



Image: Emily Wang

Villagers and Activists sit at the Halman Mul (Grandmother Water) Cafe, a small street cart which provides free coffee and cool drinks daily to protestors at the construction gates as well as passerbys.

International Action Week for No Jeju Naval Base: September 2 to 9

September 2nd is the one-year anniversary of when the fence for the naval base project was violently set up. Meanwhile, September 6th is the start of the IUCN's WCC 2012, held on Jeju. Many people and groups local and international will be holding solidarity actions during this week. Here are a few of those that have pledged support:

David Swanson, WarIsACrime.org, USA (davidcswanson@gmail.com)
Angie Zelter, Trident Ploughshares, UK (reforest@gn.apc.org)
Leonard Eiger, Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, USA (subversive.peacemaking@gmail.com)
Don Timmerman and Roberta Thurstin of Casa Maria Catholic Worker Community, Milwaukee, WI, USA (don2roberta@yahoo.com)
Yi Eun-Hi, Rettet Gangjeong, Germany (hanytrans@googlemail.com)
Bruce Gagnon, Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (globalnet@mindspring.com)
Alan L. Maki, Midwest Casino Workers Organizing Council, Warroad, Minnesota, USA (alan.maki1951mn@gmail.com)
Makiko Sato, The Network for Peaceful Waters, Japan (seamesky@sand.ocn.ne.jp)
Corazon Valdez Fabros, Stop the War Coalition Philippines (corafabros@gmail.com)
J. Narayana Rao, Global Network Against Weapons And Nuclear Power in Space, Nagpur, India (jnrao36@sify.com)
Merci Angeles, President, Peace Women Partners, Philippines (mvl.pwp@gmail.com)
Aida Santos, Executive Director, WEDPRO, Philippines aida.fullerossantos@gmail.com)
Han Chesoon, Global Greens & The Green Party of England and Wales (daoh2o@gmail.com)
Chen Juei Ping, Secretary General, Taiwan Environmental Information Association (pon@e-info.org.tw)
Gunjima Tsunekaki, Anti-War Buddhist Association, Koshiji, Fukuoka, Japan (gun4tunc@csfnc.jp)
Citizens' 10 Feet Film Screening, Shimonoseki, Japan (doc.ten@sepia.plala.or.jp)
Citizens' Joining Action, Fukuoka and Okinawa, Japan (info@okimusu.info)
Anthony Noel, Facilitator, The New Progressive Alliance, (anthonynoel@suddenlink.net)
Andrew, UK Gangjeong Team (ajiktto@naver.com)
Joan Ecklein, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (joanecklein@comcast.net)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Consider making a donation to support our international outreach and public education efforts.
2. Write letters to Gangjeong'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-2dong, 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 #savegangjeong and #gangjeong - 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 S. Korean government to stop the Jeju naval base project: 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 Gureombi Rock and its coast! Contact him at: lmw2828@jeju.go.kr or jejumaster@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:

1234y200 / Dopeheadz / Benjdannour / Buramhe / Sanghong2012 / Shalomsea

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LASTING IMPRESSIONS

By Kristin Douglas, Oahu, Hawaii

When asked to write a short (seven, maybe ten lines) article for this newsletter sharing what my experience as a peace activist has been like while here in Gangjeong, I said “no, no way”. There was just no way I could sum up two months in Gangjeong in just seven to ten lines. So they gave me a little more space.

Since arriving here in June, the two questions I have been asked most often are: “Why have you come to Gangjeong?” and “What has your experience been like?”. I am from Hawaii, and have witnessed the irreversible destruction brought about by rampant U.S.militarization on the isolated and vulnerable Hawaiian islands. I have seen the scars on the land, and have witnessed the devastating effects of toxic chemical pollution on innocent marine life and a once pristine coastline. Every day I see the heartbreaking indignities that land theft and military development have brought to displaced native Hawaiian families and their way of life. Adding insult to injury, commercialization of ‘aloha’ (the Hawaiian word for love) feeds and thrives on the once sovereign and self-sustaining Hawaiian culture. I came here to help prevent these things from happening to the village and villagers of Gangjeong.

Like a cancer that spreads until stopped, the United States quest for military power knows no boundaries. It is never satisfied, never has enough, and is growing in the Asian Pacific, where it will consume Gangjeong if not stopped. The stated purpose, that a naval base in Gangjeong will make Korea a safer nation, is a cruel and deceptive lie. Missile-carrying warships do not carry, and will not bring, peace. And nuclear submarines? In case we have forgotten our history (or have conveniently chosen to believe it will not repeat itself), let the short and long term damage done to the innocent victims of atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945 by the United States be a reminder of the horrific damage caused by nuclear weapons. I am an American, and I do not want my country to ever again be part of something as morally wrong and inhumane as war.

It would take so many pages to explain what my experience in Gangjeong has been like. Suffice it to say, it has forever changed my life. To really experience what it is like here, please come to Gangjeong. You are needed. I can promise you will be welcomed and appreciated just for being here. You will stand shoulder to shoulder with the bravest and purest people you have ever met. You will be taken to sacred places that reflect beauty you never imagined possible. You will experience life and community as it should be. Honesty, mutual respect, an open heart, and sharing is the way of life here. It has been for over 450 years. Above all, you will experience the collective heart that beats to the vision of a world without war. And no matter how hard the struggle has been on any given day, at the end of each day you will join hands with people young and old, and you will dance, and you will sing, and you will know that you will get up the next day and gladly do it all again. In short, this has been my experience. If for any reason you can not come yourself, please send someone you know. It will help create a better world.



