

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

Bimonthly news on the struggle against the Jeju Naval base

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Photos by Mooming and Kim Mi-kyung

Jeju Says No Dispatch to the Strait of Hormuz!

By Choi Sung-hee

On Jan. 22, despite rain, 33 civic groups' press conference 'No South Korean Troops to the Strait of Hormuz! Shut Down the Jeju Navy Base' was held in front of the Jeju navy base. On Jan. 21, the South Korean government decided on a so called 'temporary' and 'independent' dispatch to the Strait of Hormuz, which has brought about great reproach from Iran. The government's stated aim is to expand the region of dispatch of the Cheonghae troops 'who carry out the duty of protection of South Korean citizens and ships from pirates' from the Gulf of Aden to the Strait of Hormuz. However, the words 'temporary' and 'independent' are deceptive as the government uses them as pretext to avoid the procedure to obtain agreement from the National Assembly. As the Ministry of Defense says itself that it plans to cooperate with the US-led Maritime Security Initiative (whose former name is Security Coalition for Strait of Hormuz) in necessary cases, the dispatch is essentially a response to the US domination strategy in the Middle East. Further, this dispatch is the first time in 56 years- since the War on Vietnam- that South Korea has sent her combat troops

into a conflict region. Otherwise, the 7th Maritime Task Flotilla of Jeju navy base includes six 4,400 ton Yi Sun-shin class destroyers, which are the primary ships of the Cheonghae troops. Every six months the Cheonghae unit rotates ships and troops. The Jeju navy base which was illegally, violently and deceptively built now threatens not only Jeju, the Island of Peace but also Northeast Asia, the Middle East and the world. The Jeju navy base should be surely shut down as soon as possible. Jeju still has a clear memory of the US Army Military Government directing the killing of islanders during the April 3rd uprising and massacre 72 years ago. Not only that; we also remember more than 80 years ago when Jeju was heavily militarized as a colony of Imperial Japan. The islanders then were enslaved to build Japanese military facilities, thus unwillingly and painfully providing their own island for the killers. Ignoring the role of Jeju navy base only contributes to the crime of contributing to another invasive war and to disaster for the Earth.

An International Petition to Urge All States to Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and a nuclear-free world!

<https://forms.gle/JSebd4rdL8p2HDs26>

Military Protection Area Implications

By Go Gwon-il

Jeju Civilian Military Complex Tourism Port has been designated as a military protection area on Jan. 9th, this year. Meanwhile, the protection designations of military bases and facilities along the DMZ were cancelled according to military agreement by South and North Korea. 445,000 square meters were designated as a military protection area at the Jeju Civilian Military Complex Tourism Port, which is less than the 480,000 square meters total land area of the base. Because a map of the geographical features is not on record in the land use regulation information service, we cannot know the exact boundaries, but we can guess that they do not include the sports and religious facilities.

The rest of the navy base land area, including the singles housing complex, was designated as a 'controlled protection area' and the end of the south breakwater, where there is a guard post, was designated as a 'restricted protection area.' The Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base immediately released a statement opposing any further extension of the protected area. We are concerned about the criminal law regarding infringement of military protection areas. The law calls for a maximum 3 years imprisonment and up to 30 million won in fines.

The controversy about the military protection area started before the construction of the base. Jeju Island and the Ministry of Defense signed an MOU that the designation would not extend outside of the land or sea boundaries of the base. The fact that this designation does not cover the sea area looks like a significant retreat from the navy's perspective. Nonetheless, we need continuous interest and monitoring, since the navy could insist on expanding the military zone to include the sea area.

Mass killing of mandarin ducks and access road construction at Gangjeong River

By Go Gwon-il, Co-representative, Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju

Construction of the Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Tourism Port access road has begun in earnest. Amid growing concerns about the effects of water pollution flowing into Gangjeong River, the Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base (hereafter Anti-Base Association) formed a response team in July 2019. The Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment omitted the presence of mandarin ducks, wrongly located the natural monument *Elaeocarpus sylvestris* tree at Naetgili-so and reported that it would not be affected by the construction. We made a claim through National Assembly representative Kim Jong-dae's office that the environmental impact statement was wrong. In November, the Ministry of the Environment, the Cultural Heritage Administration, and the Yeongsan River Basin Environment Office responded to our online appeal and promised to investigate and take countermeasures.

However, amid sluggish progress, on January 2 a dead mandarin duck was found at the 2nd Gangjeong River Bridge and reported to the Cultural Heritage Administration, which took no action. On January 10, many dead mandarin ducks were discovered and reported to the Korean Ornithological Society. They sent a representative who collected the bodies of 13 ducks and found a shotgun bullet shell in the abdomen of one duck. The result of

the autopsy was spread in the news and a police investigation was requested. The Anti-Base Association promptly released a statement calling for the construction of the access road to be halted. Subsequently, central news agencies started reporting. The Yeongsan River Basin Environment Office visited Gangjeong River on January 17 to investigate, but the police ended their investigation, quoting a witness testimony that a duck had died from getting stuck in the telephone wires. On the same day, 800 meters from the 2nd Gangjeong River Bridge at the Wangdaewat bus stop another dead mandarin duck was found with a bullet wound.

