

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

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Monthly news on the struggle against
the Jeju Navy base

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Gangjeong Struggle Reached 4,000 Days & Beyond

By Joyakgol

image: Song Dong-hyo

A very special but daily-like demonstration was held at the main gate of Jeju navy base on April 28 to mark the 4,000th day of Gangjeong villagers' struggle for their peaceful livelihood. They formed a residents' organization to stop the military project on May 18, 2007 when they heard on TV news that the Gureombi rock area in Gangjeong was chosen as the naval base construction site. Most of the villagers were shocked at the news because they didn't know about it until it was irreversibly decided. They couldn't accept it and wanted to take back their beloved village. When

they started the struggle, they couldn't possibly have thought that it was going to last this long.

Thousands of days passed, hundreds of people were convicted, dozens of them incarcerated, and hundreds of millions of won were paid in fines over the course of the non-violent, resilient quest for peace. At the 4000th day gathering, a village elder shared his childhood memory of hiding on Guroembi rock to escape the April 3 Massacre. Former Mayor Kang announced a newly re-formed residents' organization to continue the fight in the long haul. Participants showed once again their

strong opposition to the 2018 international Naval Review that the navy has proposed to hold on the Island of Peace in October.

Residents issued a statement and said they haven't given up a thing. Villagers believe that we will need no more military bases, and pointed out that the two Koreas are having talks to achieve perpetual peace on the peninsula. They vowed to walk on this path until the base is closed and justice and true peace are restored.

A New Era. No THAAD Base Construction! No Naval Review!

By Sunghye

On April 27, Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong-un held an inter-Korean summit and declared that 'there will be no more war on the Korean Peninsula and thus a new era of peace has begun.' They 'confirmed the common goal of realizing, through complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.'

On May 24, as she promised, North Korea (DPRK) publicly demolished her nuclear test site in Punggye-ri. Still, on the same day the US government unilaterally cancelled the planned DPRK-US summit meeting. Otherwise, May 24 happened to be the International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament. In Seoul, 31 Women Cross DMZ delegates from 17 countries and South Korean women activists demanded a prompt Peace Treaty in support of the 4.27 declaration, and held an emergency press conference the next day in protest to the US cancellation. On May 26, US President Trump stated he would resume plans for the DPRK-US summit on June 12. Regardless of concerns, this is the time for 'a new era.'

We should not forget that THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) base construction started in Soseong-ri, Seongju, main land of Korea on April 23. On the very day of April 27, local villagers and activists there confronted a thousand police mobilized to ensure the moving-in of construction vehicles. If THAAD is intended to confront North Korea as claimed by ROK and US governments, THAAD should be removed from Soseong-ri based on the spirit of 4.27. The US and ROK governments are rather strengthening our certainty that THAAD is a strategic weapon for US domination in the wider region. It is shameless that the Trump administration nominated Harry Harris, former head of Pacific Command, to be US ambassador to South Korea on May 18. It is also noteworthy that the US renamed Pacific Command to Indo-Pacific Command on May 30.

For the realization of true peace in Korea, not only THAAD, but also the US military and their bases such as those in Pyeongtaek and Gunsan along the west coast of Korea and the ROK Jeju navy base used by the US military in the south sea of Korea which together form a missile defense (offense) belt should be withdrawn and closed. The navy's scheme to host an international naval review with a US nuclear aircraft carrier in Jeju this October should be repulsed. All war exercises should be stopped.



Grandmothers in the small rural village of Soseong-ri, Seongju, North Gyeongsang Province, Korea, struggle daily to stop the THAAD base construction vehicles. On April 12th and 23rd, thousands of police were mobilized to suppress around 150 people who tied themselves in net lattice, pipes, and chains in nonviolent direct actions. Despite people's fierce struggle, construction is being enforced from April 23. Twenty-eight people were carried away by ambulance on April 23.

image: Anti-THAAD office, Soseong-ri on May 23

The Night for the Memories of Vietnam and Jeju

By Kim Dong-Won

On April 23rd, 'the Night for the Memories of Vietnam and Jeju' was held in remembrance of the 43rd year since the end of the Vietnam War and the 70th year since the Jeju April 3rd uprising and massacre. The venue was the fruit packing house of the Peace Co-op in Gangjeong village.

