

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

News on the struggle against the Jeju Naval Base

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The 2024 Peace for the Sea Camp ended with a rally marking the "13th Memorial Day of the Fencing of Gureombi Rock." Photo by Lee Jaekak

Jeju Peace for the Sea Camp: Ongoing Relationships, Solidarity

by Nang

"We are not divided, we are united. We give peace a chance when we listen to each other."

Thus concluded the statement released by Jeju Peace for the Sea Camp participants on Sept. 2, 2024 in front of Jeju Naval Base. The camp, titled "We are Linked by the Sea of Peace," brought together over 60 participants from Jeju, Okinawa, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, China, the Philippines, Hawaii, Germany, Canada and the United States.

While staying in Gangjeong from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, participants learned what has happened and is happening in Gangjeong and Jeju. We had a tour of Gangjeong and learned about the peace movement. Presentations by Koohan Paik, Choi Sung-hee, and Kim Soon-ae explored issues facing Jeju, especially the issue of space militarization including the construction of the Hanwha Space Center. We divided into groups and visited the proposed site of the second airport, Jeju 4.3 massacre sites, a shooting range, and the dolphin habitat.

In the evening of the second day, participants shared presentations about peace movements in Ishigaki, Okinawa, and the mainland of Japan, a participant's research on U.S. military presence in Taiwan, a Chinese participant's peace activities, how the US is using the Philippines to prepare for war, and anti-imperialist struggles in the United States. The diverse backgrounds of the participants led to rich discussions. There were also lively informal gatherings.

We talked about the need for continued meetings. One participant, who has participated in Peace for the Sea Camps before, said that she joins to see her friends. As I reflected on that, I realized that I want the sea to be a way to meet friends, not a source of scattering and division. Next year, Peace for the Sea Camp will be held in Taiwan. I hope the relationships, solidarity, and peace will continue.



This year was the 10th Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace since it started as the Gangjeong Grand March for Life and Peace in 2012. From Aug. 22-24, people walked along Jeju's coastline from Gangjeong to Seongsan to Jeju City Hall. Photo by Park Hansol

2024 Jeju Peace for the Sea Camp Reflections

by Kuo Yenbo

As a first time participant from Taiwan, it moved me that participants from different places took positions that almost invariably involved opposing government policies. I believe this requires tremendous moral courage and self-reflection, as well as the ability to endure many negative labels. I imagine that if similar views were expressed by Taiwanese people in Taiwan, they would certainly face severe scrutiny. However, Peace Camp provides an opportunity to go beyond labels, to first get to know a person, and then reflect on and understand their claims.

When people in Taiwan emphasize the importance of defending the country, I want to consider whether we can view things from the perspective of other regions. Is our narrative also coincidentally a reason China could use to militarize itself? After all, looking at modern history, the United States is the country that has launched the most overseas wars and continues to conduct military exercises around China. The United States has also never hidden its disregard for the international order, including refusing to accept international court investigations into war crimes and continuing military aid to Israel. But this is the country that Taiwan is very close to and heavily relies on.

Lastly, I believe that the discussions at Peace Camp have not yet proportionately included the militarization of China. I understand that most regions are suffering primarily from military activities by the United States. However, I still believe that if we are to think about peace and demilitarization in Asia, we cannot ignore China's military power, nor can we fantasize that reducing the U.S. military presence in East Asia would lead to China disarming. We must discuss how to strengthen the people's demand for the demilitarization of China and how to generate real impact, especially considering China's current political situation.

by Kamiya Miyuki

I learned a lot from the Peace for the Sea Camp. It was impressive to see people enjoying the peace movement. And I also felt hope that there were many young people. I could feel the pain of the Jeju people's hard past in the places we visited. It was good to hear about the situations of other countries. I also learned that people in each country are struggling in a complicated situation. I want to cherish the connections that we made. The meals were delicious every time. I was happy and so grateful for this opportunity.



Sung Hee Choi was one of the Peace Camp speakers who talked about the militarization of Jeju, and her talk was specifically about the militarization of space. Photo by Lee Jaekak



On Sept. 1, participants learned about the history and ecology at the planned site for the Jeju 2nd airport. Photo by Lee Jaekak



On the last night of Peace for the Sea Camp, Gimpo People's Arts Organization and Minak Sotdae performed and led traditional Korean folk dances. The entrance to the navy base was transformed into an enthusiastic festival for peace. Photo by Lee Jaekak

2024 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace

by Lee Geon Woong

From Aug. 22-24, for three days, I participated in the 2024 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace as a safety team member as I did last year. Starting from Gangjeong, we continued to Namwon, Pyoseon, Seongsan, and Samyang, and then to Jeju City Hall. This year, the Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace celebrated its tenth anniversary, which made this year's march more meaningful. Our society currently faces many challenges like climate change, the destruction of local communities, high living costs, wars, and tragedies. The right to life, happiness, and safety is being threatened. Most of all, 'peace' is being threatened. After the establishment of the Jeju Naval Base and the announcement of the basic plan for the 2nd Jeju airport, we witnessed the breakdown of our communities and of our safe and peaceful everyday life.

In Oct. 2022, many lives were lost in Itaewon. In the 2024 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace, bereaved family members of the Itaewon tragedy joined us. After the Sewol Ferry tragedy in 2014 and the Itaewon tragedy in 2022, we cried out loud for a safer society. Once again, in the 2024 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace, we cried out loud for a safer society.

The 2024 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace was a space to hold conversations on different agendas with people in Jeju. It was the second march after the COVID-19 pandemic. During COVID-19, it was hard to find motivation to continue on with our social activism, but during the march, I met similar-minded people who shared my concerns and thoughts which gave me strength. Even though the 2024 Jeju Grand March for Life and Peace has ended, our footsteps toward a safer society should not end. For a safer society, our Grand March should continue.

by Julian

I am very glad to have participated in the Grand March. It was an impactful experience in many ways, from connecting with people from near and far, to witnessing and learning more about the past and present sites of struggle in Jeju, and physically moving together with others as we expressed the demand to protect life and peace and to reject militarization and environmental destruction. I'm especially thankful for the chances I had to see, spend time, and learn more deeply about the communities and natural sites which are being affected by the naval base and proposed airport. Even though our struggles are connected all over the world, none of us can be everywhere at once, which makes it an irreplaceable experience when we have the chance to personally see what each of us is fighting for locally, and likewise to witness and remember the impacts of history which cannot be forgotten. The march itself highlighted the power of community and collective effort. It was an affirmation of what it is to be alive in the world together and a window into what a world created by peoples' demands for peace and life can look like. Whether it was the practical questions of ensuring physical safety, food, water, and shelter for the participants, or the creation of a space where people could exchange knowledge, transmit history, form friendships, connect with the environment, and communicate through art, I am grateful to the organizers, community members, and fellow participants of the march for making it happen.



