

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

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Monthly news on the struggle against
the Jeju Naval base project

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Steady Onslaught of Foreign Warships at the 'Island of Peace'

On Sept. 26 the USS Chief, a mine countermeasures ship, entered the Jeju Navy Base, followed by the US Aegis destroyer Mustin on Oct. 21. Then came Australian warships HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Parramatta on Nov. 3. And then nuclear submarine USS Mississippi arrived on Nov. 22 staying in the base for six days until it left on Nov. 27. None of these ships' arrivals were informed in advance to the island people. Nine foreign warships have docked in the Jeju navy base so far this year, suggesting that the base was indeed built for American use. The foreign warships come to the navy base for 'rest and re-supplying,' meaning that they dump their trash and sewage and bus the soldiers to big tourist attractions. Jeju is used like a reward to foreign soldiers for their participation in

joint military exercises. Already, Jeju local democracy and environment are being sacrificed in the name of tourism development projects. The amount of trash already surpasses the island infrastructure capacity. Adding military tourists and their military trash further fuels this overdevelopment crisis. Further, the USS Mississippi also brought a new threat of radioactive waste. On Nov. 27, activists stopped a truck holding suspicious dirty water coming out of the base, but the local government and coast guard say they're not ready to test the waste water for radiation! Following the era of Obama's 'pivot to Asia,' Trump is threatening 'fire and fury.' Jeju is being used for port visits by the ships that join frequent joint military exercises, which practice for war and thus make war more likely to happen. During Trump's visit to Korea

on Nov. 7-8, Presidents Moon Jae-in and Trump agreed on South Korea's acquiring of a nuclear-powered submarine. The USS Mississippi visit is ominous of further nuclear cooperation between the two countries, threatening not only the environment but also the prospects for the peaceful unification of Korea, as nuclear submarines are a violation of the 1992 Joint Declaration made by North and South Korea for the denuclearization of the peninsula. Jeju is preparing for the 70th anniversary of the 4.3 Uprising and the US-sponsored massacre of Jeju people by Korean troops and paramilitaries. For the eventual realization of Jeju as a true Island of Peace, we demand the closing of the Jeju navy base, an end to war exercises, and for the de-militarization of Jeju.

Trump Is Not Welcome!

Nov. 3 to 14, US President Donald Trump visited US Pacific Command in Hawaii (Nov. 3) and five Asian countries: Japan (5-7), Korea (7-8), China (8-10), Vietnam (10-12, APEC) and the Philippines (12-13, ASEAN). During his visit to Korea, people protested calling for 'No war and no Trump' as the purpose of his visit was understood to be war-threatening, arms-selling, and trade-pressuring, against Koreans' wish for peace. The Korean people's No Trump Joint Action network formed 10 days before his visit, followed by nationwide actions on Nov. 4 when thousands of people gathered in Seoul. Solidarity actions in Hawaii, Japan and United States were also organized around the time. There was a people's press conference on Nov 7 unwelcoming Trump in front of the world's-biggest US base in Pyeongtaek. And despite the Moon Jae-in government's attempt to control people's protests, thousands of people gathered in the center of Seoul on the evening of Nov. 7, followed by around 1,000 people gathering outside the National Assembly where he delivered his speech the following morning. The ROK-US Summit and its press release on Nov. 7-8 were held amidst the highly aggressive war exercises against North Korea in October and November. They did not produce any right measures to settle the North Korean nuclear issue, but rather resulted in accelerating military confrontation and buildup in the Korean peninsula while adding economic burden to Koreans. The group Solidarity for Peace And Reunification of Korea pointed out that Moon Jae-in government's promise purchase more of US arms would work on behalf of Trump who wants to settle his own domestic political crisis. The group also raised question whether Trump is promoting and enjoying the threat of war in the Korean peninsula for that ulterior purpose.



Upon Trump's visit, Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon led wood calligraphy carving for two weeks in the center of Seoul to help to gather people's will for peace in opposition to war and to Trump. Next to him, collective quilting work was done by many people for the same cause. In Gangjeong, people held signs reading "No war No Trump" including the Gwangju May Democratic Women's Association who happened to visit Gangjeong on Nov. 4 / Photos by Cecil Han (top) and Choi Hye-young.