Currently, the source water protected area of Gangjeong River is an ideal habitat for mandarin ducks. The fence around the area has proved an excellent protection for the ducks, who keep a very careful distance from humans. Thus, as many as 500 mandarin ducks reside year round at Gangjeong River. Bird expert Dr. Ju Yung Ki (Jeonbuk National University) estimated that Gangjeong River is the biggest mandarin duck habitat in Korea. The Anti-Base Association released a second statement calling for a new, reliable criminal investigation, for cancellation of the access road, and for the source water protected area to be converted into a Cultural Heritage Protection Zone.



Upstream of the habitat of mandarin ducks [a National Natural Monument], the new access road to the navy base is polluting the Gangjeong River. Photo by Choi Hyea-yeong.



A shotgun bullet casing can be seen in the body of a mandarin duck. Photo by Oum Mun-hee.

Opposition to the 2nd airport grows (Overall update on the struggle against the 2nd Jeju airport)

By Park Chansik, Situation director, Jeju People's Assembly Against the Jeju 2nd Airport

On Dec. 19th, last year, the Ministry of Environment (MOE) demanded a 2nd supplement on the poorly supplemented draft of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) submitted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation (MOLIT). The MOE demanded MOLIT to make additional research on the actual conditions of winter and spring migratory birds and the possibility of bird strikes. Therefore, the MOLIT plan to make public notice on the Basic Plan of the Jeju 2nd airport was delayed to at least after May. Otherwise, Jeju Island Council formed a special committee to settle the conflict on the 2nd Jeju airport and commissioned the Korean Association for Conflict Studies (KACS) work on the study of conflict analysis and settlement measures. It will be likely that the Island Council will proceed collecting Islanders' opinions after the general election this April.

The Jeju People's Assembly Against the Jeju 2nd Airport (hereafter, 'Assembly') is focusing to spread opposition opinions among Islanders, expecting that central and Island governments cannot enforce the 2nd airport if opposition opinions by the majority of Islanders are clearly confirmed. Thus, the Assembly made a pilgrimage walk throughout all the villages of Jeju from Jan. 9 to Feb. 20. Walking every alleyway, the Assembly members distributed leaflets from door to door, and talked with residents. The Assembly carried out a public opinion poll on the 2nd airport just before the Lunar New Year holidays. As a result of the poll, opposing opinions largely won over the opinions in favor of the project: 56% vs. 41%. It was a complete reversal from the 70% in favor the 2nd airport project in 2015 when the plan for the project was announced. One can also make sure that opposition opinions were steadily growing compared to those during the second half of last year when con and pro opinions were tightly matched. It will be likely that the period until this June will be an important watershed in the struggle against the 2nd airport project given that MOE negotiation procedures on the new MOLIT SEA supplement and Island Council collection of Islanders' opinions will finish by that time.

*This is a cut from the longer text. Jeju People's Assembly against the Jeju 2nd Airport' is the official English title of the group which has been called so far as the Islanders' Emergency Committee to Stop the Jeju 2nd Airport. People believe strongly that the 2nd airport would be an air force base. (Editor's note)



The Assembly people dropped by Gangjeong in their pilgrimage and were joined and greeted by Gangjeong people who expressed solidarity against the Jeju 2nd airport (air force base). Photo by Song Jiyoung on Feb. 18th.

Why did I carry out a street fast?

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) chose the area for the Jeju 2nd airport project secretly, unknown even to the affected residents. The ministry will even build an air force base by forcing the project; for no reasonable basis that residents can understand, they hid for years a proposed measure to utilize the existing airport (now exposed). The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the last process to finalize the 2nd airport construction, is a process to evaluate the project's environmental appropriateness and locational validity. The current SEA intentionally omits the research from June to August, the critical period for the observation of falcons, narrow mouth toads, and cuckoos, defined by the Ministry of Environment (MOE) as legally protected species. I protested and made a street fast for 10 days this winter. I want to save my hometown and all living beings there. Cho Myung-rae, Minister of MOE promised to carry out a four season investigation to protect legally protected species but has not kept his promise. He chose to take the role of assistant to

By Kim Kyung-bae, Resident of Nansan-ri, Seongsan, Jeju

the MOLIT, avoiding his responsibility as the chief of MOE to stop the project if the habitats of those species are confirmed. If the 2nd airport is built as currently planned, Jeju will be degenerated into an island of military bases and all the Jeju-ness will disappear. The Moon Jae-in government's invasion and killing of Jeju- the Korean people's treasure island and world natural heritage- should be stopped.



Photo: Kim Kyung-bae on the 9th day of his street fast with Fr. Huh Chan-ran in front of the MOE/MOLIT building, Sejong City, main land of Korea, Dec. 19th, 2019. Photo by Choi Sung-hee

An international petition to call off the Jeju 2nd airport

An international petition in English language demanding that Korean government officials call off the Jeju 2nd airport (air force base) began on Dec. 9, 2019. It was followed by Chinese and Japanese language versions on Dec. 15. In its press release on Dec. 18, the Jeju People's Assembly Against the 2nd Airport (also called Jeju Islanders' Emergency Committee to Stop the Jeju 2nd Airport) stated that a total of 507 internationals including Prof. Noam Chomsky and feminist Gloria Steinem, as well as other renowned scholars and activists signed on the petition. Many media in South Korea covered the news of the international petition, enough to draw attention from one of the main South Korean web search portal sites. The last part of the international petition reads, "We must seriously consider and stop reckless development and militarization, the main culprits of the climate crisis. Jeju is not only for islanders. The concerns of Jeju, one part of our Earth, concern all of us, citizens of the Earth, as well." The petition is ongoing. You may join the petition- see savejejunow.org.



