

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

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Monthly news on the struggle against
the Jeju Naval base project

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A Symposium for the Denuclearization of Jeju

By Gangjeong Village Story
Image : Song Dong-hyo

On March 24, a symposium titled, “A Nuclear Submarine Has Entered Jeju, What Will Jeju Do?” was held in the Island Council Chamber, hosted by the St. Francis Peace Center from Gangjeong. It was cosponsored by anti-base civic groups and the Jeju Memorial Committee for the 70th anniversary of the Jeju April 3rd Massacre.

The speakers and debaters kept in mind the context of Jeju: 70 years have passed since the April 3rd tragedy and Jeju was declared Island of World Peace in 2005, but it has now faced the completion of the navy base in 2016, the entry of 10 foreign warships including US aegis destroyers last year, the extension of militarization as seen in the 2nd Jeju airport (air force base) project which is also very likely on behalf of US domination in the region, and

finally with the entrance of a US nuclear submarine Mississippi on Nov.22,2017, Jeju is facing nuclear danger.

The focus of discussion was on what citizens of Jeju can do for making a nuclear-free Jeju, how to raise the issue among Jeju citizens, and how to draw upon citizen-centered institutional constraints such as nuclear-free declarations, resolutions or regulations at the level of local self-government. The debaters also expressed strong opposition to the proposal by the navy to hold an international naval review in Jeju this October. (On March 30, Gangjeong villagers decided not to hold it in their provisional general meeting) Prof. Lee Sam-sung, the key note speaker of the symposium, proposed a Peace Belt which would connect the

islands of Taiwan, Okinawa, and Jeju.

Otherwise, on the same day in the center of Seoul, around 1,000 people gathered to affirm both the March 6th inter-Korean and March 8th North Korea-United States agreements for dialogue. They marched circling the United States embassy building, with the slogans for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, the realization of a peace agreement; and for halting ROK-US military war exercises as well as the halting of NK nuclear missile tests. North Korea has confirmed its clear will for a nuclear-free Korea on the condition that the US would not invade North Korea.

The work for a nuclear-free Jeju is connected with nuclear-free Korea and Northeast Asia, as well as the easing of military tensions. Jeju made a first step for this work.

Kim Kwan-jin, THAAD, & Lockheed Martin

By Park Seok-jin,
Civilian Military Watch

The enforcement of THAAD deployment into Soseong-ri, in the mainland of Korea, twice on April 26 and September 7, 2017, brought lots of fury from many citizens in Korea and around the world. Even though a new government was created in May thanks to the people's candle light revolution, the truth of the illegal and undemocratic process of THAAD deployment is still concealed by and large. Yet, we know that Kim Kwan-jin, a former Minister of National Defense, as well as a former Chief of the National Security Council, and former head of National Security at the Presidential House took an important role in such 'THAAD-nailing.'

It was revealed at the end of this February that he had been given tens of millions of won in money and valuables, most likely from arms corporation, Lockheed Martin which produces THAAD batteries. According to an internal military document introduced by the Korean Broadcasting System, Kim received tens of millions of won for living expenses from a Korean-American named Kwon through a person named Jung when Kim got training in the U.S. in 2009. Shockingly, Jung was an employee of US lobbying group, Livingston, representing interests of the arms industry including Lockheed Martin.

After training, Kim served as Minister of National Defense for four years from 2010. It was at this time that Lockheed Martin-produced arms like the Aegis battle system, F-35s, and Patriot missiles were unreasonably and exclusively contracted.

THAAD should be removed as it threatens the peace of Korea and North East Asia. There should be thorough investigations on the forced THAAD deployment and Kim Kwan-jin, whether he had connections with Lockheed Martin and whether or not he acted in private interest under the name of so called 'national security.'



Image : Ddalgi

Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon chose prison
(For article, please see page 4)

37 Days' Fast Against Corporation Welfare

By Sunghie Choi

Big news in the state of Maine, US, on February 1, was that the Aegis 9 civil disobedience case from Bath on April 1, 2017 was dismissed by the judge. According to Gagnon, the judge said that the 'Bath Police Department was outsourced to Bath Iron Works, producer of Aegis destroyers and Zumwalts. It is owned by General Dynamics, the 5th largest weapons corporation on the planet.

The Aegis 9 include Bob Dale, Bruce Gagnon, Natasha Mayers, Jason Rawn, Mark Roman, Lisa Savage, Jessica Stewart, Mike Tork, and Russell Wray. Many have come to Gangejeong in past years to express their solidarity with the struggle against the Jeju navy base.

