppress freedom of expression of political opinion and to deny people's right to participate in public affairs or national projects, said An Ho-young from the Democratic Party.

Jeju islanders are working hard to make this a national issue at the forthcoming presidential election. Concerned with the acceleration of the militarization of the Island as the Navy welcomes the Zumwalt and the Air force has unveiled a new plan to build a second air base on the Island of Peace Although Jeju is a self-governing autonomous province, the governor has no power in military related affairs. In the wake of the first anniversary of the opening of Jeju base, the navy held a press conference on March 9 where it once again strongly refused to drop the damage lawsuit. How can we stop the dictatorial drive by the military which does not care about democracy at all?

The navy secretly works to restore soft corals

The navy, has annually submitted a monitoring report on soft corals since 2011, the year the Jeju navy base construction started in earnest, but it has never acknowledged damage to soft corals caused by the base construction. The Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) stated in 2015 that there is really no big change in soft corals based on the navy's monitoring.

However, early this February, the people's task force team (TFT) monitoring soft corals acquired a report that the CHA carried out in 2014. According to the report, soft corals were damaged due to base construction.

Through the statement, the TFT and village association also exposed that, as a result of serious damages to soft corals, the navy has secretly put 12 tetrapods in the sea and has had a three year plan attempting artificial restoration of soft corals since last year.



Gangjeong has become a kind of peace pilgrimage for young people. In mid-February, Hope Butterfly working on justice for comfort women and Javier International Peace School students visited the village in their search for peace. Photos by Pang Eun-mi and Kim Dong-won



The Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space has its 25th Annual Organizing Conference and Protest in Huntsville, Alabama, from April 7 - 9, 2017. 'Huntsville is the headquarters of the Space Command's directorate for 'missile defense'. 'Huntsville is the also the manufacturing site for the PAC-3, SM-3 missile defense (MD) systems while the controversial THAAD is built in a nearby community.' 'This conference will allow citizens to learn more about these important issues and become involved in the growing international movement to keep space for peace.' For more information, see space4peace.org. Otherwise, Sunghye Kim, Won Buddhist monk from Seongju, South Korea, is a featured speaker for the event, 'Stop the U.S. THAAD Deployment in South Korea National Speaking Tour' from April 4 to 17. For more information, see stopthaad.org.



On March 1, as Korea and the US began their annual "Foal Eagle" joint war exercises, three Gangjeong kayakers protested at the sea entrance of the navy base. The weather suddenly became dangerous, but with help all three returned safely to the port. Photo by Curry

Upon the 5th year of the blasting of Gureombi Rock, we remember international friends including Benjamin Monnet and Angie Zelter who were unjustly deported for their solidarity actions to save the village from the building of the base.

How You Can Help

1. Write a letter to the South Korean government to close the Jeju base 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

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We have switched to a bi-monthly newsletter. Even though we consider the need for printed copies of our newsletter we are working on ways to reduce costs and waste. You can also read more news on our website: <http://savejejunow.org> and on Facebook: No Naval Base on Jeju

If you did not already, can you please email us your preferences to:
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- 1-I would prefer to receive an email version (PDF) of the Gangjeong Village Story only.
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Introductory workshop on peace sensitivity

By Hosu

The Gangjeong Peace School carried out an introductory workshop on peace sensitivity on Feb. 14th and 15th, joined by peace educators from around Jeju Island. The participants were people who agonize about concrete practical ways to build peace. This time, the themes were about 1) Creating a space for safe learning 2) Listening and empathy 3) Understanding structural violence 4) Various expressions and communication through body, heart and mind 5) Self-understanding through reflection and connection with the others and the whole. After two day's programs, the participants shared their impressions on the word, 'peace' in daily life, discovering their new inner self through the practice of self expression, taking care of each other without alienating anyone, and making a warm space to trust and support oneself.

Two village concerts in February

By Hosu

Gangjeong is full of events almost every day. In February, there were two small concerts. Ine from Busan in the mainland performed on the 15th. She is a good friend of Gangjeong activists and wanted to express her support and encouragement for Gangjeong people through her music. Another concert was held on Feb. 22 at Gong-gan. Gong-gan is a place for people from Gangjeong and outside to gather together for socializing and any event. Music itself has power. It heals people's hearts and minds. Both concerts were such a pleasant and relaxing time.

Park Out, People In

By Joyakgol

Finally, President Park Geun-hye was removed from office once and for all. It was a victory of the people who have been protesting on the streets and every corner of the country with candlelights on their hands every weekend for consecutive 20 weeks starting in October. People demanded impeachment and arrest of the corrupted Park. When Justice Lee Jung-mi of the Constitutional Court read the sentence 'The president is fired', everyone shed happy tears, cried with joy, shouted 'yes, we did it', danced together, or connected to social networks and posted 'we won.'

The weekly candlelight vigils prove how non-violent direct action can change society from the bottom to top. During Park's dictatorship, democracy was denied, human rights were crushed, and peace on the peninsula disappeared. With all kinds of corruption scandals coming out and the economy getting worse, it reached a point where people just couldn't stand it. The slogan was 'is this a country?' We started asking that question to ourselves and thinking what needs to be done to build a normal democratic country again. From Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul to Jeju city hall, people discussed, changed ideas and shared opinions on how a state should operate on public spheres.

