

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

Bimonthly news on the struggle against the Jeju Naval base

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2019 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace took place from July 29 to August 3 / Photos by Joyakgol, Song Dong-hyo and Oum Mun-hee

2019 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace

By Seth Martin

This year at the 2019 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace, someone shared that with the naval base, and now the 2nd airport / air force base project, as well as the massive port expansion project in Jeju City, "Jeju is being attacked by sky, land and sea." The stakes are very high. But there was also a great joy, a youthful, hopeful spirit and feeling of solidarity with people fighting in many different struggles together--on Jeju, on the mainland, and globally.

As we marched, and especially during the break-times and evening gatherings, there were conversations, laughter, and stories being shared everywhere you looked--between old friends and new, elders and youth, folks resting beside their colorful flags representing different but interconnected groups and struggles. Their stories and ideas cross-pollinated and gave the walkers mutual encouragement and strength.

International participants from Hong Kong, Okinawa and mainland Japan, Ireland, and the US shared about our related struggles and each of us will share the spirit of this Jeju march wherever we go!

The Gangjeong struggle and the peace march have both grown into larger, multi-layered, increasingly deep and wide symbols and sources of inspiration for an island-wide Jeju movement for life and peace. Our memory of what really happened in Gangjeong--what many of us saw and experienced personally--cuts through the false narratives of peace, happiness, prosperity, and progress pushed by those profiting from the base. As we walk, stand, call out and bear witness to the lies and silence used to justify the base in Gangjeong, the 2nd airport / air force base project, and the destruction of the Bijarim-ro forest, we also honor the lives crushed by oppressive forces during the Jeju 4.3 uprising and massacre. Our sharing and remembering together gives us tremendous power and endurance. And with the light of shared memory and experience, the younger generation can have confidence that their lives do make a difference. They can disperse darkness with the torches of truth passed on to them during the march.

Jeju announced a massive new port plan

By Joyakgol

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and Jeju Provincial Government announced a new Jeju port project to boost cruise tourism. A budget of 2.8 trillion won (\$2.3 billion USD) to build an 820,000 m² cruise-oriented harbor complex was approved by the Cabinet in mid August. According to the government's 'sugar-coated' development plan, it is expected to become the largest cruise port in Northeast Asia, enabling four big-scale cruise ships to dock simultaneously.

But let's not forget what the government said when building the Jeju naval base, also known as the civilian-military tourism port, in Gangjeong. It said that Jeju needed a massive port where two 150,000-ton cruise ships could be anchored in order to attract tourists. Did the so-called cruise terminal bring cruise ships and tourists to Seogwipo since opening in 2016? Not really. Most of the time, the facility is empty. Even the battleships evacuate when the waves are getting high. Do we really need another gigantic cruise terminal in Jeju City? Not at all.

To make matters worse, the proposed new Jeju port is going to reclaim a 1,280,000 m² ocean area off the coast of Jeju City. The maritime construction turning the sea into an unnecessary port not only destroys the marine ecosystem but is a total environmental disaster, much less a waste of tax-payer money. We need to remember that the entire Jeju island was designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

For the right to self-determination

By Choi Sung-hee

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) announced the final report meeting on the basic plan of the 2nd Jeju Airport in Jeju City on June 19th just one day before the event. During years' of struggle, Jeju islanders have realized that MOLIT and the island government are merely objectifying Jeju without considering the island's limited environmental capacity. It led the island citizens to call for a sustainable and just Jeju where the islanders are decision-makers.

MOLIT's final report meeting on June 19th was dispersed due to people's furious protest. However, MOLIT carried out the meeting in a deceptive way regardless of many Islanders' opposition to it. People in the sit-in tent town across the from the island government denounced the meeting by holding a fake funeral for MOLIT.

One noticeable point from MOLIT's final report is that the 2nd airport, which was originally conceived to accommodate more international lines was redefined to take charge of only 50% of domestic lines, which strengthened people's suspicion that the 2nd airport is actually for an air force base.

Despite islanders' opposition, MOLIT plans to make a public notification of the basic plan this October. MOLIT and the island government are refusing people's demand to hold gatherings to hear public opinions. Another issue being raised is whether to recall the island governor Won Hee-Ryong.

On July 11th, MOLIT attempted to have an information session on the Environmental Impact Assessment but it faced people's protest, too. When there was a public hearing on it on Aug. 22nd, activists pointed out that they could independently find many caves and 69 soomgols (the passages through which rain enters to underground water in Jeju), whereas the EIA mentioned only 8 soomgols. It means the 2nd airport would cause serious flood damage and exhaustion of the underground water supply. It turned out that the government EIA is unreliable and merely a formality to justify the project.