Grand March participants climbed up an oreum (volcanic cone) in Seongsan to look around at the areas that are threatened by the plans for the Jeju 2nd Airport. Some carried flags representing their political party, labor union, or organization, and other flags had messages such as "Anti-War Anti-Nuclear Life and Peace," "Close the Navy Base," and "No 2nd Airport." Photos by Park Hansol



On the 12-year anniversary of the blasting of Gureombi Rock, Gangjeong human chain participants held a large sign reading "Rise Up, Gureombi." Photo by Lee Sung-joon.



On the afternoon of Mar. 7, Gangjeong peace movement members shared about the reasons for their ongoing struggle at the Jeju Human Rights Education Center in Jeju City. Choi Hyea-yeong shared about Gangjeong's daily peace activities. Photo by Choi Sung-hee.

Beyond the time of resistance, we will build an era of peace by e-sang

On Mar. 7, we marked the 12th anniversary of the blasting of Gureombi Rock. The Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base and Gangjeong Peace Network said in a statement, "Eight years after the completion of the naval base, Jeju's militarization, which had been feared even before the construction of the base, is becoming a reality through the plans for an air base at a Jeju 2nd airport and the project to build the Hanwha Space Center. U.S. ships have entered more frequently into the Jeju Naval Base as Korea-U.S. joint military drills have increased under the Yoon Suk-yeol government, raising military tensions in Northeast Asia." They criticized the entry of the USS Higgins Aegis destroyer (DDG 76, U.S. 7th Fleet) into the Jeju Naval Base in Gangjeong on Mar. 5, saying, "The entry into the base is already a joint exercise and it is one of the steps to consolidate the Jeju Naval Base as an outpost for the Korea-U.S.-Japan alliance." Finally, they said, "We will go beyond the current resistance and will surely build an era of peace. In Gangjeong, the era of peace has already begun. Many young people have gathered to learn about active peace practices and explore alternative ways of living together. Our movement is making global connections beyond Jeju, the Korean Peninsula, and Northeast Asia, including international solidarity activities for the liberation of Palestine. At the same time, our peace movement is not limited to opposing war and militarization, but we are thinking about and implementing intersectionality with various issues such as climate, labor, women, LGBTQ, animal rights, and social system transformation. Based on the strength that comes from these experiences, we will organize to take even bigger steps as we walk together." The movement will not stop until a national truth investigation is conducted, the Jeju Naval Base is closed, Gureombi Rock is restored to its original state, Jeju becomes a demilitarized peace island, and all war drills and wars are stopped.

The Struggle is Not Over Yet

by Asha

Gangjeong's seemingly never-ending struggle is a source of curiosity for many people, as we often hear the question, "Is the Gangjeong struggle over yet?" We organized a meeting in Jeju City to answer this question on the afternoon of the 12th anniversary of the blasting of Gureombi Rock. The speakers were friends who have become colleagues in Gangjeong Village, and I felt proud and touched by the thoughts and experiences that they shared.

"The activists share the same critical awareness and fill each moment with spontaneous action. They interact closely, take care of each other, sometimes fight, and negotiate their opinions." - Choi Hyea-yeong (secretary of Gangjeong Friends)

"I saw the possibility that 'activism' could become a new lifestyle. In the past, movements were inspired by ideology and religion, but this generation is motivated by 'I want to do that too.'" - Jarita (organizer of 'Something Peace')

"The daily life of Gangjeong, developed over many years, does not dwell on the past, but on the present and the future. I found the courage to enter into it and experiment with creating my own path to peace." - Inhye (owner of the vegan bakery 'Peaceful Kitchen')

"Our actions create new connections. The peace we're talking about here doesn't stop at the naval base, but extends to the climate, animal rights, women, and many other issues." - Nang (volunteer with The Frontiers)

"The freedom and peace we have today is a result of the wounds of the past. We will continue every day to sing peace songs, sow seeds, and pray for a world without war and without armies." - Jeong Seon-nyeo (president of the Gangjeong Mission Station)

The Danger of Intensifying) New Cold War

By Choi Sung-hee

As if to reflect the Biden administration's formalization this March of possible nuclear war with North Korea, China, and Russia, U.S. strategic bombers conducted a joint war drill with South Korea-Japan air forces in waters southeast of Jeju Island in April. On June 27-29, the first multi-domain war drill which included cyber and space took place in waters south of Jeju.

In July, Yoon and Biden upgraded the ROK-US alliance to the so-called "nuclear-based alliance," resulting in the joint nuclear exercise for the first time. And by the meeting of the defense chiefs of the ROK, US, and Japan on July 28th, the trilateral military alliance has become, in fact, official, raising the possibility of war "on the Korean Peninsula, in the Indo-Pacific region, and beyond."

In September, Lisa Franchetti, U.S. Chief of Naval Operations, announced her 2024 "Navigation Plan" which "drives toward two strategic ends: readiness for the possibility of war with the People's Republic of China by 2027 and enhancing the Navy's long-term advantage." Above all, it is for the United States to actively integrate allies and partners and those countries' industries. Starting this year, the repair of U.S. Navy warships is being carried out in earnest at shipyards in South Korea and Japan. NATO also seeks to expand industrial cooperation with the so-called IP4 (Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea). With South Korea becoming more involved in US-led war alliances, it is only war industries, such as Hanwha and Hyundai, who are making profits in South Korea.

Stop the Saemangeum New Airport and Save the Sura Tidal Flats!

by Oh Doo-hee

The government built the 33-km long Saemangeum seawall in 2003, and it plans to develop Saemangeum Lake by 2050. In 2023, it announced that land reclamation would accelerate with the construction of a new airport. Civil society organizations are campaigning for the ecological restoration of Saemangeum by canceling the new airport and opening the seawall gates to allow seawater to circulate at all times.

The USFK (US Forces Korea) said that the Saemangeum New Airport should be located 1.3 km away from Kunsan Air Base, operate under integrated control, and have no flights to China. The government's basic plan reflected 100% of the US military's opinions. Although called a civilian airport, it is actually a second runway for the USFK's outpost against China. It is also a habitat for diverse shorebirds and an important migration corridor. 'Joint Action to Cancel Saemangeum New Airport' held a tent sit-in protest and filed their sixth lawsuit to cancel the 'Saemangeum New Airport Basic Plan.'

Since 2020, the water quality has deteriorated, causing ecosystem disturbances such as mass animal deaths. The government said it will decide on the method and scale of seawater circulation in Dec. 2024, and on changes to the Saemangeum Basic Plan in 2025. In response, civic and fishermen's organizations launched a signature campaign in July 2024 to stop further development in the era of climate crisis and 'to save the remaining tidal flats through permanent seawater circulation in Saemangeum.' They drafted an alternative basic plan for Saemangeum and have been seeking for citizen participation to be reflected in government policies.