Otherwise, on February 12, Bruce Gagnon started an unlimited fast in protest to a 'bad bill' to cut GD's tax by \$60 million. His fast was accompanied by leafleting in front of BIW. According to him,

the fight to drop the bad bill is for solidarity with 43,000 starving children in Maine who desperately need the money.

It was remarkable that a Machinists union, the largest union at BIW, voted not to endorse the bil. On March 13, the Taxation Committee of Maine cut the amount from \$60 million to \$45 million for 15 years, in the revised bill. The people of Maine say the bill itself should be dropped.

Bruce Gagnon ended his fast on March 20, the 37th day, due to warning signals to his health. His comrades in Maine and beyond continued to carry out solidarity fasts until the bad bill was finalized to be passed by the state legislature on March 28. In Gangejeong, Choi Sung-hee and Regina Pyon joined the fast on March 20/22 in that vein of solidarity spirit.



Image : Peter Woodruff, a retired BIW worker.

Bruce Gagnon, on the 34th day of his hunger strike.

*for more, space4peace.blogspot.com

Peace Award to Okinawa



Image : Ji Hak -soon Justice and Peace Award Foundation

This year, the Ji Hak-soon Justice and Peace award was given to the Anti-Helicopter Base Association of Okinawa. For the first time of the award's history, the site of the awardee was visited. Delegations from the award foundation gave the award to the association in the sit-in tent site in Henoko, Okinawa on Jan. 22. The late Bishop Ji Hak-soon fought for democracy during the Korean military dictatorship era.

The Epitaph Covered Under Mural Painting of Lotuses

By Sunghie Choi



Image: pilgrim member

Visit with Nguyen Thi Tan who lost most of her family to killings by South Korean soldiers in the village of Phong Nhat va Phong Nhi in 1968. Bishop Kang and Gangejeong activists present a 'No Navy Base' flag with messages of apology and peace.

March 11th marked the 50th year since the killing of 135 innocent villagers in Ha My, Vietnam, by South Korean soldiers who joined the Vietnam war as U.S. mercenaries. The majority of victims were women and children under age 16. The region of Quang Nam was also the place where South Koreans' massacre of Vietnamese civilians was concentrated during the war.

I visited Vietnam, March 8-12, as member of a group pilgrimage for the 50th year memorial service in Ha My, organized by the Korea Vietnam Peace Foundation and led by Dr. Ku Su Jeong. Our focus was to visit Ha My and make bows of apology to the villagers. Bishop Kang U-II, the board president of Korea Vietnam Peace Foundation, made an apologetic speech on behalf of pilgrims.

However, the epitaph in Ha My is still all covered up with a marble slab mural painting of lotus flowers. The Korean Vietnam Veterans Welfare Association provided financial support for the building of the memorial stone, but expressed its uncomfortableness with the epitaph in which the process of the killing was described in detail.

The villagers of Ha My demand the epitaph be made public now. It is time for Koreans to also demand a truth investigation on the South Korean soldiers' killings of the Vietnamese and an official apology by the South Korea government to the Vietnam government and its people.

Okinawa Update: Trial & Election

By Dong Seok

On March 14, the Naha district court of Okinawa made the ruling of 2 years' imprisonment suspended with 3 years on Yamashiro Hiroji, chair of the Okinawa Peace Movement Centre, 8 months' imprisonment suspended with 2 years on Inaba Hiroshi, and 1 year 6 months' imprisonment suspended with 5 years on Soeda Atsuhiko. The court stated Yamashiro took a lead role in the anti-base movement, instigating the crimes of the accomplices.

All 3 were charged with forceful obstruction of business, obstruction of justice, and/or injury, during protests against construction of a new Henoko base in Nago and helipads in the northern training area at Takae, Higashi-son. The attorney criticized the court decision as being "unjust and pro forma". All defendants filed appeals right after the 1st court ruling.

The court decision that day can be interpreted as a signal of oppression on the anti-base movement. However, it rather heightens the will of anti-base protestors. International support urging the court to acquit the 3 defendants will continue. In the Nago city mayoral election where Camp Schwab and Henoko are located, Toguchi Taketoyo, an independent candidate supported by the central government who is pro-base-construction in Henoko was elected with 54.35% of the vote on February 4. In Ishigaki, Nakayama Yoshitaka was re-elected as mayor with 48.63% of the vote on March 11. He advocates the base construction plan in Ishigaki, saying 'national security is a matter for the government's full authority.'

Rohingya Refugees Demand Human Rights

By Curry

From February 12-March 4, I visited the Rohingya refugee camps on the Myanmar border in SE Bangladesh. With a long history of conflict between Muslims and Buddhists in Rakhine state, the predominantly Muslim Rohingya minority have been facing growing discrimination, oppression, and violence committed by Rakhine militias and the Myanmar army. Over 300,000 fled over the border during waves of violence in 1978, 1992, 2012, and 2015. Following massacres and forced displacement in 2017, now the majority (about a million) of the Rohingya people have fled to large refugee camps run by the Bangladesh Army, the UN, and approved NGOs.