From Jan. 24, during the lunar new year holiday season a 'No Second Airport in Jeju' campaign was held at Jeju international airport. The banner reads, "What about the villages, volcanic cones, and caves that will disappear? Does Jeju need 2 airports?" Photo provided by Green C.

No Youth, No Change

By GreenC

The key words were: Agrarian crisis in Asia, diversity of seeds and living things, monopolization of seeds by transnational corporations, the severe problem of transnational corporations' pesticides and herbicides, the UN Declaration on Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). January 11-15, the First Asian Youth Assembly of La Via Campesina was hosted in Sri Lanka. In response to the globalization of neoliberalism, La Via Campesina was founded in 1993 to protect the rights of peasants (small-scale farmers), and now includes 182 organizations from 81 countries. 60 participants joined this assembly from 11 organizations in 8 countries in East and Southeast Asia, including two Korean organizations, the Korean Peasant's League (KPL) and the Korean Women Peasant Association (KWPA). From the KWPA, I (GreenC) joined as the youth representative and Kim Jeongyeol joined as a Via Campesina International Coordination Committee member.

A striking aspect of the Asian Youth Assembly was the respect for diversity of language in each region/nation during the meetings and discussions. The contents of the gathering included respect for the diversity of life, food sovereignty, agro-ecology in the face of global warming, and the history and activities of La Via Campesina. International Coordination Committee members gave lectures, and the young adults gathered face to face in the hot weather for fierce (hot) deliberations. Through the assembly, we

understood the importance of the UNDROP amid concerns about transnational corporations' seed monopolization and GMOs. We talked about the need for a code of conduct for young farmers and more frequent, active exchanges between Asian youth. We created a new slogan, "No Youth No Change!" to inspire a new movement against neoliberalism.

Finally, I shared heirloom seeds from the Jeju branch of the KWPA and shared about the importance of heirloom seeds, biodiversity, and women farmers. During site visits, I shared about the environmental problems which Jeju is facing.



Black-faced Spoonbills (IUCN EN, National Treasure of Korea 205-1) near the proposed site of the Jeju 2nd Airport. On Jan. 18-20, a bird survey team visited important bird habitats which have been ignored by the Korean government. Surveys of birds, plants and insects are also ongoing at the Bijarim-ro forest. Photo by aRiverDrop.

The struggle of Jeju and Okinawa

By Noh Min-kyu



Participants of the 2020 Korea-Japan Youth Peace Trip hold together the banner which reads, "Peace in East Asia! Totally cancel the Jeju 2nd airport project!" in Seongsan, Jeju, where the government plans to build the Jeju 2nd airport. Photo by Lim Seong-jo

Henoko, Okinawa. (I heard that the Japanese government would gradually strengthen regulations on drone use.) I could also hear the news of Miyako, Ishigaki, Yonaguni, and Amami Islands where Japanese Self-defense forces are building up military facilities. During the first 'Korea-Japan Peace Trip' last year in Japan, Japanese and South Korean youths visited the sites of peace movements and struggles. The 2nd trip was in Jeju this January. The participants confirmed that the situations of militarization on Okinawa and Jeju are similar. They gathered a will together to go on spreading the news.

Creating Cultures of Peace in Indonesia

by Curry

Five people involved in the peace movement in Gangjeong travelled to Indonesia to participate in a peace education training and bring back the experience and skills to our work in Jeju. From Jan. 11-21, Friends Peace Teams hosted the 7th annual International Peace Training at Peace Place in Pati, Central Java, Indonesia. 46 participants ages 12 to 80 joined the training from 10 countries. The overall topic was Creating Cultures of Peace: A Movement of Love and Conscience, and the first half focused on personal transformation - affirmation, good listening and communication, trauma resiliency, and the second half on social transformation -conscience, overcoming oppression, speaking out, discernment. It was a safe environment to meet diverse new people and experiment together with practices to sustain healthy lives and relationships while working to build cultures of peace. We practiced celebrating our mistakes as an opportunity to learn and meeting in small companion groups with equal opportunities to share on a

deeper level. We could sense how the activities flowed together to build up a culture of peace and could learn about diverse ways that they are being applied around the world.



Photo Caption: On Jan. 15 Creating Cultures of Peace participants visited the village of Tondomulyo, where local culture has transformed through building diverse relationships. The village suffers from severe flooding due to deforestation for palm oil production, and some participants from Tondomulyo practiced speaking out about environmental damage during the workshop. Photo by Tet.