Residents in Seongsan actively join protests against the 2nd Jeju Airport (air force base). Photos by Oh Young-chul.



Open air concerts with the theme of "Jeju, Beautiful As It Is" were hosted at seaside cafes in Seongsan on July 14 and August 18 by the Seongnan Oreum Tour team (which guides visitors to the volcanic cones which are threatened by the second airport project) and the Tent Village people (who protest the second airport project outside the Jeju provincial government building). Attendees enjoyed the beautiful scenery, songs, poems, and shared picnic foods. Photos by Kim Soo-Oh

EIA, an absolution for environmental destruction: An overall update on the Bijarim-ro

By Kim Soon-ae, People Doing All Things to Save the Bijarim-ro

When about 1,000 trees in the Bijarim-ro forest were cut in August 2018, many Jeju islanders and citizens around Korea were outraged. However, the Jeju Island government, which is directly involved in the project, said there is no problem with the process as it had gone through all the necessary steps including an environmental impact assessment (EIA). For the companies who make the EIAs for various development projects conducted by the Island government, it is difficult to make an EIA report which may obstruct the projects of the Island, as it is the most influential customer in Jeju. The EIA for the Bijarim-ro made merely a formal or cut-down field investigation and it concluded that 'environmental impact is insignificant as there appeared to be no protected species in the Bijarim-ro section.' However, citizens who monitored the field successively discovered government-protected species and confirmed seven endangered species and five natural monuments. The Ministry of the Environment recently demanded that the Island government pause the construction, make a precise assessment, and establish protection measures. It was not possible without citizens' active efforts. However, more than 65% of the felling of trees has already been done, posing enormous threats to the habitats of endangered species. Also, no government bodies have taken responsibility for the faulty EIA. As seen in the Bijarim-ro EIA, the current EIA system only provides procedural justification for the developers and officials through unreliable assessment and formal negotiation. Regarding the environment, it is merely providing absolution to the project. (Editor's note: The Bijarim-ro road is a connection road for traffic to the planned 2nd Jeju Airport in Seongsan, east Jeju. The road expansion construction is destroying the cedar forest next to it. Experts including ornithologist Nial Moores expressed their sorrow, and a well-known biologist said he wants to campaign to define the forest as a biosphere reserve, not to mention halting the construction).



Pickets held by people at the venue of the 2019 Sustainable Development Jeju International Conference hosted by the Island for the first time in Jeju City on June 18, 2019. Photo by Kim Mi-kyung

A history of the drive for a Jeju Air Force Base

1987 'Jeju air force base' is referenced in the 'mid and long-term military strength build-up plan.' 'The military restriction zone council' defines a military restriction zone at Songak Mountain in southwestern Jeju (site of the former Japanese imperial era Alddreu Airfield, it was later used by the US Air Force, then turned over to the Korean military).

1989 Jeju residents' mass movement is successful and the Songak Mt. air force base project is cancelled by the Roh Tae-woo government

1992 The Ministry of National Defense (MND) and Ministry of Construction and Transportation (now called Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, MOLIT) agree to the construction of a new civilian-military joint use airport in Jeju

1997 The plan for an air force base (flying squadron class) in Jeju is reflected in the national defense mid-term plan (1999-2003) and since then, is postponed to later mid-term plans every year

2004 A discussion on civilian-military joint use at Korean Air's Jeongseok air field in Jeju but Korean Air disagreed with the idea

2006 The name of the project was altered from 'Jeju air force base' to the 'Southern Search and Rescue unit'

2009 A Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the construction of the Jeju navy base was concluded between the Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Land and Maritime Affairs (now called MOLIT) and Jeju Island. The memorandum included the promise to handover Alddreu Airfield to the Jeju Island government. It meant a hidden exchange for future military use of a different site in Jeju.

2015 The area of Onpyeong-ri and surrounding villages in Seongsan-eup in eastern Jeju Island was announced as the area for the 2nd Jeju airport (And people think it would be an air force base)

2017 Budgeting for the Jeju Southern Search and Rescue unit project is included in the National Defense mid-term plan (2018-2022)

(Source: Jeju Sori, Kim Kyung-bae)

2019 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace

By Curry

Every summer, starting on the last Monday in July, the Grand March brings people together to support the peace movement in Jeju. It is always a hot and tiring experience, especially for the staff who have to manage many complex logistics, whether on the organizing team, the safety team, the support team, the media team, or the cooking and dishes teams. Some wonder if we can pull it off another year, but time passes and the memory of the heat and stress fades. Memories of friendships and enthusiastic dancing, sharing ice cream and wading in the ocean, the empowerment of knowing that our stories are being heard and that none of us is alone, these last long beyond the end of the march. Each year the March changes with new lessons learned and new people getting involved. For example, this year the cooking and dishes happened in Seongsan rather than in Gangjeong, and greater emphasis was given to the struggle against the Jeju 2nd Airport / Air Force Base. The Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace is an invaluable experiment in building a more peaceful, non-violent society through the power of networking, listening, and cooperation by diverse participants.