Bishop Moon Chang-woo, chairman of the Special Committee for the 70th anniversary of Jeju April 3rd, Jeju Catholic diocese, remarked that "histories not remembered together tend to be repeated," and "to stop the recurrence of horrible war, we should share, console each other's pain and make efforts for peace together."

Grandmothers Hong Chun-ho from Dongwang village and Kang Young-ae from Gangjeong village

shared their memories of cold-blooded killings which they or their family members witnessed during the Jeju April 3rd in which at least 30,000 islanders were killed under the US Army Military Government.

Also present in the event were two women both named Nguyễn Thị Thành, one from Hami and the other from Phong Nhi & Phong Nhì, Quảng Nam, Việt Nam. For the audience of around 100 people, they shared their stories of the South Korean military killing people including their family members during the United States war on Vietnam from 1954 to 1975. Before they visited Gangjeong village, both Nguyễn Thị Thành had also testified in the people's peace tribunal organized for the settlement of the issue of South Korean soldiers' killing of Vietnamese civilians

during the war on Vietnam. During the two days' session on April 20-21, the court ordered the defendant, the Republic of Korea government to compensate the victims, investigate the truths, and state the historical facts.



The meeting of Vietnam War survivors and April 3rd survivors. image: Oum Mun-hee

Kings Bay Plowshares By Curry

The US Navy's Atlantic Ocean port at Kings Bay, Georgia is home to 8 Ohio-class nuclear-armed submarines, 6 of which are each armed with up to 24 Trident submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). These Tridents are capable of striking anywhere on the planet within 15 minutes with a nuclear blast thousands of times bigger than the bombing of Hiroshima.

On the night of April 4, seven Catholic Plowshares activists entered the base with an indictment against the United States government for the continued possession and threat to use nuclear weapons, which is a violation of international law. They used hammers, crime scene tape, bottles of their own blood and banners to 'attempt to convert [the] weapons of mass destruction.' In remembrance of his assassination on April 4, 50 years ago, the Kings Bay seven quoted Martin Luther King, Jr. in their public statement, "The greatest purveyor of violence in the world (today) is my own government." Like King, they acted to denounce "the triple evils" of racism, militarism, and extreme materialism.

Arrested on April 5, the 7 activists were held without bond until their hearing on May 17. They pled not guilty and are awaiting trial in early August. On May 24, three members were released on bond to house arrest, including Martha Hennessy (who has visited Gangjeong and wore a Grand March t-shirt when she carried out her action). You can learn more, including how to send approved post-cards to the four members who remain in jail at kingsbayplowshares7.org.



As Martin Luther King, Jr. declared "The Ultimate Logic of Racism is Genocide," the Kings Bay Plowshares displayed a banner which read, "The Ultimate Logic of Trident is Omnicide," (referring to the extinction of the human species, which is nearly assured if a nuclear attack occurs in a major nuclear-armed state.) image: Kings Bay Plowshares

Gangjeong Villagers Join Annual Okinawa Peace March By Curry

Four Gangjeong residents joined representatives from Gunsan, Pyeongtaek, and Soseong-ri on a solidarity visit to Okinawa from May 9-14. They visited the memorial at the site where Rina Shimabukuro's body was found in 2016, after she was raped and murdered by an American base worker. Tens of disappearances happen each year, but rarely are the guilty held accountable. When Shimabukuro's body was found, the public outcry created strong political pressure and 65,000 people rallied against the US bases in Okinawa. Over 3,000 people joined the rally on May 13 this year, but the Okinawan anti-base movement faces new challenges.

Governor Onaga, a strong opponent of US base expansion, announced that he is undergoing chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer. In February, a pro-base mayor was elected in Nago City, which includes Henoko where the new US airstrip is being built. The financial power of the Abe administration is difficult to oppose, and right-wing groups are getting stronger. Even though about 200 people block the construction vehicles

entering the landfill site each morning at Camp Schwab, the base construction continues in the afternoon.