70 years after the Jeju 4.3 uprising and massacre, I grieve the way that history repeats itself, how past conflicts inspire revenge, how whole oppressed populations are labelled as communists or terrorists when a small group takes revenge against police violence, how those who flee face discrimination but fear being killed if they return home. One Rohingya friend quizzed me about what I should share with the world, asking me what the Rohingya people need. More than the basic needs for food and shelter, safety and health, dignity and education in the camps, what the Rohingya people need is human rights and citizenship in Myanmar. What they need is an end to state violence and the right to be involved in political decisions about their future.

For three weeks, I joined other Frontiers members visiting friends, listening to their stories, and teaching English classes with children and adults. The Rohingya people have immediate need for improved housing before the rainy season, but they also have long-term need for int'l solidarity and friendship.



Image : Rodrigo Park

Curry helped to lead English classes for children who fled ethnic cleansing in Myanmar in fall 2017, during the Frontiers Rohingya Refugee Peace Camp.

The 6th Year Anniversary of Gureombi Rock Blast

By Joyakgol

March 7 is the day of unforgettable resentment for many people since 2012 when Samsung construction company began blasting the sacred Gureombi rock on which the Jeju naval base was made. It was destroyed but is still remembered. About 50 people gathered at the main gate of the base to share their thoughts and prayers. Someone read a poem written by villager Ko Youngjin, another sang songs and we all danced together. We also shared stories about what we were doing on that day 6 years ago. Some of us were guarding the explosives storage building to stop the vehicle carrying dynamite. Others were blocking the only bridge to Gangjeong village, which forced the navy to carry the explosives by boat. No matter where we were, we tried everything to halt the blast.

This year's slogan was 'Even though the naval base was constructed, we still sow the seed of peace.' Jung Sunyeo or Joan of Arc, as she is known in the village, managed to borrow a big chunk of empty field near the Gureombi Square roundabout and she let us use a portion of the land. Participants sowed beans in the garden, giving the military a clear message that our peace action will continue.



Image : Lee Wooki

Participants vowed to continue peace actions by sowing peace seeds next to the naval base.

Nuclear Cruise Missiles and Zumwalt

At the end of January 2017, Harry Harris, Commander of the US Pacific Command talked about the deployment of Zumwalt, the most advanced stealth destroyer, along the Korean peninsula. The Bath Iron Works in Maine, US, has produced two Zumwalts and one is now in production. All three are planned to be deployed in the Asia Pacific.

A February 26 article on military.com reports that "the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) includes a long-term plan that could put nuclear cruise missiles aboard the new Zumwalt class (DDG 1000) of Navy stealth destroyers, according to the commander of U.S. Strategic Command."

We have already witnessed the entry of a nuclear submarine into the Jeju navy base last year. Jeju should be nuclear-free and the base should be closed soon.

Former President Lee Myung-Bak Jailed Amid Corruption Scandal

By Joyakgol

The shocking news about the ex-president Lee Myung-bak was reported in January by investigative media that he owned a big piece of land in Gangjeong-dong and Hogeun-dong area in Seogwipo City on Jeju. According to the news, Lee allegedly owns 5 acres or 20,000 square meters in Gangjeong and 10 acres in Hogeun, and the value of the property is approximately 60 billion won or \$6 million these days. On paper, the owner of the land is an ex-CEO of DAS, a company through which the Prosecutor's Office concluded that Lee managed tens of billions of won in slush funds. Lee bought the land in 1999 and 2000, and now the price went up 30 times thanks to the big development projects such as Jeju naval base and Seogwipo renovation city, which began in full scale while he was in power.

We all remember how cruel and oppressive the Lee administration was during the naval base construction process. It mobilized not only thousands of riot police to crack down on Gangjeong villagers and peace activists, but also influenced all the law enforcement agencies to make sure we were punished by the law. In 2011 and 2012 Gangjeong village was like a war zone. Some of us are still going to trials. The pristine island of Jeju was destroyed to fulfill Lee's money-thirsty greed. Jeju naval base project turned out to be more of a land development project than a national security matter.

What you reap is what you sow. Lee is now facing 18 different corruption charges including taking \$5 million in bribes from Samsung Group, privatization of power, meddling with the 2012 presidential election and he is going to spend a long time in jail if convicted. As Father Mun says, truth will reveal itself and justice will be restored with the two former dictators Lee and Park incarcerated. **(UPDATE: Lee was imprisoned on March 20)**

Stop the US Occupation of Guantanamo!

