

*By Dr. Song Kang-Ho (Excerpt from a longer article written in prison)*

In Gangjeong Village, on land and sea which belongs to the villagers, a huge Naval base is being built against an unknown, assumed enemy, who the navy cannot even identify. The once declared “Peace Island” has been diluted to the “Peace and Prosperity Island” and the scholars who once declared that the Peace Island should be non-militarized, now use sophistry to argue that the Peace Island and a Naval base can co-exist. These scholars and politicians without beliefs are always jumping on such bandwagons.

Governor Woo made the wrong decision, which is to re-subordinate the Jeju “Special Self-Governing Province” under the Republic of Korea’s government and military, changing a safe and peaceful island to a target for enemies, and breaking an absolute preservation area and natural monuments with the pouring of concrete. This policy of shortsighted, focused only on money. We are following false illusions as if they are true visions and so we destroy nature and community.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Consider making a donation to support our international outreach and public education efforts.
2. Write letters to Gangneung's prisoners of conscience (See page 3). Address Letters to: Dr. Song Kang-Ho (No. 611), or Mr. Kim Bok-Chul (No. 598), or Mr. Kim Dong-Won (No. 264), Jeju Prison, 161 Ora-Dong, Jeju City, Jeju Island, Korea
3. Stay updated on the resistance by joining the "No Naval Base on Jeju!" and "Save Jeju" Facebook pages. Follow the most recent developments on Twitter at [#savejejuisland](#) and [#savegangneung](#) and [#gangneung](#) - then re-tweet.
4. Call the Korean Embassy in your country and let them know that Jeju does not want a naval base! The militarization of Jeju Island runs contrary to its designation as the "Island of World Peace." 94% of village residents voted no!
5. Email the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and ask that they demand the US, Korean government to stop the Jeju naval base project: [congress@iucn.org](mailto:congress@iucn.org)
6. Email Jeju Island Governor Woo Keun-Min and tell him how you feel about the military base being built on the pristine "Island of World Peace." He should ORDER the navy to halt construction (destruction) and use his official power to cancel the Navy's license for reclamation of public water and its adjacent surface along Guroemri Rock and its coast! Contact him at: [lmw282@jeju.go.kr](mailto:lmw282@jeju.go.kr) or [jeumaster@jeju.go.kr](mailto:jeumaster@jeju.go.kr)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

<http://www.savejejunow.org> (English)  
<http://www.savejeju.org> (English)  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/nonavalbase> (English)  
<http://www.facebook.com/SaveJeju> (English / Korean)  
<http://cafe.daum.net/peacekj> (Korean / English / Mandarin)

**For Gangjeong related videos, check these Youtube sites:**

1234yz100 / Dopeheadzo / Benjidamour / Gurambe / Sungbong2012 / Shalomsea

# Created and Designed by the Gangjeong International Team, special thanks to Andy Kurzen for design assistance

# Published by the Gangjeong Village Association, 4417 Gangjeong-dong, the Life and Peace village, Seogwipo City, Jeju, the Peace Island



Image: Lee Woo-Ki

Village woman Kim Mi-Ryang is surrounded by police as she sits atop her car. Without evidence, the police accused her of damaging a police radio in the middle of the night. Finally, 7 police buses and the Seogwipo Chief of Police came to arrest just one person. She was arrested on July 17 and released on bail on July 26.

I served in the Republic Of Korea as part of the US Army, I have been to Jeju. The destruction of Gangjeong is nothing short of a crime, and a crime that is being perpetrated for short term military advantage and monetary profit for a few. [...]

**Elliott Adams, Past President, Veterans For Peace, USA**

[...] We can never have peace and security with American military presence which threatens our country with instability and war. While we have ejected the two US military bases in 1992, the Americans have come back through the Visiting Forces Agreement that allows US troops and possibly nuclear-armed ships to enter our territory. 600 American Special Operations Forces are permanently based in Zamboanga City, Southern Philippines. [...] We call on all peace-loving citizens of the world to support our Grand March for Peace!

**Merci Llarinas Angeles, Convener, Peace Women Partners-Philippines**

I send support and gratitude to all who are marching, speaking, organizing and working in whatever way they can to save Jeju Island from the irreparable destruction of a naval base on its fragile shores. [...] I believe that our unity across the globe can bring safety and an endless future to Jeju Island. I know that we will count our efforts as one of the most important things we have done in our lives.

