

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

June/
July
2018

Monthly news on the struggle against
the Jeju Navy base

Published by Gangjeong Village in Jeju,
South Korea



Resolute Opposition to the International Fleet Review!

By Gangjeong Village Story
image: Lee Wooki

On March 30, Gangjeong villagers voted to oppose the plan for the Jeju Navy Base to host an international Fleet Review. The navy had said that if the villagers opposed it, they would revert to the original plan to host the event in Busan. However, when the village general meeting made its decision, the navy said that they were “just asking for an opinion,” and this amplified the conflict in the village.

On July 13th Jeju Today news reported that the Korean Navy had commissioned advertising services as part of their planning for hosting the international fleet review at the Jeju navy base and nearby area. According to the news report, the navy’s “Request for Service Proposal” includes the expectation that naval officers at the rank of Chief of Naval Operations would join from about 30 countries, along with about 20-30 warships. Among others the US, Japan, and many NATO member countries are

expected. Including Korean vessels, a minimum of about 100 warships and 40 aircraft will be mobilized. The five-day event period from October 10-14 and the associated trainings will afflict people in Gangjeong and all the surrounding Seogwipo area with massive sound pollution, ocean pollution and all sorts of problems related to the trash. It’s also likely to cause an acceleration in the push for the second airport (air force base). Moreover, it will solidify Jeju’s position internationally as a strategic base. Not only does the fleet review not match with the spirit of the April 27 Inter-Korean Summit meeting (denuclearization, peace, demilitarization, and reconciliation) but it makes one reflect whether militarism is anachronistic today.

Currently Minister of National Defense, Song Young-Moo was the Chief of Naval Operations who pushed in 2007 for the navy base to be built in Gangjeong. The Ministry of National Defense

makes a pretext of so called “conflict resolution” with the villagers to push for the Fleet Review in the Jeju Navy Base. But this is just another assault as well as violence against the villagers who have opposed the Jeju Navy Base from the beginning. The navy must respect the decision by the village general meeting and cancel the international Fleet Review.

By July 17, regardless of the ruling and opposition parties’ politics, signatures were gathered from every one of the Jeju Island Council members in opposition to holding the international fleet review in Jeju. The next day, there was a big press conference in Seoul against the fleet review. It was endorsed by many civic groups nationwide.

We earnestly request the support of international society. Please tell your government to reject the fleet review and not send warships to Jeju.

For latest update, see page 2 and savejejunow.org

Do we still need THAAD and Jeju navy base?

By Choi Sunghye

Following the historic Inter-Korean Summit meeting on April 27, US President Trump and DPRK Chairman Kim Jong Un had another historic summit meeting in Singapore on June 12. ‘President Trump committed to provide security guarantees to the DPRK, and Chairman Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.’ And a week later, Ulchi Freedom Guardian ROK-US war exercise (planned for August) was cancelled. The summit meetings brought up questions regarding the existence of US bases in Korea and Northeast Asia. According to Tim Shorrock, former US Defense Secretary William Perry said this March that if Trump “is able to solve the North Korea threat and danger, that would go a long way to removing the rationale for even having military forces in Okinawa.” Even Harry Harris, a former commander of Pacific Command who filled the post as US ambassador to South Korea last June, said that since THAAD is to counter the threat from North Korea, it is not reasonable any more to have the THAAD system in South Korea. The truth is the THAAD system is rather to counter China and Russia. Still, the recent peace mood shifts the grounds for the existence of bases in Northeast Asia. The Jeju navy base whose location is already too vulnerable even to save itself from typhoons loses the logic of why it is here in the Island of Peace. If we still need bases, though, the reason could be explained by the words of Harry Harris who said ‘China remains our biggest long-term challenge’ on May 30. Like Harris, President Moon emphasized ROK-US alliance in July. What is this alliance for? Missile Defense? Against whom?



All the warships vanished several days ahead of a typhoon’s landfall, leaving the Jeju naval base completely empty. The people stayed on the island during the storm. Can the battleships defend the country when they are the first ones to flee? image: Yang Sang

Visiting Oxford and Croughton AFB, UK

By Choi Sung-hee

Participants of the 26th annual Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space conference visited Croughton AFB on June 24.

image: Will Griffin



The 26th annual Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (GN) conference was held in Oxford, UK, June 22-24. On the 24th we visited the Croughton US Air force base for protest.

According to organizers, 'The US is now spending over £200m to transform the base into one of its largest intelligence hubs outside the US to become a new centre for counter terrorism operations in Africa.' And 'a secure fibre-optic link between Croughton and the US air base at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti helps to coordinate drone strikes over Yemen.'