Hay

At first it seemed it was not a good time for us to join the Grand March because we should stay in Hong Kong to fight.

After almost 2 months of struggles against the China extradition law, people living in Hong Kong have marched a lot. After our 2 million-people protest only got tear gas and people shot in the head by the government, without even a formal withdraw or apology for what they did, we doubt if a peaceful march is still a way for our struggle.

But when we walked with people who seek peace and love from all over the world on Jeju Island, we found marching still gives us power. People come to the street, walking towards the same goal, taking care of each other and fighting to protect ourselves from the power. We learn the way to live without someone ruling over us. We learn the way how to treat others as ourselves. It seems a long way to walk but everyone keeps their eyes not just on themselves but also to see if someone else needs help. Although sometimes we had difficulties to understand each other, the warm hands which offered help always broke the barrier. We all brought our own concerns to the march but the problems became something everyone could share and help. Marching may not be very effective if we hope to change the super power. But it is an effective way to connect people who are willing to struggle and fight against oppression.

We were also happy to have an informal sharing with Gangjeong people. It may not have been a very informative one, but we gained loads of support and energy through exchanging our experiences. We may not know how hard the situation will be, but we know we are not alone.

Kamoshita

This year we organized the East Asia Peace Walk. Starting on June 10, we walked in Okinawa, then Taiwan, Miyakojima, Ishigaki, Yonaguni, Jeju, Hiroshima, and ended in Nagasaki on Aug. 9. We decided to walk the islands of East Asia, because the Japanese government is constructing new missile bases on the islands surrounding Okinawa.

I wanted the walkers to be peace messengers, in contrast with our government.

The walk aims to neutralize people's mindset of militarization, and also to learn from people how we can live in harmony with nature and the environment. We ask ourselves, 'do we need more economic growth or what?' Basically, we only need food, clothes, houses and a healthy environment.

As a Japanese, it is so important to walk in Korea and Taiwan, because in public schools we don't learn the history of being assailants in war in East Asia. We learn how we are victims of war, like about the atomic bombs in Hiroshima, Nagasaki. We Japanese must know what we have done to Asian people, and because of the lack of historical understandings, we can't understand Korean or Chinese people.

Every year at the Jeju Grand March there are hundreds of people from all over South Korea, but I rarely communicate with them, due to the language problem. I decided to learn Korean language for more communication. The style of the march is impressive. Hundreds of people eat together, sleep together & walk together. The walk opens the eyes of Japanese people and helps them to find the meaning of life. Especially the young people who live a comfortable life. Let's get more Japanese young people next year. Thank you.

The 2019 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace was held on the hottest days this summer. It was a really short summer this year in Jeju Island, though. It also might have been hot because of the heat of the asphalt. I participated in this Grand March as a member of the safety team.

According to what people say, there was no woman in the safety team until 2 years ago. There were a few women members for the first time last year. It is misogyny to say that women can not protect other people, they can only be protected. The barriers of discrimination eventually started breaking down. This year, half of the safety team members were women. In addition, an all-women safety team was temporarily organized and for one section of the march. It was a symbolic event that women can be in charge of safety, and I think it is not necessary to prove anymore.

We already know that the half of the safety team members were women this year. The change has already started and it never goes back. People of all different ages and genders took part in the movement in solidarity. I don't think any characteristics of an individual should be discriminated against. As equal human beings we walked the road together, and wished together. I hope that the Grand March will continue to be a place where all can bring their individuality and build solidarity. I expect the Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace to keep taking steps for peace.



Drawing by Nan Young Lee of Kim Kyung Bae's march back to Gangjeong around the west side of Jeju Island after the end of the Grand March

With no regard for the heat advisory, the 8th Annual Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace left from Gangjeong, passed through Seongsan on the east side of Jeju, and continued to Jeju City Hall. The hot 6-day program brought together many people who don't want the suffering of Gangjeong to be extended to Seongsan. As someone who has done all that I can during the last 4 years to stop the 2nd airport, including 2 hunger strikes for a total of ~80 days, I felt very thankful and touched each day by the people who came from all over Korea and around the world to walk on this hot road together and raise our voices together in opposition to the 2nd airport.