Korean Women's Anti-Base Struggles

On May 24, the International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Confronting Militarism Working Group and the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship hosted a "Connecting the Dots" webinar with Korean women peace movement leaders: Ahn-Kim Jeongae (Women Making Peace), Choi Sung-hee (Gangjeong Peace Network), Lim Yoon-kyung (Pyeongtaek Peace Center), and Son So-hee (a resident of Seongju opposing THAAD). On Aug. 30, Peace Treaty Now (PTN) hosted the same speakers in a webinar "Meeting to Call for an End to U.S.-ROK Nuclear War Drills." The speakers shared first-hand experience of living near US bases and war drills. Both events focused on the ongoing impacts of 80 years of US military presence in South Korea, including crimes by soldiers, dispossession and pollution of the land, the danger of accidents, and the threat of war.

Korea Peace Action

From 2020 to 2023, the Korea Peace Appeal organized an international campaign calling for a peace agreement to end the Korean War. However, the situation on the Korean peninsula has become more tense as channels of dialogue between the Koreas have been cut off. Launched on June 25, Korea Peace Action will continue the work for peace on the Korean Peninsula. In summer 2024, Korea Peace Action collected solidarity photos calling for the ROK government to restrict the distribution of anti-North Korea leaflets and to stop military exercises in the border area, and they held a rally at the DMZ on Jul. 27, the 71st anniversary of the Korean Armistice.

Bruce K. Gagnon's South Korea speaking tour on Space Industry and Militarization

From Feb. 20-29 of this year, more than 30 South Korean civic groups including People Opposing Space Militarization and Rocket Launches invited Bruce K. Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, to South Korea to have the talks in Jeju, Busan, Gunsan, Daejeon, Pyeongtaek and Seoul. The speaking tour was organized to raise the issues of the space industry and the militarization of space. The following are excerpts from Bruce K. Gagnon's article with the same title in Space Alert! (Spring/Summer 2024, space4peace.org).

U.S. and its allies: permanent war economies (Excerpts)

By Bruce K. Gagnon

Three areas under conflict draw most of my attention these days. Palestine (Gaza and the West Bank), the US-NATO proxy war on Russia using Ukraine as the hammer, and the destabilization of China with Washington's allies in the Asia-Pacific playing the role of Mr. Big's henchmen.

At this current time the US military industrial complex is working overtime with Congress and the Pentagon to ramp up US-NATO weapons production for all three theaters of battle. The White House is onboard as Joe Biden just needs to be told where to scratch his name on authorizations for new war spending legislation[...]

While in South Korea I was taken to a small strawberry farming village called Imhwa of about 300 residents that is being uprooted by a new factory to build internationally banned cluster bombs for Washington. The cluster munitions will be handed over to Ukraine and Israel for their wars. The residents were angry and afraid as the previous cluster bomb factory (in a small village like Imhwa) blew up and severely burned the area. TNT (now being stored inside one building in Imhwa) was the cause of the previous fire. The right-wing government in Seoul won't listen to the residents as it is firmly in the pocket of Washington.

U.S. bases in the ROK are rapidly expanding and took part in more than 200 days last year of US-South Korea war games right along the border with North Korea.

These same kinds of stories are happening at military bases around the world in US client nations. From Europe to the Asia-Pacific there are new missile deployments, new barracks for Pentagon troops, more navy ports of call like on Jeju Island, and more new airfields for Pentagon warplanes being aimed at Russia and China.

Soon after returning home I received an email that in Maine our Governor Janet Mills, U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, and U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree participated in the unveiling of the Maine Defense Industry Alliance (MDIA) at the York County Community College. The MDIA is a newly established non-profit coalition of Maine defense companies, state agencies, community colleges and universities, and other vocational training organizations. The partnership was created to 'attract and train thousands of new employees for critical jobs in Maine's defense industrial base'. [...]

People often ask me where I find hope during these dark and difficult times. I always respond by saying: Everywhere I have traveled around this spinning satellite Earth I find special people who are working hard for peace, national sovereignty, real justice and environmental sanity. They don't give up. Age is not a ticket out of the struggle. They are what gives me hope.



In Busan, more than 20 people gathered to hear Bruce on Feb. 22. Before the speech, he visited Gadeok-do, where people protest a new airport plan. Busan is also where the CNFK, the regional command for the US Navy in South Korea, is located. Photo by an event participant



In Jeju, more than 60 people gathered to listen to Bruce's speech on Feb. 20. Before the speech, he visited some space facilities in Jeju. The next day, he joined a press conference in opposition to the space infrastructure developments on Jeju Island, and also met Bishop Kang U-il. Photo by Song Dong-hyo



In Gunsan, around 40 people including Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon, joined Bruce's speech on Feb. 23. Prior to the meeting, Bruce had the chance to look around the tidal flats surrounding the US Kunsan Airbase. The US wants a second runway on the tidal flats. Photo by an event participant



In Daejeon, around 36 people joined Bruce's speech on Feb. 26. On the same day, he visited Imhwa, a farming village where people protest against a new cluster bomb factory. Daejeon is one of the designated space industry clusters. Photo by Sunny



In Pyeongtaek, around 15 activists joined the talk meeting with Bruce Gagnon. Pyeongtaek is where Camp Humphreys, the largest US base outside of the continental United States, is located. The United States Space Force-Korea was created in Pyeongtaek in 2022.



In Seoul, the last spot on the speaking tour, around 55 people joined Bruce's speech. He also met the staff of SPARK, The Frontiers, and Peace Network during his stay in Seoul. Photo by Park Eun-seo. (For more, see space4peace.blogspot.com)

The expansion of space "war and slaughter" industries

By Choi Sung-hee

Gen. Chance Saltzman, United States Space Force Chief of Space Operations, says "collaboration with commercial partners and allies is essential," while the US Space Command plans to maximize its combat readiness by the year of 2027.

In March this year, the South Korean government established the triangle system of Space Industry Clusters which consists of Daejeon, Sacheon in South Gyeongsang Province and Goheung in South Jeolla Province. In April, South Korea's first micro satellites were launched.

In May, while the Korea Aerospace Administration opened its doors, a NASA official announced that they expect to cooperate with South Korea in developing AI, which is widely used in space development. In September, Yoon's government said that it would make South Korea one of the top three AI powerhouses by 2027 which could require many nuclear power plants. On Sept. 11, South Korea's Ministry of National Defense signed a letter of intent with the U.S. Space Forces to participate in its Joint Commercial Operations cell.

Flexel Space, an in-house venture of Hanwha Systems that is building a space center on the site of a former university within Jeju's special groundwater management zone, signed a business agreement with the U.S. satellite manufacturing company, Terran Orbital, in June to supply solar cells. Terran Orbital is involved in manufacturing military satellite bodies under the US Defense Department.

In the name of jobs and economic development, weapons companies are promoting the space industry which should be called the "war and slaughter" industry, throughout Jeju and Korea. Korean civic groups are gradually realizing the truth of the space industry, and the struggle against it will grow.