Go Gwon Il commented, however, that Okinawans were encouraged by the news of the April 27 inter-Korean summit. The march participants took hope that if there is peace on the Korean Peninsula, then there will be no need for US bases in Okinawa.



April 25 marked one year since the landfill construction of a new US airstrip began at Henoko, destroying Okinawa's healthiest coral reef in Oura Bay. 213 people on 83 canoes and 8 support boats conducted a sit-in on the sea and were able to stop the construction through their cooperation and unified efforts. image: Henoko Blue

Women of the Philippines & Jeju Talk Militarization By Sung-hee



Merci Angeles, Prescilla Tulipat, Corazon Valdez Fabros image: Oum Mun-hee

From May 8-9, Gangjeong was blessed by three visiting Philippine women activists: Merci L. Angeles (President of Peace Women Partners), Atty. Corazon Valdez Fabros (Vice-President of the International Peace Bureau) and Prescilla Tulipat (an academic and social worker). These three members of the International Council of Peace Women Partners visited Jeju during their 10 days' learning and solidarity trip to Korea.

They joined a talk titled, 'Women of the Philippines & Jeju Talk about Militarization' along with Koh Myung-hee (Jeju Women's

Self-support Promotion Center, Jeju Association for Women's Rights) and Bok-hee (Gangjeong peace activist, Seogwipo Women Farmers' Association). The topics were 'Our Continuing Struggle for a Nuclear-free, Bases-free Philippines' (Valdez Fabros); 'Filipina Women's Strategies for Peace Building in Mindanao' (Angeles); 'Wholistic Healing of Women Survivors of Abuse' (Tulipat); 'The Herstory and Present of Jeju Women-Their Life and Resistance' (Koh); and 'Peace I Learn from the Women whom I Meet in Gangjeong' (Bok-hee). According to Corazon, even though the people of the Philippines closed the U.S. military bases in 1992, their government 'signed new agreements like the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) 3 years ago,' which brought 'a new form of basing in the Philippines...a model of US military presence in many parts of SE Asia and the Pacific today.' In a moving moment, they recited together a poem by Merci titled, 'The Peace Women Partners Vision,' telling how women from the margins are 'united by experiences of violence in our homelands' and have 'a mission to build a peaceful world free from all forms of violence against women.'

Gangjeong is April 3rd

By Curry

70 years ago, Korea had been freed from Japanese colonial rule only to be divided and occupied by the Soviets and the Americans. The US military government re-hired many Japanese collaborators, and in 1947 Jeju police shot six people celebrating the March 1st Independence movement against Japan. The police continued to arrest and torture those who went on strike in protest. On April 3, 1948 an armed uprising broke out, and on May 10 large numbers of Jeju citizens boycotted the South Korea only election that perpetuated the division of Korea. The US labelled Jeju a 'Red Island' and sent Korean soldiers and paramilitary groups to punish the islanders with a reign of terror that killed at least 10% of the population and caused displacement and trauma that continues to this day.

After decades of dictatorship and fearful silence, Korea's democracy movement in the 80s-90s led to public discussion of Jeju April 3rd and a presidential apology in 2003. However, state violence and repression has not ended and this is evidenced in places like Gangjeong. When we declare that "Gangjeong is 4.3," we draw attention to the forced sacrifice and destruction of our community as we resist against state violence. We made banners to raise awareness about how the US military is still sacrificing Jeju for its strategic interests (for example, a group of US Army Rangers entered the Jeju Navy Base on March 28). We took our message to events around Jeju, including the memorial at the 4.3 Peace Park attended by President Moon and a special concert at the weekly Gangjeong tabling in downtown Seogwipo city. Multiple art exhibits (including "Post Trauma" at the Jeju Museum of Art and "Forged into Collective Memory" at Artspace C/ Artspace IAa), connected Jeju's 4.3 to other tragedies of state violence around the world.