**Gloria Steinem, writer and Feminist organizer, NY, USA**

Excerpts of messages sent from around the world for the Grand March for the Peace of the Gangjeong: <http://cafe.daum.net/peacekj/I51g/417>

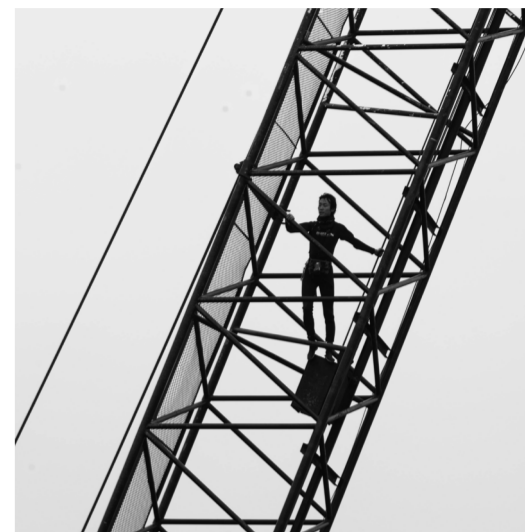


Front headline image sources: Jung Da-Woo-Ri & Cho Sung-Bong, Jung Da-Woo-Ri, Cho Sung-Bong, & Yu Gang-Jeong (Gangjeong UK Solidarity),



**AUGUST  
1  
2012**

Published by Gangjeong Village in Jeju, South Korea



An activist is imprisoned since June 30, month for his and others heroic nonviolent actions but illegal dredging stopped for more than month. Meanwhile, the police and coast guard stood by doing nothing but trying to stop the nonviolent intervention, despite the illegal activities of the construction company right behind them.

Like usual, the silt protectors, mandatory environmental protection, was not properly in place causing tremendous amounts of environmental damage to the sea and the nearby environmentally protected soft corals. [Ed. See Gangjeong Village Story, July Issue for an in-depth article on the silt protectors]

Following numerous complaints and a large press conference from the village regarding this situation, the dredging

did not stop. On June 29, an inspection team from the provincial government came and verified what the villagers and activists had been saying for a long time and called the construction site office twice and demanded a halt to the dredging. But the audacious navy would not listen and continued construction!

On the morning of June 30, members of the SOS ocean team kayaked out to the barge to observe and protest. When they arrived they found that there was a huge gap in the silt protectors directly in front of the barge and the protected soft corals. The team took pictures and protested to the construction workers asking them to stop. The coast guard came, but instead of telling the illegal dredgers to stop, they began to harass and block the protestors.

Two members, including Kim Dong-Won, swam to the barge to protest and talk to the workers. After many attempts at discussion (rudely shouted down by the workers), Dong-Won climbed up and occupied a tall crane on the barge, high in the air. The other SOS members stayed on the barge trying to communicate with construction workers but was violently attacked and shoved off the barge into the water. Dong Won occupied the crane for 7 hours, demanding a halt to construction and the withdrawal of the barge.

Because of Dong Won and the other SOS members actions, the dredging was stopped for a whole day and the ship left. Unfortunately, for his good deed, Dong Won was arrested and has been imprisoned since that time.

Despite all this, a week later, in the middle of the night, the barge secretly returned and began to work again. Infuriated, activists and villagers swam in the dark night, blowing whistles, and shooting off fireworks. This time the barge left without further action. After hearing this, the provincial government also declared that no further dredging could be done until the silt protectors were properly fixed and inspected or the construction companies would face punishment. Since that time, no further dredging has been done as the construction companies finally appear to be installing proper silt protectors. It is truly sad that they can't even follow their own guidelines for their "Eco-friendly" base. Yet another example that the "Eco-friendly" part would be a funny joke if this struggle wasn't so serious and upsetting.

*By Christine Ahn and Anders Riel Muller (Excerpt from a longer article at Foreign Policy in Focus)*

On July 5, South Korea's Supreme Court overturned lower court rulings against the Ministry of National Defense for proceeding with construction of a naval base on Jeju Island without an environmental impact assessment (EIA). It also ruled that the governor of Jeju had the authority to change the designation of absolute preservation areas. This ruling wasn't just a major blow to residents of Gangjeong village where the navy base is being built but also to the many voiceless marine organisms. [...]