It happens that currently there are more than 500 Yemeni refugees in Jeju. Aren't Jeju islanders responsible for the suffering of Yemen, also? Like Croughton AFB, The South Korean Jeju navy base is a part of the US missile defense system whose multi-layer network extends throughout the world. We are complicit as a part of the system. Otherwise, as Trump declared the creation of a Space Force on June 18th, GN decided to make 'No Space Force' to be a main theme for this year's Keep Space for Peace Week.

In the UK, I met great friends who have come to Gangjeong. Some of them were Angie Zelter, Dr. Rebecca Johnson, and Lindis Percy. I am grateful to Rebecca, Nigel, Margaret, and Lindis who guided me to Greenham Common and Aldermaston. I express my deep gratitude to Lindis and her friends who regularly carry out protests in front of Menwith Hill RAF. From Angie Zelter, I could hear about inspiring anti-nuclear activities against trident missiles. My deep thank to Dave Webb and Bruce Gagnon, the great organizers of GN, too.

For more information, visit space4peace.org.

Henoko Resistance Photo Exhibition

By Dongseok

From June 11 to July 11, "Henoko, Okinawa Military Base Resistance Photo Exhibition" was held at the Gangjeong art gallery. Because the US Marines Futenma Air Station in Ginowan City, Okinawa is dangerous and getting old, the Japanese government is pushing for the base to be moved to be next to the US Marines Camp Schwab in Henoko, Nago City, Okinawa. The resistance movement against this plan has been going on for over 20 years. This photo exhibition documents the resistance movement and the environmental destruction and accidents caused by the US military. The exhibit includes footage from many people including reporters and it aims to raise awareness about the situation in Henoko. It has also been shared with other groups in Korea and Taiwan. We got special permission from the creators of the collection to freely use the photos in Gangjeong, so we can continue to exhibit the photos in different places in Gangjeong and around Jeju. In conjunction with the exhibit, on July 5, three people who are active in the Henoko movement were invited to Gangjeong and we held an event titled "Common Question of Gangjeong and Henoko: 'Who Are We?'". The three guests shared about the recent situation in Henoko with people from Gangjeong and Jeju. Not only did the audience hear about Henoko, but there was also discussion with the guests about the Gangjeong and Henoko, our identity, the division between the internal and the external in these fields, etc.

About the same time, members of a theater group from Japan, Taiwan, and China called "Yasen no tsuki Haibizi" held a "workshop" with several people from Gangjeong from July 6 to 8.

(Special Update on the Article from page 1)

On July 18, Presidential House official Lee Yong-seon came to Jeju, asking the villagers' opinion on the fleet review for the second time in 2-3 days and offering a 'deal' that if the fleet review is held in Jeju, President Moon would deliver his words of regret and consolation for the villagers' inner-conflict and suffering caused by the Jeju navy base, and that there would be government-supported projects to 'recover' the community. His remark shows total ignorance of the Gangjeong villagers' general meeting on March 30 when they voted in opposition to the fleet review. The village has its own 'principle of not deliberating the same measure twice,' and conditions to hold a general meeting. Lee's visit followed within a week of visits by the vice-chief of naval operations and other Presidential House officials. Then on the 19th, the Island Council disappointingly postponed submission of their resolution draft which opposes the fleet review.

We denounce the Moon Jae-in government which tries to trash the villagers' March 30 general meeting vote against the fleet review. The Moon government is instigating conflicts among villagers rather than helping to 'recover' community. If he truly respects Gangjeong villagers and is to truly apologize for his complicity in building the Jeju navy base in 2007 (Moon was the Chief Presidential Secretary of ex-President Roh Moo-hyun whose government drove for the Jeju navy base in Gangjeong in 2007), he should not allow the fleet review in Jeju!

Yemen, We Welcome You

By Hosu



The Hope School co-created by friends from Jeju and Yemen. image: Hosu

Unexpectedly we've got 500 Yemeni friends here on Jeju Island. They fled unending war and chose to journey as refugees. Unfortunately, the local government was not prepared yet to be a good host for them. Of course, it must be the first such case in the whole country in the modern history of Korea. More than 500 Yemeni are dispersed at different places such as hotels, local residents' homes, living in tents at the beach and so on. Meanwhile, some local people spread bad rumors about Muslims and Yemeni people. Sadly, it went viral so fast. Then, what can we do as citizens of a Peace Island? Friends from Gangjeong Village started teaching Korean to one Yemeni family. It was a first step to meeting more Yemeni friends in various ways. We opened a one day kitchen sharing Yemeni food. The mother of the family, Najah cooked Yemeni food with her husband and daughters. About 30 local friends joined the lunch and got to know each other. Afterwards, we held a School of Hope where friends from Jeju and Yemen could get together and learn from each other. How can we meet each other just as a friend on an equal position? Yes, we need to help a friend when she/he needs it. But we should be aware that helping someone doesn't mean she/he is inferior to us. We are responsible for what's happening to our neighbors and the world. It is our responsibility that we share what we have with friends who desperately need it.