The danger of “usable” “low-yield” nukes

by Curry

The new W 76-2 warhead has “only” one-third the destructive capability of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The US military has discussed using these “low yield” nukes not only to fill a perceived deterrence gap with Russia, but also in nuclear first-strike scenarios with Iran or North Korea. The new nuclear weapons are deployed on Trident submarines, including the USS Tennessee which deployed in late 2019 from Kings Bay, Georgia. (The Kings Bay Plowshares 7, on trial for their protest against the base’s nuclear weapons, are still waiting for their sentencing date.)

Photo essay available online

Lina Koleilat's article “Spaces of Dissent: Everyday Resistance in Gangjeong Village, Jeju Island” focuses on the resistance to the Jeju navy base construction 2013-2015.

Check it out at <https://cross-currents.berkeley.edu/e-journal/issue-33/koleilat>

Seeing the Nanjing Massacre from Alddreu Airfield

By Curry

On December 13, about 50 people gathered at Alddreu Airfield on the southwest corner of Jeju to remember how the site was used by the Japanese military during the Nanjing Massacre and to share about efforts to prevent Jeju from being used for such a tragedy again. 82 years ago, Japanese warplanes were refueled at Alddreu on their way to bomb Nanjing before the land invasion during which an estimated 300,000 people were massacred. People Making Jeju a Demilitarized Peace Island and Inter-Island Solidarity for Peace of the Sea have co-hosted this memorial since 2014. The 2019 ceremony included songs, readings, and times of silence and remembering the dead. We exchanged solidarity messages with Okinawa and Vancouver, where gatherings were also held to remember the Nanjing Massacre. We read the statement from Peace for the Sea Camp on Kinmen Island, Taiwan. Representatives from several participating groups shared short speeches, including the movement opposing plans to build a huge Chinese resort at Songaksan (bordering Alddreu Airfield), the struggle that successfully stopped plans to re-open Alddreu as an air force base 30 years ago, the movement against the Jeju 2nd Airport (Air Force Base), the anti-base movement in Gangjeong, the committee to remember martyr Yang Yong Chan (who

protested against Jeju becoming 'a second Hawaii'), and, for the first time, three graduate students from Nanjing University. "I think learning the historical relics of Jeju and the historical memory of Nanjing, now we can understand the significance of peace more profoundly. We are standing on a new starting point; we are not only advocates of world peace, but also active actors in the pursuit of a harmonious world," shared Pei Yang.



"1937-2019: Seeing Nanjing from Alddreu" brought together many people working for peace around Jeju and Northeast Asia. Three students brought a banner from the UNESCO Chair on Peace Studies at Nanjing University. Photo by Oum Mun-Hee.

Resolution on Syngman Rhee was withdrawn by people power

By Baek Gayoon, Jeju Dark Tours

On 14 January 2020, the resolution "Proclaiming February 3, 2020, as President Syngman Rhee Day for the City and County of Honolulu" (No. 20-7) was submitted to the Honolulu City Council. The Association for Bereaved Families of the Jeju 4.3 Victims, Bereaved Family Association of Korean War and 252 South Korean NGOs sent a letter to the Honolulu City Council Members, expressing our deep concerns on the resolution. Proclaiming a day to remember Syngman Rhee by the Honolulu City Council is a denial of the history of the Korean people's resistance for democracy and freedom and an insult to victims and the bereaved families of the massacres. President Rhee Syngman is a Korean politician who acted against democracy and freedom and who was not held responsible for the mass killing of civilians, fraudulent elections, illegal amendment of the Constitution and several cases of enforced disappearance and torture leading to the death of his opponents. As a result, President Rhee was expelled by the people's power, people who sacrificed their lives for democracy and freedom on April 26, 1960. Due to fierce opposition from South Korean civil society as well as local peace activists in Hawaii, the Council decided to withdraw the resolution before it could be discussed on the table.

Jeju solidarity message to Okinawa

By Choi Sung-hee

As of Dec. 27, 2019, Okinawa people reached the 2,000th day of their sit-in protest in front of the gate of the new base construction site at US Camp Schwab, Henoko, Okinawa. On Dec. 26, 2017, the Okinawa people's protest to the same base construction already hit the 5,000th day. Here is a part of 16 Jeju and Korea civic groups' solidarity message to Okinawa on Dec. 26th, 2019: "These are our hopes: We hope for dugongs and dolphins playing on the sea instead of warships. We want the Noguchi Gera (Okinawa woodpecker) and falcons flying in the sky instead of fighter planes and Ospreys. We want learning spaces for peace and hope for the future generations, welfare centers for the old and infirm and citizens parks and squares instead of wire fences and military uniforms. We want all the islands and seas in the world to be for peace instead of having military bases. We hope there is no more invasion and plundering in the world. The people in Gangjeong hit the 4,600th day of struggle against the Jeju navy base as of Dec. 20th, 2019. The islanders' struggle against the Jeju 2nd airport (air force base) has been ongoing for more than 4 years so far.

South Korea joins Sea Dragon Drill for the 1st time

The South Korean navy joined a multinational anti-submarine drill called Sea Dragon for the first time from Jan. 29 to 31, 2019. The drill, held in the waters of Guam, was joined by Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and the United States.