Although the villagers' hopes of winning in a retrial in Seoul's High Court are slim, they have a golden opportunity to influence the court of public opinion by garnering the support of thousands of environmentalists worldwide. This upcoming September the world's largest and most important environmental conservation event, the World Conservation Congress (WCC), will take place at Jungmun Resort, just four miles from Gangjeong.

Yet the organizers of the Congress, the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), have cowered before the Lee Myung Bak administration, conceding in an official statement that the government “has a responsibility for its own national security, particularly given geopolitical sensitivities in its region.”

Not only have national security interests blinded South Korea's justice system, they appear to have silenced the world's largest and oldest environmental organization from taking a more principled stand to protect nature and traditional livelihoods. [...]

The naval base not only destroys local ecosystems and livelihoods in Gangjeong. It is a strategic piece in the environmentally destructive global race for resources that creates military tensions and conflicts around the world. The World Conservation Congress provides a critical opportunity for Gangjeong villagers to garner the solidarity of the world's leading environmental actors. It also presents a chance for the IUCN and its membership to challenge and confront militarism in its efforts to protect and conserve nature.



Nationwide Candle Relay from Gangjeong to Seoul

On June 28, solar heat in the sacred altar of Gangjeong Village lit the single candle that traveled to the 21 main cities of Korea. It arrived in Seoul on July 27, the 59th anniversary of the 1953 Cease Fire. The purpose of the journey was to kindle the will for peace across Korea and push for the revocation of the Jeju naval base project.

The start was not without trouble. As the stage was being raised, construction company hired thugs began blocking it for no reason. Infuriated, activists and villagers stormed the base site in protest. Once inside some people also went to visit Gureombi. The police asked the Mayor to call everyone out of the site and he agreed and waited with others for their return However, riot police arrived and surrounded the protestors outside and also blocked the exit of those inside. Even after those that had gone to Gureombi came back, their exit was blocked without reason until after 10 p.m. Meanwhile, outside the gates, the event began and although the stage was only half constructed and police surrounded it, it was crowded and lively with many activists and villagers. Those that came out joined the end of the event and danced joyfully together.



Image: Cho Sung-Bong  
Spotty and damaged tangerines from construction site pollution.

Base Pollution Destroys Crops

By Choi Sung-Ku

Since last September, farmers in Gangjeong village have been reporting crop damage due to dust and dirt, caused by the construction of the massive naval base in their village. Winds carry salt, dirt, and concrete dust from the construction site onto crops such as tangerines and lilies. The contaminated dust and dirt inhibits growth and reduces crop production. The amount of rotten fruit falling to the ground has increased, and retailers have returned tangerines to farmers due to premature spoilage.

Kang Seong-Won, a local tangerine farmer, suffered huge harvest damage last year. According

to Kang, “The navy has never used water trucks to clean up the dirt or salt while they were digging Gurcombi Rock. When the Korean Environmental Dispute Resolution Commission (KEDRC) came last September, it first guessed that the harvest damage would be 30%. But as of January 2012, the actual damage is 80%. We won’t know fully until September, as damage is worse during storm season.”

The KEDRC determined that the navy-contracted companies such as Samsung and Daelim should compensate farmers with 5 million won each, minimum, up to 60.75 million won. Kang insists that the commission’s final estimate of 20% damage is a gross under-estimation. He claims the damage is 80%. He has refused this under-compensation for his losses and has called for arbitration.



Image: SOS Ocean Team  
July 9 was the 100th day of Dr. Song Kang-Ho’s imprisonment. Gangjeong villagers and activists held several events to remember Dr. Song’s consistent and non-violent resistance against the militarization of Jeju.



Image: Cho Sung-Bong  
The massive concrete caissons, which the navy plans to use to support a long future pier, were knocked off their foundations and partially sunk as a result of weak and short Typhoon Khanun.

Construction Site Damaged by Weak Typhoon?