Sorry that our earnest shouting suddenly ended on the last day, I kept walking from Jeju City Hall around the west side of Jeju to complete a full circle back to Gangjeong, my heart wishing that the remaining beautiful sights of Jeju will not disappear or be destroyed any more.

After the plans to construct a 562 ha air force base at Songaksan were cancelled in 1989, an agreement was made in 1992 for a civilian military joint use airport and the air force has ceaselessly pursued the project as a long-cherished desire. Thus, if the Seongsan 2nd Airport construction plan is carried out, Jeju will be degraded into a military base island, a tool of the US to restrain China, and it will be an eternal task for our descendants to get free from this predicament. I earnestly wish that more and more people who love Jeju and who love peace will join together to stop the unjust violence of the state and protect the nature of Jeju, a treasure island of all Koreans.



International participants visit Bijarimro/ Photo by Kim Sun

2019 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace



(Left) Departing from Gangjeong village
Photo by Oh Young Chul



Visitors from Hawaii briefly joined the march and demonstrated the hand symbol presenting Mauna Kea / Photo by a march participant



Students dancing in front of the Jeju Naval Base / Photo by Jung Jae Ho



Photo by Park Seok Jin



Photo by Jung Jae Ho



Former Gangjeong Mayor Kang Dong-gyun continues to carry the lead flag at the front of the Grand March each year / Photo by Oh Young Chul



Resting by the ocean of Shinsan-ri, Seongsan / Photo by Choi Young



Father Mun and Oh Doo Hee / Photo by Han Jin-oh



Food preparation team making rice and doing dishes/ Photo by Lee Tae-ho



Participants during lunch / Photo by Oum Mun-hee



March finale festival at Jeju City Hall / Photo by Licky Rooney

SAILING TO KINMEN
PEACE FOR THE SEA INTERNATIONAL CAMP

War Memory and Life Experiences:
 Between the Peace We know

2019 Peace camp will be held under the theme of "war memory" from September 6 to 8 in Kinmen, an island that is set in the front line of war. We sincerely invite everyone and group to join our camp and start a trip of thinking peace and war.

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Check for updates from 2019 Peace for the Sea Camp on the Facebook group
 "Inter-island Solidarity for Peace."



The struggle against nuclear weapons

By Curry

Of the 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 70,000 people in Nagasaki who were killed by the atomic bombings on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, it is a less known fact that about 70,000 victims were Korean. 23,000 survivors returned back to Korea and 2,300 of them still survive. Remembrance events and anti-nuclear demonstrations were held in Jeju and across the world. July 7 marked 2 years since the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted by the UN. With ratification by 26 countries, the treaty is halfway to entering into force.

Kings Bay Plowshares Update

By Curry

On August 7 the Federal District Court in Brunswick, GA, USA overflowed with supporters of the Kings Bay Plowshares 7, including actor Martin Sheen and Kathy Kelly, who organized a ‘fast for peace in defense of life and against nuclear weapons’ from August 6 to 9. The defendants argued that according to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the charges against them should be dismissed for their plowshares action at the Kings Bay nuclear submarine base on April 4, 2018. The judge denied their motions, saying that the government had made the least restrictive charges against them. They are each facing 25 years imprisonment. 3 of the 7 have been in jail for 16 months, and the other 4 are being monitored with ankle bracelets. Their trial is scheduled to begin on October 21. Please sign the global petition to dismiss all charges against the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 at kingsbayplowshares7.org



On August 5, a flash mob blocked the entrance to the nuclear submarine base in Bangor, Washington, USA, where 8 Trident SSBN submarines each carry the force of 1,300 Hiroshima bombs. Photo by Leonard Eiger.



This green and white flag was given by a Japanese women's association; it reads 'No more Hiroshima, no more Nagasaki.' Photo at Jeju City Hall by a Jeju citizen.

For Women’s Rights and Peace

By Choi Sung-hee

On July 27, 15 people from a group called Women’s Rights and Peace of Bay Area, California, US, visited Gangjeong. Many of the group are youths who work on the issue of the ‘comfort women,’ the forced sexual slaves for the Japanese military during WWII. The group joined a related international forum in Changwon and the weekly rally in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul before their visit to Jeju. On Dec. 28, 2015, the so-called Reconciliation and Healing Foundation had been created by collusion of the governments of South Korea and Japan to gloss over the 'Comfort Women' issue, excluding the true voice of the victims, but this July it was finally dismantled. Aug. 14 was the annual remembrance day for Kim Hak-soon, a former 'comfort woman' who made the

first public testimony in 1991, inspiring many women in the world with her courage.



Women’s Rights and Peace of Bay Area, California, USA, visited Gangjeong on July 27th. Photo by Kim Min-hee.