Refusing Deceptive Pardon

By Choi Sung-hee

The Moon Jae-in government made a deceptive pardon and reinstatement for conflict settlement in public but drives for militarization of Jeju behind the scenes. In the beginning of the new year, the Moon Jae-in government included two Gangjeong people in the list of his new year's special pardon and re-instatement. They are Kang Dong-kyun, a former Gangjeong village mayor and current co-representative of the Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base, and Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon, leader of the Gangjeong street mass. However, Kang and Fr. Mun angrily refused to receive the Moon government's deceptive bill of pardon.

Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon said, "I have received the bill of pardon several times in my lifetime, but for the 1st time, prosecutors tell me that I have to come to their office to receive the bill." Fr. Mun continued, "What crime did I commit? I said to them I would not receive it. And they said that they would return it back to the central office. I told them to do it then."

Mayor Kang also said "if the Moon government is sincere to Gangjeong villagers, it should make an apology to them first for having enforced the international fleet review." Kang also said, "Because of the fleet review, Gangjeong villagers were torn apart with more conflicts which would take 100 years to settle. I told the prosecutors that I didn't need a bill of pardon, therefore I returned it back to them."

The Anti-Base Association has continuously refused deceptive pardon and reinstatement. The Association demands 'recovery of honor' instead 'pardon,' as there are no 'crimes' in the anti-base activities from the beginning. The Association also demands 'truth investigation' regarding the illegal, undemocratic, and violent Jeju navy base construction. (The quoted words of Kang and Fr. Mun came from Go Gwon-il's interview with the two)

The Jeju 2nd airport, study for air force vision 2049, and space

By Choi Sung-hee

According to the Halla Ilbo, Feb. 19th, the Aerospace Strategy & Technology Institute (ASTI), Yonsei University, Seoul, made a 'final study report for the drawing of the next air force vision for the preparation of the 100th year since the creation of the air force.' A part of the report titled 'operation concept and goal of the future space force' includes content on the Jeju 2nd airport. The report stipulates, 'plans for the future creation of a strategic base in case of construction of the Jeju new airport and Southern Search and Rescue unit.' The Ministry of National Defense included plans for a Southern Search and Rescue unit in its '2019-2023 national defense mid-term plan.' The South Korean air force has coveted an air force base on Jeju for decades, but changed the name from 'Jeju air force base' to 'Southern Search and Rescue unit' in 2006. Even though the air force says the ASTI report is only a reference to use while writing the air force's next vision, the report very likely reflects what the air force has already aspired to for a long time: the space force. The air force gallery of Jeju aerospace museum clearly shows the South Korean air force's vision. Its beginning phase starts with the introduction of advanced arms such as F-35s and global hawk. The South Korean Ministry of Defense said on Jan. 1 this year that space-related departments were newly built in the headquarters of the army, navy, and Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as the air force. The navy department which has been in charge of ballistic defense was reorganized to also include space policy development.

Groundless Appeal by the Prosecution

By Meong-ge (excerpted from her prepared speech at her trial on Jan. 16)

This court is only talking about the possibility that videos captured on surveillance cameras have been manipulated. This court is focusing with a microscope on one part of the whole context and making a big effort to avoid everything else. The Statement of Reason for Appeal [by the prosecution] argued that there is no reason for a video filmed on CCTV surveillance cameras by a civilian company to have been manipulated, and that the police who copied the footage testified that they never manipulated it. That civilian company is contracted by the navy, so I want to ask whether such a company can be indifferent to the position of the navy. I and several others experienced repeatedly that the civilian site manager intentionally provoked the anti-navy base activists and created fights to be recorded by police cameras.

[Before], the police did not take special measures against people who made a scrum and sat at the base entrance. When the Park Geun-hye administration came in, someone was arrested who stood holding a picket but moved to the side of the road.

I want to ask whether the monopolization of the law by former Chief Justice Yang Seung-tae [indicted in 2019 for abuse of power] is really irrelevant to the construction of the navy base. My case was halted for about five years. Now it has no effect on the construction of the already-finished navy base, and in the first trial I was ruled not guilty. I feel that this trial is groundless. To me this trial really has no basis.

US THAAD Upgrade and South Korea Defense Cost-sharing

By Choi Sung-hee

On Feb. 10, when John Hill, Director of the US Missile Defense Agency made a briefing on the budget of the US Department of Defense for the fiscal year of 2021, he asked around 1 billion USD in relation to THAAD, and announced plans to increase numbers of THAAD missiles from the current 41 to 625 by the end of FY 2021. He also explained three phases of THAAD upgrades in Korea: THAAD deployment expansion and remote control (securing huge flexibility in Korea); strengthening of interoperability between THAAD and Patriot batteries deployed in South Korea; and integration of Patriot missiles into THAAD launchers. That would conflict with the Moon Jae-in government's position in 2017 that there would be no more additional introduction of THAAD, no participation in US-led Missile Defense (MD), and no pursuance of a ROK-US-Japan trilateral response. In response to Hill's announcement, Cheong Wook-sik of Peace Network shared concerns about the plan 'to connect AN/TPY-2 radar deployed with THAAD batteries in Seongju to the MD assets beyond the Korean Peninsula, making it a part of global MD,' and to make and utilize an extended range THAAD called THAAD-ER. These could put the Korean peninsula on the front lines of US MD, threatening to make it a dangerous war field.