By Kang Dong-Seok

On July 18, the relatively weak Typhoon Khanun passed through Jeju Island. Although it was weak, the impact caused significant damage to the construction of the naval base that is under way in Gangjeong. Most of the silt protectors (recently re-installed after many complaints) that outline the navy’s self designated ‘restricted waters’ area off the coast of the base site were destroyed. Scraps from their destruction could be seen scattered along the coastline in the wake of the typhoon. Additionally, the massive concrete caissons the navy has installed within its restricted waters area were knocked off their foundations and left partially submerged. Furthermore, the concrete blocks that the navy installed past the existing breakwater to prevent waves from causing damage to the site collapsed.

While damage to the construction (destruction) site was significant, it is interesting to note that there were no reports of damage to property in the village. The Gangjeong Village Association released a statement saying, “Due to it’s topography, the southern part of Jeju Island is the area most severely impacted by typhoons. Yet the navy has chosen this area as the location for its base.”

However, damage caused by even the weak Typhoon Khanun clearly indicates that Gangjeong is not an ideal location for a naval base. It is also clear that the construction is architecturally unsound, due to both poor planning and rushed construction, which is and will result in further damage to irreplaceable reef and marine habitats. What will happen when stronger Typhoons come as they always do?

Reflection for the Launch of the Gangjeong Grand March

By Fr. Pat Cunningham (Edited from a longer article)

“The real and lasting victories are those of peace, and not of war.” - Buddha. Sadly preparations underway by the Korean navy in Jeju smack eerily of preparations not for peace on the “Island of Peace” but of preparations for war!!



Image: Bae Jee-hee  
Fr. Pat Cunningham speaks during a mass in Seoul in front of Deoksugung Palace.

The 27th July marks the 59th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement which stopped the fighting in 1953, and has yet to be replaced by a permanent settlement! The lack of a permanent settlement is a fundamental source of insecurity for both Koreans (the unresolved state of war) and the construction of a naval base on Jeju island and the increasing military build up in the region only intensifies a state of heightened insecurity for the people of Gangjeong, the people of the island of Jeju and the whole country! The construction of the naval base is having a devastating effect on the local community with huge consequences for future peace and stability for the people of Jeju and the entire region! The environmental consequences which have been well documented and are sadly becoming clearly evident are unfortunately lost on or conveniently ignored by the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) the organizers of the World Conservation Congress (WCC) whose conference this year will be held only 7 km’s away from the destruction site! The construction of the naval base and the present land grab being conducted by the navy to provide future accommodation for its personnel and is clearly part of an overall US military strategy of encircling and containment of China and it’s growing economic power!

Beginning on Monday July 30 there will be a “Grand March for Peace” in Jeju where up to 10,000 people will walk in solidarity with the villagers and peace activists who have struggled against the Navy’s plans to build this base for the last 5 years! Please keep the participants of the “Grand March for Peace” in your thoughts and prayers!

Today I heard Gureombi call  
from just beyond the big white wall...  
Come sit with me for just the day  
I'll tell you stories if you'll stay.

You cannot see me anymore  
but I am here beneath the shore.  
They may have broken me apart,  
but they will never break my heart.  
For it lives on, strong and bold,  
in those who love me, young and old.  
I was once their rock, she said  
but now they are my rock instead.  
I'm sad for all they've done to us,  
but don't give up, the fight is just.

You cannot see me anymore  
but I am here, beneath the shore,  
and I'll be here forever more.  
Today I heard Gureombi call  
from just beyond the big white wall.  
And when the day came to an end,  
I knew I'd always be her friend.

**GUREOMBI** BY KRISTIN DOUGLAS

ENVIRONMENTAL CONGRESS SPONSORED BY SAMSUNG?

By Emily Wang

From September 6 through 15, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will hold its World Conservation Congress (WCC) at Jungmun Resort on Jeju. Held only once every four years, the WCC is the world’s largest environmental conservation event. Ironically, it is being held just minutes away from Gangjeong Village, were precious marine and coastal habitats and numbers endangered species are being destroyed by the naval base construction. The construction (destruction) is devastating an entire coastline, marine habitats, and an entire area of rare and natural beauty.The area is home to numerous endangered species that includes the Narrow-Mouth Toad (Kaloula Borealis), which happens to be on the IUCN’s own critical “Red List.” The proximity of the event should have brought a light of hope to the struggle in Gangjeong to stop the construction. However, the IUCN has neglected all requests for its support in helping to stop the ecological devastation that is taking place just minutes from where its conference will be taking place. And even though the IUCN boasts of “encouraging open and constructive dialogue” regarding environmental issues in Korea, it has eliminated messages of solidarity from a worldwide base of people and organizations who realize the threat the building of the naval base poses to endangered species and traditional sustainable cultures.