Jeju is designated as an Island of Peace. Gangjeong was awarded a peace prize by International Peace Bureau. Where is peace, then, in our island if we ignore and exclude friends from Yemen?

The 'Trial Deal' Exposed

By Go Gwon-il, ex-vice Mayor

According to the June 5 report by the Special Investigation Team, Office of Court Administration, in relation to suspicion of abuse of judiciary administrative authority, former chief justice of the Supreme Court (2011 to 2017) Yang Seung-Tae acted to promote the politics of the ruling administration, in court decisions related to the Jeju navy base, Miryang transmission towers, Sewol ferry etc. The court is supposed to be a bastion of human rights but it tore down the great principle of separation of powers by posing as a steward guarding the barn of the government.

On July 4, 2012, the Supreme Court made a decision by en banc (by all the appeals judges) that the approval and notification by the Ministry of National Defense (MND) on the Jeju navy base was legal. The case had been filed by Gangjeong villagers who claimed that the MND approval and notification was illegal and should be cancelled as it had not gone through even an environmental impact assessment. The Supreme Court decision scrapped the legislative purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, legalized the illegal construction of Jeju navy base, broke the momentum for the opposition to the construction (especially regarding the investigative report by five opposition parties), and paved the way to accuse a number of villagers and peace activists as criminals.

On June 8, the Gangjeong Association of Villagers against the Jeju Navy Base held a press conference in front of the Supreme Court, along with the Miryang committee against transmission towers, to denounce the judicial monopolization by Yang. On that day, the villagers announced plans to file for indictment against Yang; to apply for retrials on all the

cases in relation to Gangjeong; and to demand comprehensive truth investigation on the location selection process for the Jeju navy base. On July 17, the villagers filed indictment documents against Yang.



On June 8, Gangjeong villagers, along with people of Miryang, held a press conference in front of Supreme Court, Seoul, to denounce the abuse of judicial authority by Yang Seung-Tae, former Chief Justice of Supreme Court. Shocked by the news, many village elders expressed their chagrines.

image: People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

20 Year Struggle Against Gunsan US Base By Ddalgi

On June 2, an event commemorated 20 years of struggle against the Kunsan US air base located in Gunsan, on the west coast of the Korean peninsula. During the period of Japanese occupation of Korea, the Japanese military built the base and it was converted as a US air base since the period of US Army Military Government. In 1998, the United States Forces in Korea demanded an increase in the usage fee to Korean civilian airplanes which were using the US base runways. In resistance, the Civilian Meeting to Recover Our Land from the Kunsan US Base was made. Following that, various civic groups maintained constant resistance to the military base- with activities such as monitoring the base and preventing base expansion. The June 2 event was held in a village called Haje which is disappearing in order for the US military to secure a safety area surrounding the ammunition storage within the base. Haje used to be prosperous with tidal mudflats and fishing in the past but they lost their route to sea because of the Saemageum tidal mudflat-reclamation, as well as US base expansion.

Likely, the few remaining villagers will leave soon and Haje will be incorporated into the US base. In Gangjeong, Gureombi was covered for the building of the navy base. In Gunsan, many villages are disappearing into the history of base! However, we learn through the 20 years of the Gunsan struggle that they could remain as living and breathing history as long as we remember them and make solidarity together.

US Forces Korea Open New Headquarters in Pyeongtaek By Joyakgol

Pyeongtaek is located in a strategic point in South Korea in terms of military operations, safe from direct artillery fire by North Korea, adjacent to the West Sea that faces China, and nearby Osan Air Base. That explains why the USFK has built the biggest overseas US military base there, forcibly evicting the villagers who lived there. The farmers and residents courageously fought against the expansion of Camp Humphreys in order to keep their homes and the vast rice fields. The fierce resistance for the peaceful livelihood of the people began in full gear in 2004 when the South Korean government started a process of land appropriation.

The Bush administration wanted to deploy its troops stationed in Korea to Afghanistan and Iraq so it started consolidating small military bases scattered around the peninsula into mega bases in the name of strategic flexibility. Initially, the Korean government said to its people that Yongsan base in the capital city of Seoul would return to Korea so it was a good thing, but it didn't care about the rural Pyeongtaek residents whose beloved farmland was to transform to a gigantic war base encompassing 3,500 acres.