"Cancel RIMPAC, which is complicit in genocide!"

by Curry

On Jun. 24, the Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base, Gangjeong Peace Network, and 29 other Jeju and Korean organizations released a statement opposing RIMPAC. "On the afternoon of June 7, 2024, Korea's RIMPAC squadron left the Jeju Naval Base and headed to Hawaii to participate in the 2024 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) war exercises. Led by the U.S., RIMPAC is the world's largest multinational maritime war drill, involving 40 surface ships, 3 submarines, 150 aircraft, and 25,000 troops from 29 countries." The statement details how RIMPAC "accelerates the momentum towards war and destroys marine ecosystems and the environment." "Furthermore, Israel, which is carrying out anti-humanitarian and anti-life massacres in Palestine, will also participate, so the countries that have decided to participate in the war exercises will be complicit in the international crime of tolerating Israel's slaughter and destruction." The statement also noted that "Hyundai Heavy Industries recently said that half of the ships that will participate in RIMPAC in the 2030s will be made in Korea." The statement closes with several calls: "Cancel RIMPAC, which is complicit in genocide and destruction! Cancel RIMPAC, which increases the risk of war and strengthens the military industry! Stop all war exercises, which destroy ecosystems and aggravate the climate crisis! Diplomacy and dialogue are important. Abolish all war alliances!"

For the first time, International Women's Alliance, BAYAN USA, and Resist US-Led War Movement organized a "Cancel RIMPAC" campaign with a series of webinars and a Jun. 29-30 summit in San Diego. On Jul. 13, Pacific Peace Network and Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) hosted a webinar, "Why is the Pacific being prepared for War?" which focused on the impact of RIMPAC and how people are resisting the preparations for war in Hawaii, Australia, the Philippines, Korea, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Guahan (Guam).

The Military and Space Industry (excerpts)

By Koohan Paik-Mander

Now, countries are rushing to build a space industry to put up satellites and be part of this new style of warfare. And new kinds of weapons that use AI and robotics and autonomous technology are being quickly developed for this new style of warfare.

Practicing these weapons by killing people in Ukraine and Gaza is in preparation for a U.S. war with China. Any war with China would be huge and dangerous, so practice is required. [..]

The military cannot operate without the private space industry. This is why the number-one consumer of space industry products and services is the U.S. military.

Just last May, the Pentagon announced that it will sign agreements with more commercial space companies all over the world, including South Korean companies. [..] The idea is to seamlessly integrate the civilian space industry with military infrastructure for both times of war and peace [..]

And the most important thing to know about AI is that AI cannot exist without unlimited energy and unlimited surveillance on private citizens.

It is impossible to continue developing AI without expediting climate catastrophe, because AI uses more energy than the Earth can provide with renewable energy. If the entire planet was covered with solar panels and windmills and other forms of renewable energy, it would still not provide enough energy to power AI. That is why the AI companies went to the COP28 meeting in Dubai last year to advocate for a nuclear-powered planet. They were able to get the UN to include nuclear as a renewable energy resource [..]

(Koohan Paik-Mander is one of the board members of Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. The excerpts come from her speech with the same title in Jeju City on Sept. 5.)



While a Korean squadron headed to Hawaii from the Jeju Naval Base to participate in the RIMPAC war games, Hawaiian visitors joined the daily human chain. Pua'ena Ahn led and we followed, shouting "Aloha Aina," calling for love and protection of the earth.



Shikcho, a crew member of the Sea of Peace and Co-Existence sailing project last summer, sailed with the Golden Rule in the US this summer. She was a crew member and gave presentations about Gangjeong Village and sailing on the Jonah's Whale at the Ground Zero Center and other places. Photo by Activist Leegoo

Okinawa Peace March Solidarity

By YangsanG

If I had imagined I'd go to Okinawa, I would have studied Japanese harder. Unfortunately, Okinawa, which has been ruled by Japan for a long time, uses Japanese more than the Ryukyu language. Hosu and I went to Okinawa last May and Jihye, who is living in Okinawa for a year, guided us. Gangjeong people have joined the 5.15 march every year except during Covid 19, and fortunately we could join this year. Participating in a march to pray for peace in a place other than Gangjeong was unfamiliar but familiar.

After visiting the Futenma Marine Corps Base and shopping malls targeting the U.S. military, we visited Henoko Village. We unpacked at Henoko's peace guesthouse Cushion, and visited the Camp Schwab base expansion site. 20-30 people were sitting to block the main construction entrance, and a long line of dump trucks were stopped. Gangjeong people joined them and danced to the song 'Like a Rock.' Then we were dragged out and confined by the police. That reminds me of the past in Gangjeong.

After the sun set, we returned to Cushion and walked through the village. The lights from tattoo parlors and Mexican food shops filled the streets. U.S. soldiers in military uniforms gathered near the light, and some of them said 'Konichiwa'. It felt like the future of Gangjeong turned into a U.S. military camptown. Every night at Cushion, we talked with people who visited from all over Japan. We introduced the situation of Gangjeong and listened to Okinawan songs. I remembered how solidarity and visitors who fight together warmed our hearts in Gangjeong, relieving the loneliness of our struggle. In Okinawa, across the sea, I gained a warm heart to carry back to my daily life and struggle against the naval base.

From a house with no one here

by umi

10 minutes by car from Henoko, I'm writing this at an empty house in Ginoza Village. The owner of this house is traveling, and I came to stay alone. Today is April 6th. 3 days ago, it was 4.3, and I prayed in Henoko. There was an earthquake in Taiwan that morning, and Hualien, where I walked in January of this year, horribly collapsed. Tomorrow will mark (more than) 6 months of the genocide in Gaza. Is there a boundary between today and tomorrow for the people in Gaza? My heart was torn apart for both places. I'm laying in a house with no one here.

Having written like that, here is Okinawa. This house is built in the Okinawan style, and sometimes the noise of military aircraft is so loud. I overhear Okinawan TV from the neighboring house, and the sea at dusk is soothing. But whenever I look at the sky, I think of Jeju. Only in Jeju have I seen the color of sky that makes me sigh. Whenever I remember Jeju, I call my friends' names in my heart. With their faces in my head, I went back to the empty house.

Even in my short days, I got friends in Henoko, Jeju, and various sites. Even in our short time, the militarization of Okinawa and Korea is going horribly fast. Every time I had words to say, I was broken. I'm sorry, I'm so weak these days. "You're in Okinawa," I say to myself, and walk along the islands. From a house with no one here, I'm looking at the sky. Okinawa has heavy rain and a cloudy sky. I'll reach out to your sky.