Still one more shocking issue was exposed in Korean media on Feb. 14. In its FY 2021 defense budget, the US government includes 49 million USD for the construction of ammunition storage, electric & drainage facilities, and roads in the Seongju THAAD base, and this cost is planned to be appropriated from South Korea's defense cost-sharing for the United States Forces of Korea (USFK). The plan is unilateral and even violates article 5 of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) by which all the costs necessary for the maintenance of USFK should be paid by the United States. Further, THAAD in Seongju has the status of 'temporary deployment' according to the Moon Jae-in government. There has been neither a general environmental impact assessment nor complete provision of areas for the base.

Additionally, in the recent ROK-US talks on the Special Measures Agreement (SMA) the United States has perversely pressured South Korea to pay around 6 trillion won (5 billion USD) for the USFK next year, compared to the 1.04 trillion won (around 1 billion USD) of last year. 6 trillion won includes the cost for USFK training or rotational deployment. The SMA was created in the 1990s in violation of the SOFA, and should be withdrawn. The United States is now even violating the conditions of the SMA itself.

The United States' forceful pressure on South Korea to increase her defense cost-sharing for the USFK (including THAAD base construction) is for US domination in the region through MD. It will only aggravate the inter-Korean and NK-US relationships which are currently in stalemate. It will also threaten the South Korea-China relationship. US pressure for South Korea to be integrated into US MD threatens peace in Korea and Northeast Asia.

(Reference: Cheong Wook-sik, Peace Network/ Solidarity for Peace And Reunification of Korea/ People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy/ Korea Progressive Alliance and Korean civic groups' statement on Feb. 18 and media articles)

Arrest of the Former Police Chief and Update on People's Trials

By Choi Sung-hee

On Feb. 14, the Seoul Central District Court put Cho Hyun-oh, a former national police agency chief, under court custody, sentencing him to two years' imprisonment, with the charge of abuse of power and obstruction of right exercise. When he served as the chief of Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency and the National Police Agency from Feb. 2010 to April 2012, he swayed public opinion by mobilizing 1,500 affiliated police officers to make government-favoring online posts or comments on the main social issues, including that of the Jeju navy base.

According to the Truth Investigation Committee on the human rights violations made under the National Police Agency, Cho also ordered local police offices to take drastic measures against people during his term, including making criminal charges against people even in the case of light violation of laws. He even took disciplinary measures against the Seogwipo police agency, Jeju, judging that the agency's response to the protestors was insufficient.

Just before the day of his arrest in the court, around 30 people got Jeju higher court rulings on their protest against the Jeju navy base. Many of them had been arrested and indicted during Cho's two-year term as the chief of the National Police Agency. The higher court dismissed most of the appeals by prosecutors and accused alike and maintained the 1st court ruling in most cases. It made not-guilty rulings for a very small number of indictments. However, in several cases, the higher court rather cancelled the not-guilty ruling of the original court and made heavier rulings of 700,000 to 1.5 million won (580-1,240 USD) fines with one-year probation.

Global Hawk and F-35

By Choi Sung-hee

At 5 am Dec. 23, 2019, Global Hawk (RQ-4), the United States' high-altitude remotely-piloted surveillance aircraft arrived in the South Korean Sacheon air base, Gyeongsangnam-do province. It was the first arrival of Global Hawk in South Korea since the South Korean government decision to introduce it in 2011. Four Global Hawks are to be introduced by this May. Otherwise, on Dec. 17, the South Korean air force secretly held a closed event for the force integration of F-35 A stealth fighters in the Chungju air force base. Both Global Hawk and F-35 A are part of the so called 'Kill Chain,' a (nuclear) preemptive strike system. Introduction of these aircraft is one step further towards the South Korean air force goal to build a space force, as well.

US Veterans Expose Irish Complicity in US War Crimes

By Curry

US Veterans for Peace Tarak Kauff and Ken Mayers were held illegally in Ireland for over 8 months after they entered Shannon Airport on March 17, 2019 to protest and call attention to the flights of US troops and weapons which pass through Shannon Airport on the way to US wars in the Middle East in violation of Irish neutrality. They attempted to approach a plane chartered by the US military and were arrested on the airfield. They were released on bail after 13 days in jail, but their passports were confiscated, so they were prevented from returning home to their families to await trial. Over the next several months, Tarak and Ken campaigned to spread awareness about US war crimes and Irish complicity, including "Boots on the Ground for Freedom" walks across Ireland in September and October. They were able to reach a wide audience in Ireland, and finally their passports were returned to them and they returned to the US in early December. Their trial is currently set for April 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Gangjeong Village

By Curry

The new coronavirus (COVID-19) has not only caused tragic physical suffering and death, but the fear of the virus has contributed to further injustices and divisions between people wherever it goes. As of Feb. 24, there are only two confirmed cases in Jeju; both people caught the virus during recent travel in Daegu. One of these was a soldier stationed at the navy squadron at Jeju Airport. Gangjeong Village was notified after the fact that the other airport squadron soldiers who were exposed to the virus were quarantined in the single-occupancy residence at the Jeju navy base. Clear information regarding the details of their quarantine conditions and the risks posed to the community have been hard to obtain, accentuating the lie that the navy base exists in 'co-prosperity' with civilians. In order to prevent spread of the virus, special events (including the Mar. 7 Gureombi rock memorial) and daily activities (100 bows, the street mass, and the human chain) in Gangjeong have been temporarily cancelled for the end of February and early March.