On April 3, the Gangjeong choir performed in Seogwipo, people called for Jeju to be demilitarized at the 4.3 Peace Park, and Koh Gilcheon's "American Math" was displayed at Artspace IAa.

image: Gangjeong Friends, Pang Eunmi, Choi Sung-hee

Sewol Ferry Tragedy Remembrance



April 16th marked the 4th year since the Sewol ferry tragedy. On April 16, 2014, about 400 tons of iron bars heading to the Jeju navy base construction site were loaded on the Sewol. 304 people including many school youths were not rescued from the sinking ferry. The truth is not yet thoroughly investigated. In Gangeong, Choi Min-kyung led a mirror performance in front of the Jeju navy base in remembrance of the tragedy, while Gallery Moon hosted an exhibition by peace activist Joan, who had drawn every victim of the Sewol on vinyl to be hung on a lantern at the street mass tent every night for years after the incident.

image: Oum Mun-hee and Shin Mi-young

Ann Wright Visits Gangjeong Village



Ann Wright, a former US army colonel, diplomat, and currently a member of Veterans for Peace, as well as one of main delegates of Women Cross DMZ visited the village from May 28 to 31. In her presentation on May 30, she introduced 2018 Gaza Freedom Flotilla and anti-nuclear ship, Golden Rule, which attracted our attention as we aim for a nuclear-free Jeju!

image: Oum Mun-hee

No SMA! No Money for USFK!

By Sung-hee

On April 11-12, the 2nd meeting of the 10th ROK (South Korea)-US Special Measures Agreement (SMA) on defense-cost sharing for the USFK (United States Forces Korea) was held in the Jeju International Peace Center. Only two countries in the world are reported to have such a humiliating SMA with the United States: Japan and South Korea. And the latter's case is much worse. The SMA already violates article 5 of the ROK-US Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) which says that the US bears all the maintenance cost of USFK while South Korea provides only facilities and areas.

Why Jeju? It is the 1st time that the SMA meeting was held in Jeju. It is suspicious whether Jeju was chosen for any strategic purpose. For a long time the Jeju International Peace Center has been rather a war-study center. Is it just a coincidence that at the same time that some members of Solidarity for Peace And Reunification of Korea (SPARK) and Gangjeong activists had to protest against SMA in Jeju, other people also had to fight against the enforcement of THAAD base construction in Soseong-ri, Seongju, on the main land of Korea?

Due to constant US pressure, South Korea has already been paying 73% of the USFK defense-cost, and 1 trillion won is still left over without execution. Still, the United States government demands South Korea double their defense-cost share. She is even demanding payment for the operation of (illegally installed) THAAD and the unfolding of so-called US 'strategic assets' like nuclear warships. That is not only illegal and unfair but also retrogressive against the current situation of peace-building in Northeast Asia. The SMA should be abolished! No money for USFK! (reference from the SPARK and Anti-THAAD Peace Meeting).

Mang-gi Chose Prison in Refusal to Pay Fines



> A male activist Mang-gi chose imprisonment in refusal to pay fines of 4.6 million KRW (around 4,300 USD). On Dec. 2, 2015, the day after the creation of the Jeju navy base squadron, even before the base opened in 2016, he was one of the people who protested the policemen's ignorance of human rights and unnecessary oppression during the human chain. On that day, a policeman twisted one of his fingers and he was diagnosed with a finger-bone fracture which needed many weeks to be cured. However, the policemen rather indicted him under the charge of obstruction of justice and injury. On July 20, 2017, the higher court made a guilty ruling on Mang-gi who had actually been injured by police violence. The fine imposed on him was 5 million KRW, but he spent four days in the police station when he was arrested in 2015. A day in prison counts 100,000 KRW, so 46 days remain. (Update: He entered the Jeju prison on June 4, after a procedural visit at the Prosecutor's Office).