Please Sign The 4-3 Petition

[...]On April 3rd, 1948, Jeju islanders rose against the suppression of people and the South Korean election leading to the division of Korea. In response, military and police officers severely cracked down on Jeju islanders and around 30,000 people (10% of Jeju's total population) lost their lives. [...]Right after the April 3rd uprising in 1948, the US military government deployed Colonel Brown as the commander in charge of Jeju for the US Army[...] 'The Jeju 4-3 Incident Investigation Report' published in 2003, clearly mentions the responsibility of the US military government[...] It is time to disclose the truth of the Jeju April 3rd Massacre and to end impunity. We call for:

- The US government to acknowledge its responsibility for this tragic past, apologize and take responsible actions accordingly.
- Both the South Korean and the US governments to open an official investigation on the role of both the US military government and the US Military Advisory Group to Korea during the Jeju April 3rd Massacre period(1947-1954).
- The United Nations to call on both the South Korean and the US governments to conduct a thorough investigation on the April 3rd Massacre and to end impunity.'

(Campaign for the U.S. government to take responsible actions for their role in the Jeju April 3rd Massacre. Sign at <http://bit.ly/2ijyQa0>)

By Jjuya / ADEX Resistance Action

The Real Name of 'Seoul ADEX 2017' is 'Murder Weapon Exhibition'

On Oct. 17, 'Seoul ADEX 2017' started with a ceremony at Seongnam Seoul Airport. The media reported that the largest number of viewers (280,000) visited and \$939 million worth of arms deals were concluded. However, the real name of 'Seoul ADEX 2017' is 'Murder Weapon Exhibition,' since it deals with the transaction of death. The weapons produced by war companies gathered here cause 550,000 deaths per year (1,500 deaths per day). Eight peace groups (PSPD, World Without War, Peace Momo, etc.) and peace activists organized an ADEX Resistance Action opposing the arms fair. With slogans criticizing the corruption of the defense industry and arms trade, we marched through the venue where the war companies signed arms contracts. The march began in front of Lockheed Martin, the world's number one arms seller. Worldwide military spending in 2016 reached \$1.6 trillion, up 0.4 percent from 2015. If only 5% of the money invested in the tools of death is used for poverty eradication, all the world's population can receive basic social services. Arms trade that produces war must be stopped. The money should be used for the welfare and peace of humankind.



At the Seoul ADEX Welcome Reception, resistance activists unfolded banners with the slogan "War Starts Here," shouted "Stop Arms Fair!" to the war merchants, and threw papers representing the blood money earned from killing people. / Photo by ADEX Resistance Action



On Nov. 7, 1991, Seogwipo resident Yang Yong-chan self-immolated in protest against the special law for the development of Jeju, which helps big construction projects to bypass democratic procedures. "To Love or How to Love," a new play written and directed by Pang Eun-mi and performed by Yang Seung-han tells the story of not only Yang Yong-chan but also of Go Gwon-il, the play's producer and chairman of the Gangjeong anti-naval base committee. Amid performances and other memorial events, the actor, director, and other supporters joined Yang Yong-chan's mother and sister in a memorial at Yang Yong-chan's grave / Photo by event participant.

Maine Peace Walk for Conversation & Community

I was invited to participate in the 6th Maine Peace Walk, in the US state of Maine, which began with the screening of the documentary film 'Village vs. Empire' that features the struggle for life and peace by Jeju islanders from April 3rd Massacre in 1948 to Gangjeong villagers' nonviolent resistance against Jeju naval base. During the 10-day peace walk, the participants focused on converting the local arms manufacturing facility Bath Iron Works(BIW) to a more sustainable and peaceful production that builds high-speed train, solar panels and wind turbines, which can deal with the biggest security threat that the US is facing, global warming.

BIW makes three Zumwalt-class new generation stealth destroyers that look like a tiny fishing vessel on radar, so if deployed in Jeju naval base, it can pose a direct threat to China, putting Jeju Island into the crosshair of escalated military tension. Standing in front of the shipyard at shift time, we gave out flyers to the workers, hoping some of them would receive it and pay attention to our desperate need to stop harming the planet. Spending billions of dollars in making more weapons does not make sense since peaceful production creates more jobs and it doesn't leave much less carbon footprint than weaponry manufacture.

The participants visited every household in Bath, Maine to share this idea with flyers. It was well-organized and effective. After all, people cannot get this valuable information through the media that only beats the war drums about North Korea's nuclear crisis when in fact lots of people are working everyday very hard to stop militarization of the world. During Maine Peace Walk and afterwards I travelled to Boston, Connecticut and New York where I gave speeches about the Korean peace movement. I met many wonderful people and I'm grateful for that.



Everyone shouted 'No War' at the Solidary Center during Joyakgol's visit in Manhattan, NY / Photo by event participant.