Eventually the people were forcibly kicked out in 2007 by tens of thousands of riot police because the US needed the base expansion done by 2012. On June 29 residents gathered outside the base in Pyeongtaek to protest the move of the USFK headquarters. We still clearly remember that the new USFK headquarters was built on the blood and tears of resilient rice farmers.

Won Re-elected Jeju Governor By Joyakgol

The June 13 local elections ended with a sweeping landslide victory for the ruling Democratic Party. The biggest opposition bloc was the ultra conservative right wing party that has a long history of supporting military dictatorship during the 60s and 70s up to the lately ousted ex-president Park, but its political life was finally finished with a shocking nationwide defeat. Many people regarded this as a win for the normal people and said it was time to wipe out accumulated social evils. But was it really?

In the Jeju governor race, incumbent Won Hee-ryong was reelected for the second term. While this year's local elections were largely overshadowed by the two historical summits and Moon Jae-in's peace drive, the main issue the Jeju constituency wanted the candidates to debate about turned out to be the second airport project. The question of why Jeju needs another large airport relates to the problems of over-tourism, over-development and militarization. The only female candidate, Go Eun-young from the Green Party opposed to the project saying it will become a disaster to the unique and pristine natural surroundings, only to be used as an Air Force base, hence accelerating militarization of Jeju.

What will be the future for us now that the re-elected governor Won is going to push forward this mega development project with the estimated cost of \$4 billion to \$6 billion? By the way, Won did not even make any promises to solve Jeju naval base problems during the election campaign. Gangjeong villagers officially demanded a formal apology from the government and fact-finding efforts. Villagers are still furious because Won turned deaf ears to them.

Green Party Campaign at Local Election



Jeju Green Party members oppose the 2nd Jeju airport project on the local election campaign trail.

image: Joyakgol

Re-opening of Peace Center



The Peace Center has been renovated and there are archives of the anti-base movement, a cafe, a second-hand shop, books, music and other materials related to Gangjeong, and a small gallery. The opening ceremony on July 15 included speeches from a variety of villagers, activists, and friends. The Gangjeong Choir sang, and Father Moon played the accordion. So many people joined that they all overflowed out the doors onto the sidewalks surrounding the building.

Image: Yang Sang

Daily Protest of Planned Fleet Review



Gangjeong villagers and activists have been gathering at the entrance of the navy base daily from the 100 bows at 7 am until evening to protest the Fleet Review. Security guards tear down our flyers but we put up more flyers each morning in new and creative ways. The yellow signs read "Peace-Undermining Mobile Fleet" "Gangjeong Destruction Squadron" and "Ocean Pollution Squadron." Image: Hosu

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

- Created by the Gangjeong International Team (gjengnews@gmail.com) with thanks to Everyday Practice.
- Published by the Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base, 596 leodo-ro, Gangjeong-dong, the Life and Peace village, Seogwipo-si, Jeju, the Peace Island, Korea 63563
- Special thanks to Gangjeong Friends for financial support.

Friendship Recital

On the evening of June 22nd, the 12th Gangjeong Poetry Night was held at the Peace Coop fruit packaging warehouse in Gangjeong. The theme was "Friends." Beat in Korean can refer to friends and to cherry blossoms, and Haku decorated the warehouse with many flowers. Many friends from around Jeju joined and brought snacks to share. Friendship is a powerful force that sustains what we do, and enables us to keep going. Participants who shared their stories, songs, and dance said they appreciated the chance to reflect on the power of friendship in their lives. The duet "Di & Su" performed "Come What May" as a love song to Gangjeong. Father Lee Dong Cheol usually sings the same song every time he brings groups of Catholic retreatants to the human chain, but this time he shared about a long-time friend from his order. Kimi came back to Gangjeong and shared about her childhood friends. Compared to other Poetry Nights, there was less poetry and more personal sharing. It was a good opportunity for reflection about the people who are important to us.

2018 Jeju Peace Tour Participants



The 2018 Jeju Peace Tour participants visited Gangjeong village on June 25 and joined the daily human chain for peace.

Image: Yang Sang

Stop RIMPAC

Gangjeong stands in solidarity with Hawaii to oppose the 2018 RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific biannual international naval war games hosted by the United States in and around Hawaii). This year three Korean warships are involved in these massive war games which are destroying the environment and promoting war from June 27 to Aug. 2.

image: Curry



Hot Pink Dolphins Center in Construction



Hot Pink Dolphins found a run down place near the Jeju dolphins habitat in Daejeong-eup and commenced a revamping construction to build Jeju Dolphin Center.

Image: Yang Sang