The New Year of Gangjeong started again with the life and peace 100 bows at the Metburi coast, east of the village on Jan. 1st. We thank everyone who supports our struggle. No Jeju Navy Base! Photo by Joan Kim.

Demilitarized Peace Island Jeju

By Song Kang-ho, People Making Jeju a Demilitarized Peace Island

This year, a meeting commemorating the Declaration of Jeju as a Demilitarized Peace Island was held five days earlier than before. It was held at the Peace Center from 2 pm on January 22. About 15 people gathered for an open discussion on how to build up a roadmap in order to make Jeju Island become a true island of peace. There were many ideas, such as making more bold action to shock the citizens. Others raised questions, How could we get Jeju politicians, including the governor, to accept the policy of building a demilitarized peace island? How could we proceed with an alternative forum to counter the “Forum for Peace and Prosperity” which is organized by the government? It was also suggested that a lawsuit be filed against the President for unconstitutional dispatch of troops to Iran. How can we invite French activists who prevented the construction of the Nantes airport and who blocked the military base in Larzac? We also had time to talk about our personal resolve to make Jeju a demilitarized peace island. There were many proposals: for holding the Gureombi Festival, for sailing for peace with the Golden Rule from Hawaii, to campaign for the island of peace through social media, for promotion for visitors coming through the guest rooms at the St. Francis Peace Center in Gangjeong. And we would continue to join the hundred bows and the human chain which are steadily going on. We would open a forum for sharing, discussion and seminars. And we will create a new song for the peace of Gangjeong which should be something more appealing to the younger generation, such as hip hop. People Making Jeju a Demilitarized Peace Island will continue to monitor the progress of these participants' resolutions.

Winter Peace Lectures at St. Francis Peace Center

by Lee Sung-joon

On November 6, Cheong Wook-sik (Peace Network) gave a lecture on ‘Uncovering the Fake Security Arguments Surrounding the Korean Peninsula.’ He discussed how “recent happenings in Gangjeong bear a strong resemblance to a paper written by a US naval commander,” referencing David J. Suchyta’s research paper recommending that the US navy keep quiet about the Jeju Navy Base but gradually send warships. Cheong suggested, “Citizens need a changed defense consciousness. We need discussion about the true nature of the peace that we want.”

On December 16, attorney Baek Shin-ok (CHAMSOL law firm, MINBYUN - Lawyers for a Democratic Society) gave a lecture on ‘Freedom of Expression and Peace, the Role of the Courts.’

On Jan. 3, former lawmaker Jang Ha-na (Political Mamas) gave a lecture on ‘Politics and Peace Activism.’ “Even when the air is bad, we must breathe” she said, and advocated using many methods, including appropriate use of political parties.

On Jan. 17, Father Kim Chi-hun SJ gave a lecture on peace in literature. He talked about the Trojan War in Homer’s Iliad the importance of mature communal memory for peace.

On February 3, Lee Si-woo (peace activist photographer) gave a lecture about three main topics: the Military Protection Area designation, the deployment of troops to Iran, and the United Nations Command. He shared from his personal experience and even though it was a long lecture many people approved. He is campaigning to expose and stop illegal use of the UN flag by US troops in Korea.



Artist Kim Min Soo presents his photographs of Jeju Queer Cultural Festival 2019 at his February exhibition “Queerly Ever After” curated by Choi Hyea-yeong at Space Sanho of Peace Island, Gangjeong. Photo by Yang Sang Ho.



Gangjeong activist Hyea-yeong presents the Anthology of Gangjeong Village Anti-Naval Base Struggle that she made and Lee Myeong Jae designed. These days the Gangjeong Archive Team has been working hard to collect and organize archive materials of the Gangjeong struggle. Photo by Yang Sang Ho.

GUREOMBI NORAE (I've Got to Know)

By Seth Martin

1.
For hundreds of years now
We've lived on this island
with fruit trees and fish
but no fences or thieves
In the shadow of Halla
I dove with my grandma
Now you bring in your death squads
And you crush everything.

(Original chorus):
I've got to know, friend
I've got to know, friend
Hungry lips ask me wherever I go
Comrades and friends all
falling around me
I've got to know, yes,
and I've got to know now.

2.
The crab and the dolphin
my childhood companions
We danced on Gureombi
And we laid in her streams
Now Gangjeong is buried
In your steel and your concrete
And you're jailing my neighbors
As threats to the peace.

3.
Who are all these people
Now flooding my hometown?
Their shiny apartments rise up to the sky
Well, the base workers' families
They see me as dirty
And my village has walls now
To protect them from me.

4.
I haven't slept well
Since you blew up Gureombi
I keep my head down
And I try not to see
The home I grew up in's
Becoming a prison
Since you built up your war base
On the island of peace.