Two members from the Henoko Blue kayak team in Okinawa sailed together on the Jonah's Whale sailboat and held a kayak protest outside the sea entrance of the Jeju Naval Base on July 17. The coast guard threatened to arrest the protestors if they blocked the path of a cruise ship long before the cruise ship moved away from the dock. Photo by Akane-san



Similar to Uncle Jonghwan (right), who faithfully cooks lunch at Gangjeong's Samgeori Community Kitchen, Inaba-san (left) cooks and hosts visitors at Cushion Guesthouse in Henoko, Okinawa. Inaba-san brought a group of visitors to learn about Jeju's history and peace movement from June 29 to July 1. Photo by Hosu



On June 25, it was revealed that a US soldier in Okinawa had sexually assaulted a 15 year old girl in Dec. 2023, but the crime had been covered up by the Japanese Government. Korean Peace Network Against Military Bases and Living & Education Community Gongryong collected signatures and solidarity photos calling for Japan to hold US soldiers accountable and prevent future sexual violence. Photos by Hosu



The US guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins (DDG 76) docked at the Jeju Naval Base two times, from Mar. 5-9 and from June 22-26. As soldiers left the base on tour buses, we called on the US to apologize for responsibility during the Jeju April 3 massacres, to stop the war exercises, and to get out of Jeju. Photo by Choi Sung-hee

Taiwan Peace Journey: Solidarity Amid Differences

by Ddochi

I joined the World Peace University's Taiwan peace journey from March 14-31. As we travelled, we listened to the people we met and talked about the solidarity of Jeju, Taiwan, and Okinawa. Although Taiwan and Jeju are both islands and are becoming militarized amid the military tensions between the US and China, I encountered differences in thinking.

During our peace journey, the news came out that US Army Special Forces (Green Berets) were being stationed in Taiwan. Just then, we had an opportunity to talk with graduate students from Chang Jung Christian University in Tainan. Most of the students thought that the US military presence would protect Taiwan from China. Students from India also said that militarization was necessary to balance power and maintain peace in India-Pakistan relations.

However, when we call for solidarity between Jeju, Taiwan, and Okinawa, we call for turning East Asia into lands and seas of peace where all life can live without armed conflict. The issue of "parties concerned" came to mind when I encountered this difference. Do I have the right to speak though I am not living directly in the midst of these tensions in cross-strait relations? Sometimes, attention to "parties concerned" empowers those who did not have the right to speak, but on the other hand, it divides people into who can and who cannot speak. Such division makes people limit their speech and feel indifferent. But we cannot stop here.

As I met people in Taiwan, I heard about cross-strait relations, the political situation, the 2.28 Incident, the history of the democratization movement, the indigenous movement, and the struggle against the Orchid Island nuclear waste plant. By constantly trying to learn and asking questions, we come to understand each other. Shouldn't we constantly try to learn and to ask questions rather than judging who can speak? I believe this was the purpose of my peace journey.



On Apr. 19, Corazon Fabros, Merci Angeles and Prescilla Tulipat gave presentations about the history and current situations of women facing militarization in the Philippines. Photo by Eunyoung

The Philippines is being thrust into war

by Atty. Virginia Lacsua Suarez

The US has quickly positioned the Philippines within its war strategies focused on China. There are now nine EDCA sites - Philippine military bases where the US military has "shared" access. War exercises such as Balikatan, Salaknib, and MAREX PHL are increasing and expanding, with increasing numbers of participating countries and expanded scope and area. The US has deployed a Medium Range Ballistic Missile launcher in Ilocos Norte which can reach the South China Sea, the southern China mainland, and the Taiwan Strait. The US has spearheaded US-Japan-Philippines Trilateral Security

Cooperation and the creation of the SQUAD, an alliance of the US, Australia, Japan, and the Philippines on May 4, 2024. A Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan was signed Jul. 8, 2024. It is almost a copy-paste of the US-Philippines Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), with the ultimate goal of providing protection to Japanese soldiers during their war exercises in the Philippines. Also, the UK, France, and Canada have expressed interest in VFAs with the Philippines. Like the US, these NATO members plan to establish a version of NATO in the Asia-Pacific.

The Philippines' role has expanded as a launching base and vassal/pawn of the US in provoking war against China. It is not right for China to flaunt "sovereignty" in the West Philippine Sea. However, the "territorial dispute" in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) should be discussed by the Philippines and China- without the US, because as long as the US is part of the talks, we are in greater danger.

Words and updates from the Sea of Peace and Coexistence

by Seungjoon

Over the past 6 months, the Sea of Peace and Coexistence project has continued its mission through a series of public events and film screenings across Korea. A work in progress film of the initial voyage of the Jonah's Whale from Gangjeong to Okinawa and Taiwan has screened as an effort to document the efforts of inter-island solidarity across the Pacific. With increasing war mobilization efforts across the Pacific from the US and China, the mission of the Sea of Peace and Coexistence project to create bridges of solidarity across these islands is all the more important.

The work in progress film of the initial sailing journey documents this journey marked by the wind and waves. Neverending military bases, radars, and booming fighter jets overhead peer through the ocean in continuing patterns. However in spite of this, we sail for our friends in solidarity. From these seemingly far away islands, through the act of sailing, the distance shortens in a blink. As we prepare for the next voyage for the Sea of Peace and Coexistence we keep these memories in mind alongside the rapidly changing situations across Jeju, Okinawa and Taiwan.

Showing Up in Gangjeong Village

by Deulso

Grant Leuning, known in Gangjeong as Deulso, wrote a thesis (for the Doctor of Philosophy in Communication at the University of California San Diego) on the creative and strategic practices he observed in the Gangjeong peace movement. The thesis is titled "Showing Up in Gangjeong Village: The Work of Place, Peace, and Appearance at the Jeju Naval Base" and is "dedicated to Gangjeong Village and Gureombi Rock." "This dissertation is an encounter with Gangjeong Village. [...] I trace how showing up occurs along two axes: the construction of a daily culture of protest and the strategies of defining and connecting locality with 'elsewhere.' [...] I show the development of the Anti-Naval Base and Peace Movements from 2007 to 2023 and analyze the contemporary practices of daily resistance through music, performance, and visual culture analyses. Through these lenses, I argue that activists have produced a unique combination of life and protest. [...] In Gangjeong Village, showing up, appearing, arriving, persisting, enacting, creating, revealing, and living through protest creates a form of action that does not interrupt life but is a living interruption, the removal of the distinction between life and struggle, and a vision of political action that can be sustained without end."

"There is the tomorrow that hopes to show up, that builds an ordinary life out of the collective gatherings of a small town, which knows what to do at 7 and 11 and 12, that helps maintain the collective community. [...] There is the tomorrow of prefigured institutions, the wished-for future that already is in the Peace University or the Gangjeong Art Activism collective, or the underlying structure of a community that is self-consciously developing toward lives of more freedom and autonomy. There is the tomorrow when the state turns its gaze, and baton, on you, when it comes time to build our own sustained occupations in defense of our own Gureombi Rock when we turn to Gangjeong Village to see how it has survived for so long. And there is the tomorrow in fifty years, when a typhoon from the south surges against the breakwater and it cracks and it falls and the sea rushes in. Between those tomorrows, there is the life of Gangjeong, the care and love of a community that struggles to arrive, to return, and to continue showing up."