Poetry Night: No Jeju 2nd Airport



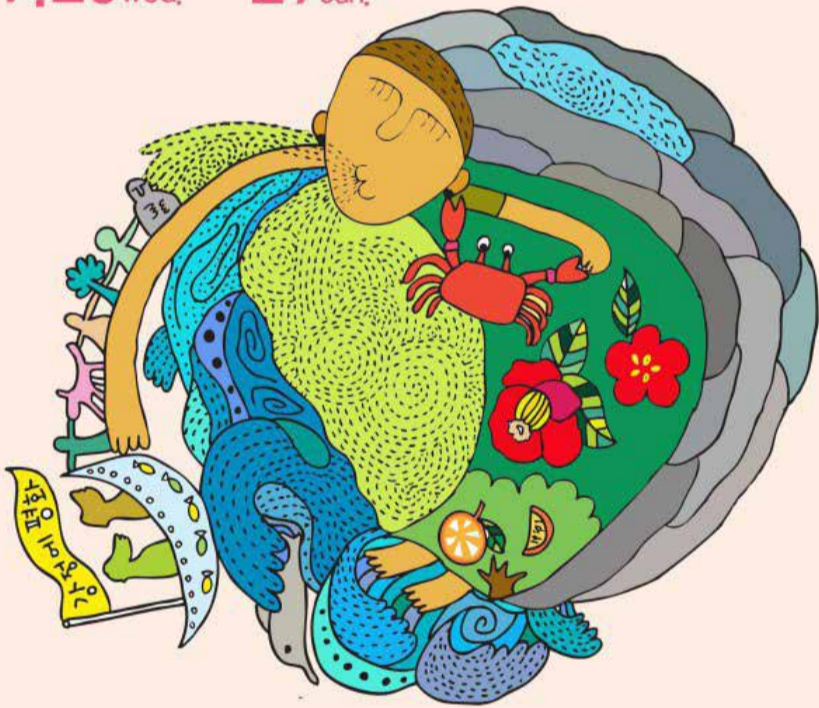
The 2nd Poetry Night for No Jeju 2nd Airport was held on May 12th at Sam-dal Cafe whose owner supports the opposition to the new airport / air base. More people from the affected area joined this event so it seems the issue is becoming more urgent.

Image: Oum Mun-hee

“From Gangjeong to Seongsan, Peace, Let's go together!”

The 2018 Jeju Grand March for Life & Peace will start with an evening event in Gangjeong on July 29. The march will take a shorter route this year, walking as one group for 3 days from Gangjeong to Seongsan. Then there will be a peace camp in Seongsan for three days until Saturday August 4.

2018 Inter-Island Solidarity Peace for the Sea Camp
We are Gureombi
7.25 Wed. ~ 29 Sun.



****The deadline for international applicants for the Inter-Island Solidarity Peace for the Sea Camp is June 15. Application: <https://goo.gl/4kcvsb>**

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 Il-Gi / Shalomsea / 1234yz100 / Sungbong2012

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Nullify the 2nd Jeju Airport (Air Base) Project!

By Sung-hee

It was only when Kim Kyung-bae, vice-chairman of the Anti-2nd Jeju Airport Project Committee, Seongsan, threw two eggs at current Jeju governor Won Hee-ryong in a televised debate on May 14 that the main Korean broadcasting companies began to report about the Anti-2nd Jeju Airport struggle. Unfortunately, they focused more on his deed rather than the background. Even when he fasted more than 42 days last winter, most mainstream media gave little attention to the struggle. On May 14, frustrated by Won who sees no problem in driving the project without consultation to the locals, Kim attempted suicide after throwing eggs at Won. He was then hospitalized and forced to undergo police investigation. He was eventually released when the court dismissed his arrest warrant. As the June 13 regional election approaches, people are raising their voices against the 2nd Jeju airport (air force base) project. One of the actions is to hold a 'white paper,' in a symbolic demand for 'nullification' of the project. Residents in affected villages are hosting candlelight rallies against the project which should be abandoned to stop the militarism and developmentalism of Jeju.

International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament



In commemoration of the May 24 International Women's Day for Peace And Disarmament, Women's Peace Walk, Women Cross DMZ, and Nobel Women's Initiative organized the 2018 International Women Peace Symposium, Walk and press conferences which reaffirmed the April 27 Panmunjeom Declaration and emphasized women's voices. In Gangjeong, people also joined to commemorate the day.

Image: top photo by Shin Yua, below photo by Liz Bernstein

**2018 marks the 70th Anniversary of the Nakba.
Free Palestine! Stop the killing of Palestinians!**