5.
We always had strong winds
Strong rocks and strong women
We lived from the land
Never needed a king
But you've pulled up our roots
And our boulders lie barren
My proud mother's silent
With no song to sing.

6.
Why did you tell me
I can't see Gureombi?
Why can't my grandmothers dive
anymore?
Well, you promised your war base
Would bring so much money
But our village is broken
And now we're all poor

7.
Why did you save a small piece of
Gureombi?
Circled with walls, guards, and
pounding machines
And how did you get an award from
the government
For saving the rock that I saw you
destroy?

8.
At night when the wind blows
I still hear your voices
My ancestors angrily talk with the sea
Are your waves really too small
To wash out these base walls?
They're crushing your children
And our memories

9
How can we live with
The shame that you've brought us?
Well, you smother our homeland
You silence our dead
How can you tell me
That I am the enemy?
You work for invaders
But you're calling me Red!

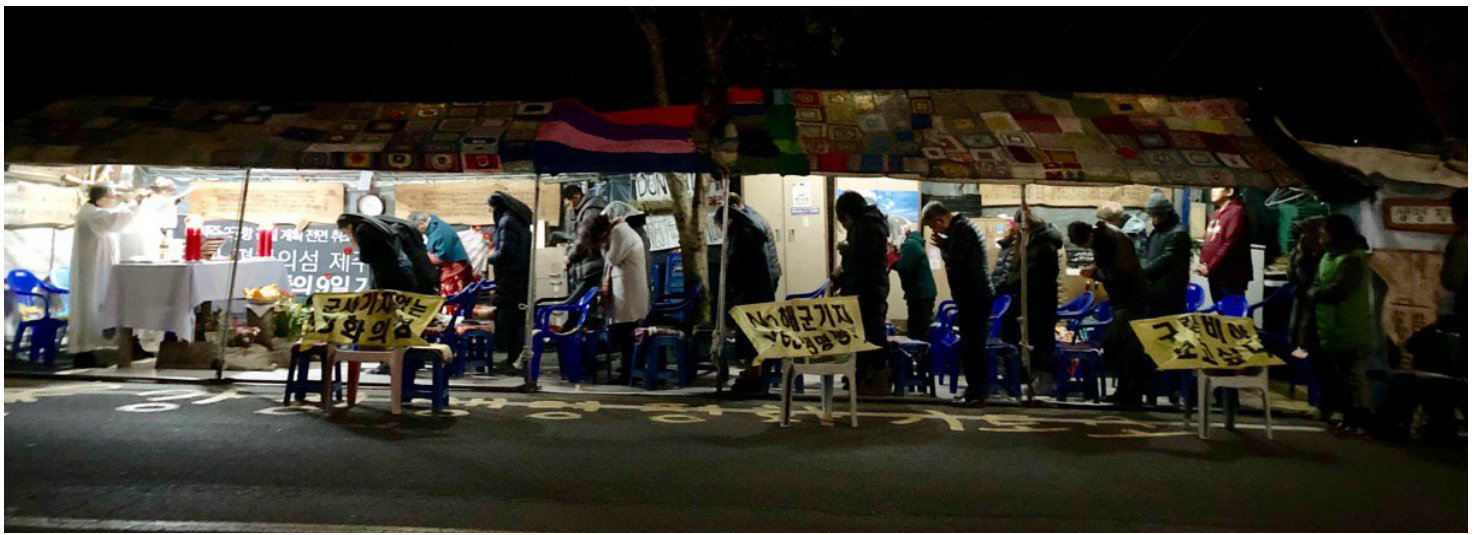


Get out of my village!
Get out of my hometown!
I've waited so long
but I'm not waiting now.
Your lies kill my history
Your machines crush my future.
Get out of Gangjeong
and get out right now!

Yeah, get out of Gangjeong
and get out right now!

Note: The original chorus and melody are from the classic "I've Got to Know" anti-war ballad by Woody Guthrie, written largely as a lament over US bombing in Korea, which in turn was based on the well-known modern American hymn, "Farther Along." Original artwork by Lee Nan Young.





Catholic Mass for Christmas Eve in Gangjeong village. Photo by Pang Eun Mi.



In summer 2019 'Act with Media' visited Jeju to conduct media activism workshops and to create music and film about the struggles in Jeju. On Dec. 22, the musicians that participated in the event returned to Gangjeong for a concert of their new album "Island's Song," made of the songs they composed during their last trip to Jeju. Photo by Choi Hyea-yeong.



On Dec. 20 there was a film screening of "For dear life" and a Q&A session with the film directors afterwards. In May 2011, upon request from the Hyundai Motor Company, the busting procedure of the YPR union started. Since then, the union members have gone through harsh violence and been put under discrimination and incrimination. After 5 years of suffering, Han Kwangho, a YPR worker committed suicide. His comrades, eager to put an end to this ongoing tragedy, hold Han's funeral and carry on the fight (Synopsis from DMZ Docs). Photo by Choi Hyea-yeong.

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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A woodcut printing workshop was held at the Peace Center on Feb. 23. Eastasia Ecotopia is collecting woodcuts from 100 people to make a banner for international women's day and for solidarity with the One Billion Rising movement.