(If you would like a copy of Deulso's thesis, please write to us at gjengnews@gmail.com.)

Seongsan and ZAD: Airport struggle solidarity

by aRiverDrop



A plover incubating its eggs in Seongsan on Apr. 12.
Photo by aRiverDrop

On Apr. 27, in Seongsan, Jeju, a special presentation was held by a French environmental activist (pseudonym Camille) who had participated for 5 years in the fight against the construction of a new airport in Notre Dame des Landes, France. The airport project, initiated in 1968 to replace the Nantes airport, faced intense confrontations and numerous interruptions before being definitively abandoned in Jan. 2018. The airport was canceled due to a deteriorating economic situation, the resistance against it, and an increase in environmental awareness. The network of supporters from all over France made me envious.

However, the victory was not all joy for ZAD's people (ZAD means "zone to defend"). The government quickly evicted them from their occupation of the airport site. Despite these challenges,

they warmly welcomed visitors from Korea. Hyunji Kim, who visited the ZAD activists this year, and aRiverDrop, who visited in 2018, organized the Apr. 27 presentation at Musa bookstore in Susan Village, Seongsan.

Earlier on Apr. 27, visitors joined a field trip to the planned airport area and a bird-watching event at the beach to observe plovers. Due to the proximity of people, including us, the birds were experiencing difficulty in properly hatching their eggs.

Thank you for visiting

by Curry

There have been many visitors to the Gangjeong peace movement in 2024. The Jeonbuk Peasants Association made enthusiastic speeches in front of the Jeju Naval Base. Several Korean school groups performed songs or dances at the human chain. Professor Min-Ah Cho brought a group of Georgetown University students in March. Mennonite Mission Network's Youth Venture program included a visit to Gangjeong in June.

40 people came to Gangjeong as part of a Korea Japan Youth Peace Forum in August. Some visitors shared presentations with the Gangjeong community, such as Janna Hunter Bowman, who talked about peace communities in Colombia. Elliott Adams from Veterans for Peace shared about joining an event hosted by SPARK in Japan to call for US accountability for war crimes in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings. Diverse visitors enrich the Gangjeong community with their shared experiences and solidarity.

‘Linear improvement’ plans threaten Gangjeong River

By Lee Kwang-hee

Soon after the northern entrance road to the naval base was opened in Nov. 2023, the navy began construction on the eastern entrance road from Akgeun Bridge to the base’s main gate. Plans for ‘linear improvement’ of the eastern entrance road include raising the height of Gangjeong First Bridge and Akgeun Bridge and straightening the curved road, with a total length of 622 meters and a cost of 9 billion won. Like the northern entrance road, it also would be used for smooth transportation of goods to and from the naval base, but above all, it would impress cruise tourists with the grandness of the base. Even with the current road’s size and traffic volume, transportation of goods and people is not very difficult.

Due to its geography, its clean water and natural resources, Gangjeong River is home to a large number of animals and plants, including mandarin ducks, which are recognized as a natural monument. Endangered species also live at Gangjeong River: whisk ferns, ospreys, black paradise flycatchers, kestrels, little egrets, and grey herons.

Plans for the construction of a new bridge over Gangjeong River were canceled last year after we reported that the area is home to the whisk fern (a Class II endangered species) and the Ministry of Environment refused to approve the road construction. All environmental assessment agencies on Jeju Island issued opinions that the project cannot proceed, but Jeju Province and Seogwipo City succumbed to pressure from the navy and are secretly contracting with a mainland service company that claims to have the technical capability to transplant the whisk ferns. If the construction goes ahead, many plants and animals that depend on the area, such as the whisk ferns, black paradise flycatchers, and mandarin ducks, will lose their habitat and face the danger of extinction.



An endangered black paradise flycatcher at Gangjeong River. Photo by People Protecting Gangjeong River

A New Office for the Peace Co-op

by YangsanG

In 2008, Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon and Peace Wind sold fish to support the Gangjeong residents’ struggle. In the following years, proceeds from citrus grown by Gangjeong villagers were used to build the Gangjeong Peace Center and to pay for legal aid. On Jun. 29, 2013, 30 citrus farmers and activists gathered to formally organize and register the Gangjeong Peace Co-op. The cooperative continues to sell tangerines, mandarin oranges, and other Jeju specialties. The proceeds support various activities in Gangjeong, such as the Gangjeong Peace Center and the Halmangmul Community Kitchen.

For 10 years, we rented various spaces, but in 2023 supporters from all over the country raised funds, and we purchased a property near Tongmul Library in Gangjeong which includes an office, warehouse, fruit-packing facilities, and an off-season cultural and art space. Construction began in December and was completed in June.

Peace University (Christian Peacemaker & Peace Voyager) & Something Peace (Some People & Something Week)



In the last few years, many human chain participants are young people who have been living and seeking peace in Gangjeong Village through several programs. The World Peace University includes two three-month programs: the Peace Voyager program learn peace with sailing, and for the first time this fall a Christian Peacemaker program to learn peace theology. The Something Peace program practices peace in daily life and includes the three-month Some People program and Something Week. Photo by Lee Sung-joon

Protesting the notice of the 2nd airport basic plan

by Lee Kwang-hee

On Sept. 6, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport(MOLIT) announced its "basic plan" to construct the Jeju 2nd Airport in Seongsan-eup, Seogwipo. It took MOLIT 10 years and 8 months to release this basic plan even though it released initial plans to build a second airport in Nov. 2015. During that time many problems were exposed, including poor budgeting, an inflated estimation of the demand, and reports that conflated temporary construction jobs with stable job opportunities for Jeju residents.

Furthermore, many lies circulated because politicians used the airport issue to gain votes. Former Jeju governor Won Hee-ryong pushed for building the second airport, despite high levels of opposition in a survey of Jeju residents conducted jointly by the provincial government and Jeju civil society. Current Jeju governor Oh Young Hoon was elected because he promised a compromise solution, that is, to follow the opinion of Jeju residents. However, after the election he changed his position, refused a referendum, and welcomed the basic plan for the 2nd airport. Another reason that it took over ten years for MOLIT to release a concrete airport plan is because the natural environment of Jeju itself has fought against the greed for capital and political power. Although this recent notice of the basic plan for the 2nd airport opened official procedures for the airport to become a national project, Jeju civil society will not succumb to the violence of capital and political power, and we will eventually stop the construction of the second airport.