International Solidarity



On Oct. 16, Lee Jung-mi, a Korean Japanese singer, visited the village with a group of Japanese. The tour was organized by a music-related group in Japan. Lee's father who migrated to Japan when he was a child was born in Gangjeong. Lee had her first concert in the village last year. Otherwise, on Nov. 26, people from Okinawa visited Gangjeong to share the latest stories of anti-base struggle in Okinawa through the movies titled 'Henoko' and 'Takae'./Photos by Choi SH and Oum Mun-hee.

The base's illegal monitoring and human rights violation

In 2008, the South Korean National Intelligence Service (NIS) made a secret meeting with related government officials to talk on the 'need to remove obstacles by imprisoning opponents to the Jeju naval base construction.'

Just before the General and Presidential election in 2012, the Presidential House directly ordered a 'psychological warfare' to the Cyber Command who then manipulated public-online opinions about the Jeju naval base issue. A National Assembly member exposed a document related to this online manipulation on Sept. 24 of this year.

Such state-led undemocratic and human-rights-violating illegal surveillance and oppression on political opponents has not ended. Through a press conference on Oct. 17 followed by a press release on Oct. 23, organizations including the Gangjeong Village Association denounced the Jeju navy base squadron on its constant monitoring of the anti-base protesters in front of the base.

From the base creation last year, the Jeju navy base squadron directly employed civilian guards who, on behalf of the navy, have regularly conducted illegal monitoring and violence against nonviolent

anti-base opponents. That includes violent language, infringement on the freedom of protests, collection of personal information and illegal surveillance. The Jeju navy base squadron says "there has been no illegal surveillance." However, the existence of at least two CCTV cameras prove that their words are lies. People exposed that one CCTV has been tracking people during the human chain march, while another one has taken record of people near the protest community restaurant. The Navy's handling of the CCTV is in violation of the law.

The SCM and the Jeju navy base

The 49th South Korea (ROK)-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting(SCM) Joint Communique on Oct. 28 is filled with concepts and measures which enable preemptive strike against North Korea and extension of confrontations. Noticeably, the 'Minister and Secretary highlighted the increased frequency and intensity of deployments of U.S. Navy and Air Force assets, consistent with the Presidents' commitments to enhance rotational deployments of U.S. strategic assets in and around the Korean Peninsula' (article 5). In particular, the two officials lauded previous ROK-U.S. combined naval exercises and 'pledged to continue them. They also praised U.S. ship port calls to major ROK Navy operational bases, including in Busan, Jinhae, and Jeju' (article 8). This indicates the Jeju navy base is becoming a US navy base for so called 'strategic flexibility.' The whole of Korea is becoming a massive US outpost against China.

Otherwise, on Oct. 31, Kang Kyung-hwa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Korea stated, regarding the negotiation with China on the matter of THAAD that the ROK-US-Japan security cooperation would not be developed into a military alliance; that the ROK government is not examining additional THAAD deployment; and that South Korea would not join the missile defense system.

However, given the SCM above, military cooperation in the fields of operations, information, and ammunition is being strengthened. All these would only serve for the US domination strategy to establish the absolute advantage for the US in Northeast Asia through the establishment of ROK-US-Japan integrated Missile Defense. That is why we should continue to fight for the removal of THAAD in Soseong-ri, and to close the Jeju navy base in Gangjeong village.

(Reference: Solidarity for Peace And Reunification of Korea)

Trial Updates



▶ On Nov. 16, the Jeju local court made a decision of 'immunity' on Cho Kyung-chul, Gangjeong village mayor and Kim Mi-ryang, a villager. They had been charged of violation of the Road Traffic Act. By 'immunity,' it means 'guilty but punishment is not imposed.' It was a rare court decision.

▶ On April 28, 2016 they witnessed that marines were riding in a military vehicle carrying out a security exercise in the center of the village. Mayor Cho, Kim and other people protested to the marines who were pointing guns. Then a marine accused Cho and Kim and others to the police with the charges of insult and defamation. On Sept. 5 of the same year, the police arrested Mayor Cho without a warrant because Mayor Cho refused to be investigated for unjust charges. Later, the police handed over the case to prosecutors charging Cho and Kim with the suspicions of insult (except for defamation) and violation of Road Traffic Act. The prosecutors indicted them only with the charges of violation of the Road Traffic Act saying they had not made any concrete remarks which discouraged the social value of soldiers. On Nov. 16, the court judge did not acknowledge the defendants' claim that their act was justifiable but acknowledged their protests had occurred because the marines were pointing guns.