Mauna Kea Is Still Sacred, State of Hawaii Failure at PTA

By Pua'ena Ahn

After four years of Contested Case hearings, lawsuits, appeals and supreme court decisions, kia'i (protectors) of Mauna Kea returned to the mountain to prevent construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) and the desecration of its sacred summit. Located near the center of Hawai'i Island, Mauna Kea is the tallest mountain in the world when measured from the sea floor, and is sacred to Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians). The TMT would be the fourteenth telescope on the already crowded summit of Mauna Kea.

A pu'uhonua (place of refuge) was declared at Puūu Huluhulu, a volcanic cone directly across the highway from the Mauna Kea Access Road, and a protest camp emerged. On July 14, eight kia'i chained themselves to a grate on the road. On July 17th, 38 kūpuna (elders) were arrested for blocking the road and received citations. A daylong standoff ensued with as many as 2000 kia'i and 200 police from across Hawai i. Police were ordered to stand down, but the governor declared a "State of Emergency" for the next two weeks, and the police have started an aggressive campaign of traffic citations.

Groups of Sāmoans, Fijians, Tongans, Micronesians, Filipinos and Koreans have visited Pu'uhonua O Pu'uhuluhulu to pay their respects to the kūpuna and voice their support for the Mauna Kea Protectors. At the time of this writing, no construction has begun on Mauna Kea. Meanwhile, on August 23 the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources failed to care for the land at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA), as required in its lease to the US Army. Located just beside Mauna Kea, PTA is used for live-fire training and large amounts of expended munitions including Unexploded Ordnance and Depleted Uranium are known to be present.



At the daily noontime human chain (on Aug. 31, above) and at gatherings such as the Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base (on July 21, below), Jeju people expressed their solidarity with the Mauna Kea protectors in Hawaii. Photos by Pang Eun-mi (above) and Go Hee-jun (below).

Solidarity of Maine and Gangjeong

By Curry

On June 22, another Aegis guided missile destroyer, the USS Daniel Inouye, was christened at Bath Iron Works (BIW) in Maine, USA. About 50 people gathered to protest and to call for conversion of BIW away from the military industry and instead to focus on the climate crisis. 2016 Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein called for 'the global community to put down our weapons and fight the war against climate change.' 22 people were arrested for blocking traffic at the entrances for the ceremony. 3 of them, Mary Beth Sullivan, Natasha Mayers and Bruce Gagnon, had also been arrested together in Gangjeong in 2012 when they crawled under the barbed wire to Gureombi Rock. 13 of the arrested paid bail and were later given traffic citations. The other 9 refused to pay bail and were put in jail for the weekend. They were released on June 24 but are still awaiting a hearing in September.



9 of the 22 people arrested for civil disobedience at the christening of the USS Daniel Inouye in Bath, Maine chose jail time rather than pay bail. After 2 nights they were released and met by friends with 'food, drink, and loving hugs.' Photo by Lisa Savage.



Solidarity from Gangjeong for friends in Maine, who inspired us to call for the conversion of the Jeju Navy Base. (Several tangerine orchards were destroyed to build the navy base, so how about converting the base to grow navel oranges?) Photo by Pang Eun-mi.

Peacebuilding training in Nanjing

By Curry

Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute (NARPI) meets for two weeks every summer in rotating locations, and this year it was held at Nanjing University. In 2014, NARPI was also held in Nanjing and after attending, Emily worked hard to raise awareness about the connection between Jeju and the Nanjing Massacre. In 1937, Alddreu Airfield on Jeju was used to fuel and arm the Japanese warplanes which bombed Nanjing before the Japanese army massacred an estimated 300,000 people. This year at NARPI, I shared about the memorial service held at Alddreu Airfield on Dec. 13 each year since 2014 to remember how Jeju was used for such a massacre in the past and to work together to prevent Jeju from being used to support future wars. Participants from across Northeast Asia divided into small groups to learn the stories of people connected to Alddreu Airfield: a Nanjing survivor, a local person who opposed the reopening of the airfield, a family member of a victim of the massacre at Seotal Oreum (beside Alddreu) in 1950, and a Japanese researcher inspired to also hold a Nanjing massacre memorial. The NARPI participants explored their connections through role play, and shared reflections. One group made a slogan “no war new era.” Another group learned more details about the Jeju 4.3 massacre from elder Koreans. A Japanese student shared how important it is to travel and learn this history. Chinese students shared that it is not enough to be concerned for one’s own peace, that governments cannot represent all the people.