This begs the question: Is environmental justice really a main issue and value for IUCN and its WCC? What could possibly have gone wrong?

One does not have to look very far for a possible answer. Samsung, the main contractor for the naval base, is one of the main sponsoring “Congress Partners” for this year’s WCC conference. Meanwhile, Emart, Korea’s largest Wal-Mart type discount retailer, is a “Gold” level sponsor. Emart is owned by the Shinsegae Corporation, Korea’s largest retailer. Shinesegae is run by Lee Myeong-Hee, the fifth daughter of Samsung founder Lee Byung-Chul. Meanwhile, Other sponsoring “Congress Partners” include Hyundai Motor Group, and Kia Motors (Both part of Hyundai). Current President Lee Myung-Bak, major proponent of the naval base and numerous other environmentally disastrous development projects, was CEO of Hyundai Engineering and Construction for 27 years. Although the Hyundai Group conglomerate was officially split up into several companies, many of these companies enjoy close ties and are often run by the offspring of the founder of Hyundai. Given these partnerships, is it any wonder that the IUCN is acting as it is?

The IUCN is a large group, so obviously there are many members that care sincerely about the environment. It’s sad that their leadership and the conference organizers seem to have forgotten their own mission and work.



THE LILYPAD STRATEGY: How the Pentagon Is Quietly Transforming Its Overseas Base Empire and Creating a Dangerous New Way of War

By David Vine, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at American University, Washington, DC (Excerpt from a longer article)

The first thing I saw last month when I walked into the belly of the dark grey C-17 Air Force cargo plane was a void -- something missing. A missing left arm, to be exact, severed at the shoulder, temporarily patched and held together. Thick, pale flesh, flecked with bright red at the edges. It looked like meat sliced open. The face and what remained of the rest of the man were obscured by blankets, an American flag quilt, and a jumble of tubes and tape, wires, drip bags, and medical monitors. That man and two other critically wounded soldiers -- one with two stumps where legs had been, the other missing a leg below the thigh -- were intubated, unconscious, and lying on stretchers hooked to the walls of the plane that had just landed at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. [...]

I asked a member of the Air Force medical team about the casualties they see like these. Many, as with this flight, were coming from Afghanistan, he told me. “A lot from the Horn of Africa,” he added. “You don’t really hear about that in the media.”

“Where in Africa?” I asked. He said he didn’t know exactly, but generally from the Horn, often with critical injuries. “A lot out of Djibouti,” he added, referring to Camp Lemonnier, the main U.S. military base in Africa, but from “elsewhere” in the region, too. [...]

Unknown to most Americans, Washington’s garrisoning of the planet is on the rise, thanks to a new generation of bases the military calls “lily pads” (as in a frog jumping across a pond toward its prey). These are small, secretive, inaccessible facilities with limited numbers of troops, spartan amenities, and prepositioned weaponry and supplies. [...]

Such lily-pad bases have become a critical part of an evolving Washington military strategy aimed at maintaining U.S. global dominance by doing far more with less in an increasingly competitive, ever more multi-polar world. Central as it’s becoming to the long-term U.S. stance, this global-basing reset policy has, remarkably enough, received almost no public attention, nor significant Congressional oversight. Meanwhile, as the arrival of the first casualties from Africa shows, the U.S. military is getting involved in new areas of the world and new conflicts, with potentially disastrous consequences. [...]

**PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE** Please write letters of support to

Since April 1

No. **611**

Dr. Song Kang-Ho

Since June 14

No. **598**

Mr. Kim Bok-Chul

Since June 30

No. **264**

Mr. Kim Dong-Won

Jeju Prison, 161, Ora-2 dong, Jeju City, Jeju, Korea

**International Action Week for No Jeju Naval Base, September 2-9, 2012. Please join us!**

Visit: [cafe.daum.net/peacekj/151g/392](http://cafe.daum.net/peacekj/151g/392) or Contact: [gangeongintl@gmail.com](mailto:gangeongintl@gmail.com)