Cruise Consequences

by Deulso

All development / comes with the sacrifice of local people / who will be paid back with tragic reality

- Gangjeong farmer poet Kim Sung-Kyu

According to the Jeju Tourism Association, 2024 has been a record year for foreign tourists on Jeju Island, with the most significant increase at Seogwipo-Gangjeong Cruise Terminal. This year the terminal has been running at near-maximum capacity, with 106 scheduled cruise visits for 2024. Part of the Jeju Naval Base complex, the cruise terminal was originally proposed to compensate Gangjeong villagers for the economic damage caused by the base.

However, despite approximately 40,000 cruise passengers visiting every month, the vast majority board chartered buses that whisk them away to other destinations, offering little economic benefit to the local community. The influx of buses was one of the reasons for constructing the naval base access road, which destroyed environmentally sensitive areas and polluted the Gangjeong River. Yet many buses continue to use Gangjeong's narrow local roads, which are frequented by pedestrians and children walking to the elementary school.

Meanwhile, despite cutting many public bus routes around the island in August, Jeju started a specialty bus line running from the Cruise Terminal to the Jungmun Tourist Complex and various resorts and theme parks.

Not guilty for urging release of beluga

By Muneo, Hot Pink Dolphins

In 2013, Lotte World Aquarium imported three belugas. Confinement stress and poor breeding conditions led to the deaths of two belugas in Apr. 2016 and Oct. 2019, and Lotte announced that it would return the last surviving beluga, Bella, to the sea.

However, after five years Lotte has not kept its promise. Hoping that Bella could leave her narrow tank and return to the open sea before it's too late, Hot Pink Dolphins activists and supporters staged a protest on Dec. 16, 2022. They put up banners reading "Stop the exhibition" and "Demand release" on the tank where Bella is trapped.

Then, Lotte filed unreasonable criminal charges against Hot Pink Dolphins activists and supporters in Jan. 2023, "inflating the amount of damage" and "muzzling civic groups." Hot Pink Dolphins co-representative Hwang Hyun-jin was tried on charges of obstruction of business and property damage, though the act of hanging banners constitutes freedom of expression as guaranteed by the constitution.

Lotte World Aquarium must be held responsible for capturing cetaceans and destroying the marine ecosystem. Lotte has so far pursued making money through exploitation of non-human animals, but I hope it will keep its promises to citizens and fulfill its corporate social responsibilities even now.

We live in Miryang and Gangjeong

by Nam Eo Jin



Gangjeong and Miryang friends clean up after the 6.11 eviction 10 year memorial rally. Photo by the Miryang 765 kV Transmission Tower Opposition Committee

On June 8, a Mass Movement to Stop Yoon Suk-yeol's Nuclear Escalation was held in Miryang. About 1,500 participants gathered to remember the 10th anniversary of the Miryang anti-nuclear anti-transmission tower movement's 6.11 eviction by force. The grandmothers and grandfathers of Miryang fought fiercely, dedicating their lives, but from Oct. 2013 to June 2014, Korea Electric Power Corporation and the government sent in 380,000 police officers to enforce the construction. On June 11, 2014, due to the administrative execution, the sit-in area where people slept and ate for several years was destroyed. Then it was replaced by a 100-meter-tall transmission tower. However, about 100 households don't accept the transmission tower and have continued opposing the unfair, undemocratic, and unsafe energy system for 19 years.

Gangjeong Village and Miryang are very similar. At Miryang, a gigantic lump of iron chases people down all day, and at Gangjeong, a gigantic lump of concrete blocks the land and the sea. People still live in these villages wounded by state violence. This Miryang rally was made possible with the help of many friends, including friends from Gangjeong Village. We met virtually every week to prepare the event together. Thanks to this support, our friends in Miryang gained a lot of encouragement. In long-lasting solidarity with each other, we live in Miryang and Gangjeong, despite all.

Intersectionality of Peace Movements and Urban Movements

by e-sang

On June 17, Okbaraji Missionary Center and Gangjeong activists co-hosted a forum called "Intersectionality of Peace Movements and Urban Movements." The forum organizer e-sang said they aimed to create space to "look closely at the anti-naval base movement and the commercial tenant solidarity movement to define and appreciate how 'peace and life' and 'the right to the city' intersect." Lee Minhee (the center for city and community), Lee Jonggeon (Okbaraji Missionary Center), Ddalgi (Peace Wind), and Jarita (Something Peace) made presentations, followed by a discussion. On June 18, there was a worship service in front of Jeju Naval Base. Gooseok read aloud his prayer. "Dear God, if a world without war and a world full of peace is your promised place, the kingdom of God, it doesn't seem to be coming after all ... However, dear God, we imagine that world in great detail. This moment that we all come together to worship, sing, dance, and fight against authority seems to be that world of yours. We, who have many names, remember the times that we supported each other, and we supported you, and you supported us. We hope that we never give up being who we are ... In this lonely path, this painful path, thank you for letting me be next to you."

2nd Jeju Peace Theology Forum

by Tola

Held Sept. 8-10, the 2nd Jeju Peace Theology Forum aimed to find alternative peace activities in our daily lives. The forum's theme for this year was "Singing Peace in everyday life" and we heard from five speakers who covered a variety of topics surrounding militarization and solidarity. While Curry was an amazing translator, there is only so much one can remember from such deep topics. My personal favourite speaker was Brother Song as he has a charisma that brings hope to an otherwise bleak struggle for peace. We heard about the 1st sailing voyage of the sailboat "Jonah's Whale" and all the people they met working towards peace on their islands of Taiwan and Japan. The struggle for peace is not a lonely one; it is one done in community with people around the world. Along with the presentations, we also each joined one of four outings that touched on different peace movements around Jeju: Farming, Gangjeong Kayak Protest, 2nd Airport opposition in Seongsan-eup, and a presentation on why people are coming to join the peace movement in Gangjeong. Forums like this one expose us to new ideas and expand on those we know, which allows us to continue in our struggle for peace.



At the Gangjeong street mass tent on the night before Easter Sunday. Photo by Lee Kwang-hee



Our furry friend Jung-deok, who joined the Gangjeong peace movement from 2008, living on Gureombi Rock and then at Sameori Community Kitchen, passed away in the morning of Jun. 18. Kim Jonghwan, also known as "Jung-deok's dad," said "Thank you to every friend who stayed by Jung-deok's side!"