NARPI participants visited the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Museum, listened to the testimonies of survivors and participated at a ceremony to remember the victims. We also visited the new Comfort Women Museum which has a very complete, multilingual exhibition, and a new private Anti-War Museum. During one morning lecture, a professor shared that missile defense (MD) radar is seen as the main threat by the US to China. NARPI was a chance to not only feel the real tensions surrounding past and present conflicts, but also to build bridges for cooperation and understanding.



At the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall, NARPI participants listened to the testimonies of survivors and participated at a ceremony to remember the victims. Photo by NARPI.

2019 International Peace Camp in Jeju

By Paula and Debora



2019 International Peace Camp in Jeju participants visited the sea in Gangjeong and enjoyed the view on the ocean. This was the water group which spent time together, in or at the water. We also went to a bowling hall and had a great time together. Photo by a camp participant.

From Friday, August 9 to Wednesday, August 14 a peace camp was held in Gangjeong Village. 38 people came to this camp to learn more about the peacebuilding in Gangjeong but also to listen to the history of Jeju Island and its people. The Frontiers, Korean Peace Foundation, YMCA and MAP (Migration to Asia Peace) put a nice program together, in which the participants were able to learn more about peace, the history of Jeju and also other cultures. We had different kinds of activities over 6 days, including “human books”: some of the camp members shared their stories and experiences as refugees and answered questions. In the morning we had free discussion time about why we’re here and we also had lectures in which we learnt more about peace and nonviolent resistance. There was also time for exploring and enjoying the nature of Jeju. We spent time at the Gangjeong Stream to escape the hot weather, and also visiting the Bijarim Road Forest and Alddreu Airfield. After an amazing festival at the end the camp, we shared with each other our experiences, thoughts and what we had learned during this time.

Navy aims to designate military protection zone

By Choi Sung-hee

According to the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) regarding the construction of the Jeju Navy Base, which was jointly made by the ROK Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, and Jeju Island on April 27th, 2009, the base should be built “for two maximum-150,000 ton cruises to come alongside the pier at the same time.” The base, completed in 2016, uses a joint water area with the Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Beautiful Tourism Port.

Article 8 of the MOU states that the navy “does not designate a military base and installation protection zone outside the border of the civilian military complex port on the land and from the military port breakwater on the sea,” and “does not constrict residents’ rights to live and to property, such as passing by, height, fishing, and architecture.”

However, the navy has never given up its attempts to designate a military protection zone on the whole area of the civilian-military port. Recently, through statements on July 19 and 25, the Gangjeong villagers’ anti-base committee strongly denounced the navy’s aims to designate a military protection zone on the whole port of 440,000 m² and further, on a water area of 730,000 m² outside the port.”

When the MOU was made without reflection on residents’ anti-base opinions in 2007, Gangjeong villagers and Jeju islanders fiercely protested it. The navy wants to violate even that MOU.

Now, even the pro-base villagers publicly express their discontent with the navy who behaves like an occupation force. Further, the base was built at the ‘gate’ where typhoons first hit Jeju. It is nothing new that the base is an object of derision as warships escape the port even before a small typhoon. Closure is an answer.

Apology is not enough

By Choi Sung-hee

Through its May 29 report on the results of investigation into the so-called ‘Jeju Gangjeong naval base construction incident,’ the Korea National Police Agency Truth Examination Committee on Human Rights Infringement (hereafter, ‘Committee’) demanded the national government and Jeju Island’s official apology to the people and prompt truth investigation into administrative wrongdoings and human rights infringement. On June 20th, the Jeju Island Council adopted a resolution urging the related government bodies to follow the committee’s demands. Island governor Won Hee-ryong made an official apology on July 1st, but he did not mention the truth investigation demanded by the Island Council and Gangjeong villagers. Besides Gangjeong, the Committee also investigated human rights infringement in other cases such as Miryang, Ssangyong automobile corp., etc. On July 26th, the final day of the Committee, the National Police Agency chief acknowledged the police’s human rights infringements and made an official apology to the victims. Apology is good. But it is only meaningful when it is accompanied with efforts for a radical solution. The base should be closed.

Irregular workers struggle

By Choi Sung-hee

In South Korea where neoliberalism is deepening, the oppressive system forces workers to be irregular workers. Jeju is not exceptional. When around 90,000 irregular workers from 6,000 schools nationwide entered a strike from July 3 to 5, about 1,400 irregular workers from 150 schools in Jeju joined it. These workers, most of them women in their forties to fifties, were willing to shave their heads in protest. They demand the realization of a fair wage system and a change to regular status. It is reported that about 94% of school meal service workers suffer from musculoskeletal system illness. As of the end of August, workers are planning to carry out another strike. People around Jeju, including Gangjeong, are in solidarity with the irregular workers. Across from the island government hall, the workers’ sit-in tent to demand direct employment and regular status has sat next to the anti-2nd Jeju airport tent town for more than 150 days so far.