▶ Otherwise, on the same day in Seoul Central District Court, there was the first adjustment in relation to the navy's lawsuit against the people. In the hearing not open to the public but joined only by the agents of the navy and the Gangjeong villagers, the court judge confirmed the different positions of both sides. The court is planning a compulsory mediation unless a different opinion is raised. The Moon Jae-in government has expressed his willingness to revoke the suit.

The Hunger of Kim Kyung-bae: 42 day fast against the 2nd airport

By RiverDrops

"We are Kim Kyung-bae!" declared the people who gathered at a candlelight vigil at Jeju City Hall Square on November 18 to protest against the Jeju 2nd Airport. Kim Kyung-bae, a resident of Seongsan-eup and vice chairman of the Anti-2nd Airport Committee, made a tent in front of the Jeju Provincial Office on October 10, 2017, and began fasting against the Jeju second airport project. Kim said, "Two years ago, I started to protest against the airport because my land, which I have been working for 20 years, was to be appropriated for the second Jeju airport. But as time goes by I realized that this is not just my own problem but the problem of our Jeju's future." After the hunger strike started, concerned people came to visit the tent more and more. As days passed his health got worse but his voice became louder as others added their voices in support. As his fasting became known, Governor Won Hee-ryong was pressured to visit. On Sunday, October 22 at 8 am, Jeju Governor Won Hee-ryong visited Kim for the first time since the committee was made two years ago. Kim asked Won why he has to leave his hometown which is his life, and how the government can proceed despite many problems with the decision-making process and lack of procedural democracy, etc. He told Won to tell the government to stop the project. But Won left the tent saying to Kim, "You still have a lot of energy." Photos and videos of this meeting became circulated on the internet and Governor Won made an agreement with the committee to send official letters to ask about the procedure to the Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) but MLIT didn't accept it. On November 20, the Committee's chairman Kang Won-bo announced Kim's ending the fast while Kim was crying in the tent. Now his fasting is over, but this was not the end. Motivated by Kim Kyung-bae, another fast has started and the civil society said that they would struggle for the withdrawal of the second airport, not the re-examination of it. They started a relay fast to carry on the fasting of Kim Kyung-bae.

*Update: From Nov. 24 to Nov. 27 Kim resumed his hunger strike, but as others were concerned for his health, he decided to focus his energy on finding a new strategy to fight the second airport project. The very next day, Nov. 28 he came to Gangjeong, joined 100 bows, mass, and the human chain, then spoke at one rally against the second airport in Onpyeong-ri, and joined another protest occupying the Jeju Democratic party office.



During his hunger strike, Kim Kyung-bae was joined by co-hunger strikers and supporters, including the mayor of Susan 1-ri, one of the villages threatened by the second airport plans / Photo by aRiverDrop

A Long Journey to Peace – Two Grandpas’ Story

An event called ‘Two Grandfathers’ Story’ was held on Oct. 25th in Jeju City. It was a talk by Father Mun Jeong-hyeon, Gangjeong’s priest on the streets, and Hyun Ki-young author of the well-known novel, ‘Sun-i Samch’on’ about the Jeju 4-3 massacre. This event was intended to remember the 10th year of the Gangjeong Struggle and to connect it to the memories of the Jeju 4-3 massacre. The novelist, Mr. Hyun is a survivor of severe torture due to his writing on the Jeju 4-3 incident. He said "to force a survivor to erase their memory is the murder of memory" and "for one to erase their own memory due to excessive fear is the suicide of memory;" the continuing tension between these two possibilities brought him to write his novel as an act of memory activism to reveal the truth. Fr. Mun who has lived out peace throughout his whole life, emphasized that truth should be revealed rather than talking about winning or losing. In addition, the two grandfathers emphasized the role of the USA, both in the Jeju 4-3 incident and the Gangjeong Struggle. Fr. Mun stated that we, Koreans need to gain true independence from influence by the USA and Mr. Hyun raised his voice saying that only solidarity from citizens across the globe can bring peace. The Jeju 4-3 incident and the Gangjeong Struggle may seem different from each other. However, both of the two incidents have state violence as a cause and a community that has been broken apart. Nevertheless, the stories of the two grandfathers tell us that we should not stop the long journey toward peace.