The Gangjeong Peace Choir joined with singers from around Korea to make a music video remembering the 10th anniversary of the sinking of the Sewol Ferry on April 16, 2014. 304 passengers, including 250 students from Danwon High School, died while the Korean government failed to conduct effective rescue operations, but there still have not been complete truth investigations into the sinking of the ferry, which was carrying construction materials for the Jeju Naval Base. Photo by Deulggot



On July 13, the Jeju Queer Pride was held for the first time in Seogwipo. Various booths, performances, blessing ceremonies, and circle dance events continued at Jaguri Park followed by marches in downtown Seogwipo. Photo by Runy



On April 13, the Saint Francis Peace Center hosted a tour to learn about the April 3rd Uprising and Massacre, focusing on the experience of the people who hid from the army on the slopes of Halla Mountain. Photo by Curry



Students from Gandhi School participated in a kayak protest on Sept. 25. The flag reads, "Close the Navy Base!" Photo by Curry



On June 22, The Frontiers hosted a World Refugee Day flea market to raise awareness about Rohingya and Palestinian refugees, and to raise money to support education projects in Rohingya refugee camps. Photo by Ddochi



On Oct. 12, the organizers of last year's Peace & Music Camp hosted a Peace & Music Live concert at the Gangjeong Peace Center. Five of the musicians who made the album "To Unknown Friends in Distant Places," including More and Doto's duo, "Moredo-toyoil," performed. Photo by Tantan



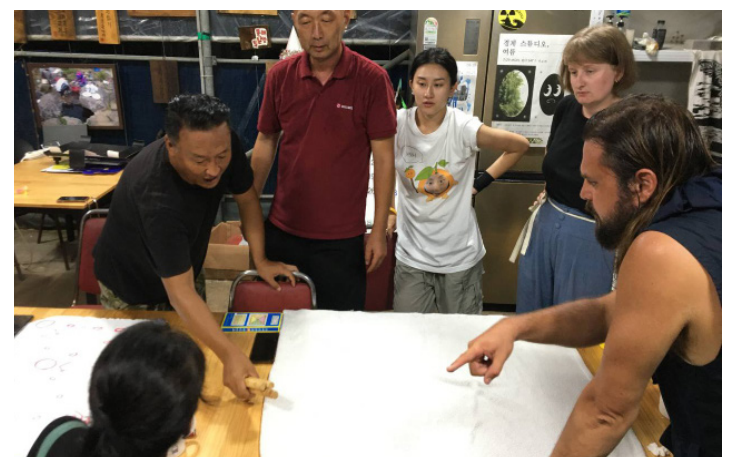
On June 1, the Jeju Naval Base held an open house, particularly inviting children to visit the base, as part of an event to promote "co-prosperity" between the base and Gangjeong Village. An anti-war market was held outside the navy base, to offer an alternative peace perspective, along with face-painting, snacks, and other activities. This poster by Ryeongang says, "War is stupid. I want to go to school. The sounds scare me. I lost all my family and only I'm left." Photo by Choi Sung-hee



Since April of this year a new artistic initiative has been started in Gangjeong village. Samguri Film Lab focuses on the development of analog film in opposition to the industrial filmmaking hegemony through handmade sustainable film production. We host screenings and workshops every month. Reach us on instagram @samguri.film. Photo by Seungjoon



Peace community members gathered to cook and eat a variety of traditional Korean holiday foods, including "Mandu" dumplings, at Samgeori/Halmangmul Community Kitchen on Feb. 9 during the Lunar New Year holiday. Photo by Curry



After a wonderful Chuseok meal, many stayed around to play games. In this photo, the traditional game Yut is being played. Photo by Curry

Petitions to hold war criminals accountable

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy(PSPD) and Asian Dignity Initiative(ADI) recruited 5,148 co-accusers to press charges in Korean courts against the war criminals responsible for Israel's genocide of Palestinians. In 2007, South Korea enacted the "Act On Punishment Of Crimes Under the Jurisdiction Of The International Criminal Court." Under this law, South Korean law enforcement can investigate and punish those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Korean Cultural Alliance for Palestine (KCAP), BDS Korea, PEACE MOMO, World Without War, Heung Coalition, BDS Japan Bulletin, and Network for Art Students in Resistance created a petition to demand that Hanwha Systems and Hanwha Aerospace end their complicity with genocide. In 2021, Hanwha Systems signed MOUs with two Israeli defense companies, Elta Systems and Elbit Systems, to "promote technology cooperation and explore new export opportunities." The petition calls upon Hanwha Corp to end all business activities, including weapons contracts, with Israeli defense companies now and in the future. You can sign the petition at <https://campaigns.do/campaigns/1323>.



On Aug. 12, a Palestinian student joined the Gangjeong daily human chain. She has actively joined protests in Seoul, thankful that she is not alone to oppose the genocidal war against her people and call for a Free Palestine. Photo by Choi Sung-hee

Rally in Jeju City for Palestine

by Curry

Despite the rain, about 50 people gathered in front of Jeju City Hall on Oct. 7 to show solidarity with the people of Palestine and denounce the Korean arms manufacturer Hanwha for complicity in genocide. Gangjeong Peace Network proposed the rally, and 16 other Jeju organizations signed on and participated. Participants held carefully water-proofed picket signs calling for a Free Palestine and an end to Korean weapons deals with Israel. Speeches were interspersed with music, and the rally closed with a "Jeju Emergency Action Statement on One Year of Gaza Genocide:"

"Israel, Stop the Genocide Now! [...] The world is witnessing how the belief in security based on powerful weapons and military power is an illusion, and how in reality, cruelty, violence, wars, and genocides continue. [...] Each government, including Korea, which maddeningly abstained from the 19 Sept. UN General Assembly vote, must respond to the calls and demands of citizens from the anti-war peace movement around the world and actively step forward to stop the war!

"Genocide-complicit Hanwha, Get Out of Jeju! [...] On Oct. 3, Hanwha, Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI), and Elbit Systems, [Israel's largest arms company,] signed a 3-party MOU to collaborate to enhance the capabilities of versatile Black Hawk helicopters. [...] Hanwha System's space center and the tentatively named Hawon Techno Campus, currently being promoted in Jeju, foreshadow more future killings. [...]

"Liberation, independence, and peace for Palestine! Ceasefire Now! [...] The South Korean government and Hanwha, which are complicit in Israel's illegal genocide and war crimes through arms cooperation, must immediately stop profiting from genocide and war!

Place, memories, and people disappear due to Gangjeong Village road expansion

by Choi Hyea-yeong



A disappearing tree. Photos by Seungjoon and Jina

Choi Hyea-yeong visiting Kim Do-sil at Aljeombang. Photo by Kim Hyunju

Do you remember the platform under the big tree across the street from the old Gangjeong Village Ceremonial Hall, the dry cleaners, and Gong-gan () Cafe? The tree, full of birdsong all day, sheltered people who gathered to chat. It was cut down and removed overnight to make way for unnecessary expansion of Maljil-ro road.

Aljeombang Rice Store has been run by Kim Do-sil, a native of Gangjeong, for more than 30 years. The bench in front of the store is also a Sarangbang (welcoming place) for many grandmothers. On their way home, they sat together to rest and check in with each other. Neighboring houses and buildings were torn down in recent years, until only Aljeombang was left.

Under the name of the Village Community Recovery Project, massive, uniform roadworks destroy the scenery of Gangjeong Village and erase memories of the people who lived there. Before these memories get erased, we try to keep a record of how the village has changed since the naval base was built.

How You Can Join

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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Peace in Palestine!

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