Join the Petition “No Weapons to Nazi Regime in Ukraine” (Roots Action)

Keep Space for Peace Week, Oct. 5-12, 2019, space4peace.org

Stop ADEX *international arms expo*, Oct. 14-20, 2019, Seoul

Japan resumed commercial whaling amid 'No Abe' and Tokyo 2020 Olympics boycott campaigns

By Joyakgol



Hot Pink Dolphins staged protests in front of the Japanese consulate in Jeju to criticize whaling and the radioactive Tokyo Olympics. Photo by Joyakgol

Japan resumed commercial whaling on July 1 after a 31-year hiatus. So far Japanese whalers hunted 12 minke whales and 67 Bryde's whales. Their goal is to catch 227 whales until the end of this year. It is particularly problematic for the East Asian countries such as Korea, Taiwan, China and Russia because the targeted whale distribution expands throughout the region. The whales migrate from the East China Sea through Korean waters to the North Pacific. Japan says the fishermen only kill whales in their territorial waters and its exclusive economic zone but the international borders mean nothing to the whales that swim freely across the ocean. Annual whale meat consumption in Japan dramatically decreased from 232,000 tons in 1962 to 3,000 tons today, a 98% drop. Simply put, people in Japan don't consume whale meat anymore when there are abundant other foods to eat. Then, why does Japan stick to

the terrible practice? It's motivated by Prime Minister Abe and his conservative Liberal Democratic Party's political greed. Whaling towns are LDP's major constituency.

The right-wing leaning Japanese ruling government is using the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games to get political gains by supplying food from radiation-infested Fukushima and its vicinities. Abe wants to send messages to the world that recovery from the 2011 nuclear disaster is complete, but it is far from safe. International boycott campaigns against the radioactive Olympics are going on. Also, in South Korea, 'No Abe' demonstrations are taking place to protest against Abe's imperialistic ambitions.

Memorial for Hyosun and Miseon

On June 13 this year, a new memorial was erected in Yangju, Korea, at the site where teenage Shin Hyosun and Shim Miseon were hit and killed by a US tank as they walked along the side of the road to a friend's party on June 13, 2002. The tragic loss of life and the continued injustices and threats posed by US military forces were remembered across Korea, including at the human chain in Gangjeong.

US Congress makes two important decisions

By Choi Sung-hee

On July 11th, the United States House of Representatives introduced some important decisions as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. According to Women Cross DMZ, led by Christine Ahn, the passage of Amendment 217 "led by Representatives Khanna and Sherman, recognizes that diplomacy is essential for navigating a realistic path forward on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and that a formal end to the Korean War plays a critical role toward that goal," and "The historic vote represents the first time that Congress has taken a stand on the need to end the nearly 70-year-old Korean War."

Otherwise, US Congress also passed Amendment 223 led by Representative Ilhan Omar with a vote of 219 to 210. According to David Swanson of World BEYOND War, it requires "that the U.S. military provide Congress with the cost and the supposed national security benefits of every foreign military base or foreign military operation." Currently there are over 800 US overseas bases in the world. Swanson writes that "these bases are the central feature of U.S. foreign policy which is one of coercion and threat of military aggression." He predicts that "closing of foreign bases would represent an easing of tensions for everyone."

Military mid-term plan reflects arms race

According to the '2020~2024 defense mid-term plan' which the South Korean Ministry of National Defense announced on Aug. 14th, around 290.5 trillion won (around \$240 billion USD) is designated for military spending for the coming five years. It means the annual military cost is likely to be increased by 7.1 % every year.

The mid-term plan added new projects such as electromagnetic pulse bombs and a multi-purpose 30,000 ton-class transport ship on which fighter planes can vertically take off and land. It also includes five military surveillance satellites by 2023.

Otherwise, the military budget for 2020 is planned to be more than 50 trillion won, increasing about 7.4% from this year. For the first time, it exceeds 50 trillion won.

The steep increase of military costs reflects the acceleration of the arms race in Northeast Asia despite the Korean peace process through the inter-Korean and NK-US Summit meetings since last year.

F-35 and Global Hawks

The ROK Air Force plans to bring in about 40 F-35As by 2021, starting with 16 of them within this year. 8 of them have already arrived in Cheongju, Korea, causing people's protest there.