The central theme of Keep Space for Peace Week, Oct. 7 to 14, this year was ‘No THAAD in Seongju’ and ‘No missile defense in Korea.’ In Korea, Keep Space for Peace Week opened on the 1st day in Soseong-ri, Seongju while Gangjeong had an event on the last day of the Week / Photo by event participant.

Tabling in Seogwipo

Gangjeong activists have been holding regular Tuesday tabling events near Jeju City Hall to hand out flyers and spread awareness about the Gangjeong Struggle. Recently though activists and Gangjeong friends decided to hold a second weekly table in Seogwipo City, on the south side of the island. The table has Gangjeong art, books, and barley for sale.

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 use of 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.

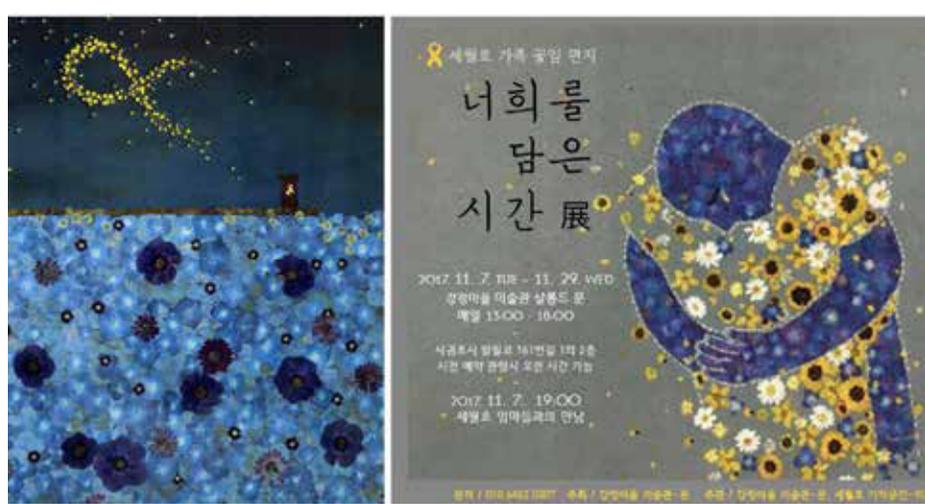
For More Information

- <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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Salon De Moon art gallery in Gangjeong is a space for art to be displayed as a way to help us keep memories of the past. On Nov. 7, mothers who lost their children in the Sewol Ferry Tragedy in 2014 had a special event to tell their stories of how art has helped them heal. They used dried flowers to make many projects. One art project is rice bowls with dried flowers inside, as a symbol of giving their children hope that their lives are remembered.

By Curry

Peace Education Update

Gangjeong is a hub for peace activists and peace educators from around Korea and around the world. Life in Gangjeong is full of exposure to new ideas. From October 13 to 15 Peace Momo and the Saint Francis Peace Center co-hosted a workshop for peace education facilitators. They learned interactively about facilitators’ body language, nonviolent pedagogy, methods of education that are not teaching, and topics such as militarism and gender. Then, Non-violent Peaceforce, the Frontiers, Korea Peacebuilding Institute, Women Making Peace, and the Korea NVC Center hosted a Citizen’s Peace University workshop from October 20 to 24. While learning about Jeju mythology, anti-base struggles in Gunsan and Okinawa, and about the current situation of Gangjeong, participants shared about strengths and challenges of peace communities and designed workshops appropriate for their own communities. Next, from November 16 to 19, Gangjeong Peace School, Saint Francis Peace Center, Pyeongtaek Peace Center, Peace Wind, and Peace Momo co-hosted the second annual Asia Peace Education Workshop in Gangjeong. Representatives from many organizations shared short presentations and created a recommendation letter about how peace activism and peace education can work together. They emphasized the importance of connecting social issues to people’s daily lives.



Asia Peace Education Workshop participants represented Gunsan, Pyeongtaek, Seongju, Okinawa, Philippines, Korea-Vietnam Peace Foundation, Korea-Palestine Solidarity, as well as several Korean peace education organizations. They discussed how peace education and peace activism can work together like a scissors to cut through militarism. / Photo by A Young Moon.

Queer Festival

On October 28th 2017 people from all over Jeju and mainland Korea came to celebrate Jeju Island’s first Queer Culture Festival. Already, pride festivals have been held in Seoul for over 10 years. However, it was the first time for such an event to be in Jeju Island. Gay and queer rights are becoming a more frontline issue in Korea as activist are calling for gender equality and human rights. It was reported that 1,000 people marched together with rainbow flags and chants of ‘Love is Love’ were heard in the streets of Jeju city.