There was a call to action from the Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases for February 23rd, the 115th Anniversary of the US seizure of Guantánamo from the Cuban people. In solidarity, we in Gangjeong also join the people's demand that the US should stop the occupation of Guantanamo.

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

Cruise Terminal Construction



Image : Joyakgol

The construction of Seogwipo Cruise Terminal, next to the Jeju naval base is supposed to be completed by March. However, it will remain empty until the end of the year because China canceled all the cruises to Jeju due to US THAAD missile deployment in Korea.

Moseulpo Radar Base



Image : Joyakgol

The Air Force radar base located in Moseulpo at the southwestern tip of Jeju was recently seen to be installing more facilities aimed at expanding its recon capabilities, another sign of increasing militarization of the island.

Trial Updates



On Feb. 8, the Jeju higher court confirmed Choi Sung-hee as not-guilty, dismissing the prosecutor's appeal against her in relation to a case from 2013. Choi had been charged with obstruction of business. The judicial issue was on the matter of adaption of digital evidence provided by the prosecutor. The judge in the higher court confirmed the 1st court decision that it was not proved that the digital evidence had been copied from the original without change and that other evidence alone cannot prove the contents of the indictment against her. The same issue was also applied to Park Young-in who got a higher court decision on the same day, too. She had been charged with obstruction of business for many cases between 2012 and 2013. The court dismissed both of her and prosecutor's appeals and confirmed the original court decision for 4 months imprisonment suspended 1 year. However for Park's case in which the matter of adaptation of digital evidence was an issue, the court made a decision of not guilty.

Soseongri Screening



Image : A still cut from the documentary film, "Soseongri"

On February 7th, anti-THAAD documentary "Soseongri" (Directed by Park Bae-II, 89 min., 2017); was screened in Gangjeong village.

Inter-Island Solidarity Peace for the Sea camp:

July 25 - July 29, 2018

Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace:

July 30 - August 4, 2018

Packing Rice Cakes



Image : Sung-gye

Gangjeong peace activists packed Korean traditional deep-fried sweet rice cake as a lunar new year gift for the elders in the village. We found later that the date happened to be the day of Jeju students' protest in 1947. At the time, students made a campaign not to eat western-style cookies as a protest to the US Army Military Government which entered Korea right after Korea's liberation from Japan.

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. Stay updated by joining our Facebook groups and following us on twitter.
3. Organize a solidarity event (concert, movie screening, protest, etc...) then share about it on social media.
4. Visit Gangjeong!
5. 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 :

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

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"No Jeju 2nd Airport" Poetry Night

On March 17, a poetry night was held at the house of Seong-san resident Kim Kyung-bae, where the Jeju 2nd Airport is planned to be built. The house is exactly where a runaway is planned and is to be erased completely. This event is organized by artists and activists who oppose the Jeju 2nd Airport and love the nature, land and people of Jeju Island. A local environmental activist, the chairperson of the Anti Jeju 2nd Airport Committee, musicians and storytellers shared music, stories and performances with the theme of how we must protect Jeju Island from this new airport. The audience came from Jeju City, Japan, Gangjeong and the Seong-san Women Farmers Association. A local environmental activist said it was a really moving and comforting time and it helped her to renew her motivation and gain strength to struggle against overdevelopment and militarization on Jeju Island. It seems like we all needed a moment to grow the light of hope inside us.

By Hosu



Image : Oum Mun-hee

Sunkyung sings at the poetry night in Seongsan resident Kim Kyung-bae's house

Peace Co-op New Space

By Go Gwon-il

The Gangjeong Peace Co-op held an opening ceremony for a new space on Feb. 24. The office and fruit-packing house were integrated into a new and expanded place. It was a rich opening event visited by villagers including village elders and many people from various regions of Jeju. A welcome speech by Cho Kyung-chul, president of the co-op, was followed by joyful games like ping-pong and yut. The co-op promised to support peace campaigns in Gangjeong with more vigorous spirit.

Father Mun Chose Prison

Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon, leader of the daily street mass in Gangjeong, went to Jeju prison on March 25, choosing jail instead of paying fines of around 800 USD. He was charged for solidarity actions with Hanjin Heavy Industry workers such as Kim Jin-suk in Busan in 2011, and he got the final court decision in February 2017. He stated that he would pray for Kim Deuk-jung of Ssangyong automobile workers' union, who was on hunger strike for 25 days as of March 25, calling for the reinstatement of all unjustly laid-off workers. It is Kim's 4th hunger strike. Father Mun was released on March 30 as Kim marked the 30th day of his fast.

Image (below) : Pang Eun-mi

People in Gangjeong village commemorate Good Friday on March 30