The South Korean navy is also considering to introduce F-35Bs to be loaded on the planned 30,000-ton multipurpose transport ship which would work like an aircraft carrier and could be the flagship of a task fleet in the future. If Jeju navy base becomes a homeport for a task fleet, the 2nd Jeju airport, expected to be completed by 2025, will very likely be used as an air force base for the planes on such a ship.

Gen. Brown, commander of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces expects over 200 F-35 stealth fighter jets in the Asia Pacific by 2025. Mentioning China as an "existential" threat to the United States, he hopes for joint exercises among the countries who possess F-35s.

Otherwise, the South Korean air force plans to bring in four Global Hawks (unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs) for reconnaissance within this year, too. Insane!

SMA and Hormuz dispatch, for whom?

On Aug. 20, ROK and US authorities had a prior discussion for the 11th Special Measures Agreement (SMA) on the 'defense'-sharing cost for the United States Forces Korea (USFK). The United States proposes about \$5 billion USD for South Korea's cost which is around 5.8 times larger than the current cost.

It is known that the United States demands South Korea pay not only for USFK stationing but also for ROK-US joint war exercises, overseas US military deployments of strategic assets for war, and even operations in the Hormuz strait and South China Sea. All these exceed the scope of the ROK-US mutual defense treaty, the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)-USFK, and the SMA.

Further, there exists more than 2 trillion won of unexecuted defense-shared costs. Still, the USFK lately notified 300 Korean workers at restaurants on USFK bases that they must either get laid-off or switch to irregular worker's status, which is another violation of the SMA.

Otherwise, it is known that an ROK navy ship left on Aug. 13 toward the Gulf of Aden. It brought about concern that the ship could join the US-led alliance against Iran in the Hormuz strait. Such dispatch violates the South Korean Constitution.

GSOMIA, MD, and Alliance

On Aug. 22, the South Korean government announced the end of GSOMIA (Global Security of Military Information Agreement) with Japan. On August 7, Japan had announced exclusion of South Korea from her white list of prime export nations, which came from her great discontent with South Korea's Supreme Court decision last October demanding compensation to Korean workers forcefully drafted under Japanese imperialism during WWII.

GSOMIA is a crucial part of the US-led Missile Defense (MD) in the Asia Pacific, and MD is a key to the US-ROK-Japan alliance. It is why not only the Japanese government, but also certain US politicians such as US ambassador Harry Harris continue to press South Korea to rethink the decision before the official end of GSOMIA this November.

Deployment of mid-range missiles beyond THAAD?

On Aug. 2, the US announced withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, and US Defense Secretary Mark Esper stated that he wanted to deploy land-based intermediate-range missiles in Asia despite backlash and concerns from China and Russia. If those missiles are deployed in South Korea, it poses a greater threat than the current THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missile system. On the same day, construction happened to resume inside the THAAD base in Soseong-ri, Korea. Citizens protest daily in front of the base. Otherwise, the ROK-US war exercise named '19-2' unfolded for two weeks starting on August 5, a retrogression from the so-called Korean peace state. And North Korea responded with short-range missile tests. Without practical disarmament and an end of hostile relationships, peace is impossible.



On June 21, the Incheon Human Rights Film Festival hosted a screening of "The Wait" (2016), a film about a young Afghani asylum seeker in Denmark, at the Gangjeong peace center. After the film, a Yemeni friend shared his experience of seeking refuge in Korea, and conversation among diverse participants extended into the evening. Photo by Incheon Human Rights Film Festival.



Hot Pink Dolphins organized a kid's summer camp in August to help participants appreciate Jeju's pristine ecosystem. Photo by Im Sungjo

Fundraising events

It has been more than a year since people in Gangjeong opened a café named 'Peace Island' inside the Gangjeong Peace Center to financially maintain the peace center. To raise funds, Peace Island hosted a one-day restaurant on June 8. The people in the sit-in tent town across from the island government also had a fundraising event in Jeju City on July 21 to respond to legal matters, since the island government is overly accusing people for their protests against the 2nd Jeju airport.



The dinosaurs and other animals which have been marching across the walls of Gangjeong port since the early days of the struggle against the navy base got faded overtime. Several friends joined original mural artists Lee Nan Young and Jang Jun-hu to add a fresh coat of paint and some new marching animals. Photos by Song Dong-hyo

Running for the Peace

On July 27th we remembered the 66th year since the Korean War ceasefire. To call for a peace treaty, Kang Myung-koo (63), a peace marathoner, started running from Gangjeong Village, Jeju on July 7, dropped by many cities in South Korea, and arrived in Seoul on July 27th. On the next day, he marched with other citizens to Imjingak, the northernmost spot of South Korea, which was the end of the whole event.



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...)
4. Then share about it on social media.
5. Visit Gangjeong!
6. 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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