Front headline image source: Cho Sung-Bong
 Back image sources: Jung Da-Woo-Ri, Cho Sung-Bong, Saltcandy John, Lee Kil-Joo, and Yang Dong-Seok



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GRAND PEACE MARCH A SUCCESS

After a long time of preparation and promotion, the time finally arrived for the much anticipated Grand March for the Peace of Gangjeong. In the days before July 30, people rushed to make last minute plans, and prepare for the big undertaking of hosting hundreds and maybe thousands of guests. Villagers and activists divided into teams for handling food, video and photography, advertising, nightly events, as well as many other things. Leading up to the first day, supporters from all across Jeju and Korea slowly began showing up in Gangjeong, and anticipation was in the air. On the morning of July 30, everyone gathered in Gangjeong and a start-

ing rally, with exciting speeches and declarations, as well held. The participants were then divided into two groups, one to march along the west coast of Jeju and one along the east. Then they set off!

Spirits were high at the beginning of the march as people were full of energy. Somehow though, even as people became tired after days and days of walking, people remained full of energy the entire time! It was always a beautiful site to see the marchers rounding any corner, walking past Jeju's many beautiful natural sites. Their songs filled the air and lifted the spirits of many who

came out look. Many people greeted the cheerfully, with calls of support.

And so the people marched on, from July 30 until August 4. For six days, in sun and rain, in small towns and open countryside, along highways and small paths, through wide fields and at the edge of the sea, the people of Gangjeong and their many friends and supporters walked and sang. In each town, locals gladly came out and gave the marchers cold drinks, ice cream, meals, medical care, and accommodations. One hot day, the local fire department brought their water hoses and sprayed cool water on the marchers, a

pleasant counterpart to the water canons of the riot police of Gangjeong.

Finally, on August 4, the two teams had circled the island and met together in Jeju City. Thousands of people poured into the streets of downtown Jeju City. In front of City Hall, they gathered and had a short rally. Then they walked together the last few kilometers to the site of the final Peace Concert. There an estimated 3500-4000 people gathered to celebrate with hours of music, dance, and fellowship. Though exhausted, there seemed to be not one person whose spirit was not lifted. We are not alone and our movement is strong!

Gangjeong-Related Events During the WCC 2012

NOTE: Candlelight vigils take place in Gangjeong every night at 8:00

Sept 2 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. - Gangjeong

Press conference on one-year anniversary of erection of fence separating the village from the Gureombi coastline and to signal the start of International Solidarity Week, Sept. 2-9.

Sept 5 (Wed) All day from 2 p.m. - Gangjeong

Traditional Jeju shaman ritual, village tour, dinner & candlelight vigil.

2:00-6:30 - World Local Governments Summit - Jungmun

National Assembly member and Jeju native Jang Hana to speak.

Sept 7 (Fri) 11:00-1:00 Knowledge Café - Rm. 102 (Forum 623)

Presentations on Four Rivers Project and Jeju Navy Base.

Sept 8 (Sat) All day - Gangjeong Village Festival

Visitors from all over South Korea come to support the anti-base movement.

2:00-4:00 Maritime Ecocide Tour (meet outside Convention Center)

Boat ride through a UNESCO biosphere reserve, and see how the navy base project will destroy many endangered species there.

Sept 9 (Sun) 2:30-4:30 - Just World Pavilion (Forum 11)

“Strengthening Community Voices Through Just Conservation” (w/anti-base activists)

Sept 10 (Mon) All day - Jungmun

11:00-1:00 Workshop - Room 203 (Forum 129)

“Earth Democracy and the Biosphere Ethics Initiative: Ethical arguments in biodiversity conservation” (CEL official session).

2:00-2:30 - Lotte Hotel, Crystal Ballroom 3 (Forum 767)

Discussion of relationship between Gangjeong sacred sites and policy.

7:00-9:00 - Tamna Hall - Film: “Standing on Sacred Ground” (Forum 1088)

Film followed by musical performance.

Sept 11 (Tue) 1:00-5:30 p.m. - Gangjeong Ecocide Tour (meet outside Convention Center)

Tour Gangjeong's sacred sites on both land and at sea, and the military desecration.

For the Latest Details Check: savejejunow.org/gangjeong-related-schedule

IUCN REJECTS BOOTH FOR GANGJEONG

(Excerpted and edited from the open letter to the IUCN leadership by the Korean groups on Aug. 30)

On 22 August 2012, Gangjeong Village Association [...] received a simple notice “This is to inform you that unfortunately we are not able to accommodate your request for an exhibition booth at the WCC”. The Gangjeong Village Association requested a specific reason of rejection but you did not send any official reply about this. [...]

[W]e are appalled by the fact that the exhibition booth application by Gangjeong Village Association was rejected while we have serious concerns about environmental destruction by the Jeju naval base construction. Who can imagine that you will not grant an exhibition booth for local people who wish to address serious environmental destructions happening only 7 km away from the WCC site?

We are aware of the fact that the South Korean government is behind this senseless decision. [...]

For a long time, the South Korean government has endeavored to host the WCC and it has set the ambitious goal ‘Addressing environmental policies related to green growth and becoming the world’s model for green growth’. We ask the South Korean government whether the world’s model for green growth can be established by destroying world class environmental heritage, enforcing construction of a military base under false promises, and even silencing local people who are severely impacted by the construction.

We urge you to reconsider your decision. Freedom of expression and information are fundamental human rights. If local people cannot represent their own environment issues, then should the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins and soft coral reefs cry out themselves? [...]



Image: Jung Hyun-Woo

All of the huge concrete caissons were destroyed and made useless by Typhoon Bolaven.

INTERVIEW WITH GANGJEONG MAYOR, KANG DONG-KYUN

(Excerpt from a longer interview)

Q: Why did you become involved in the struggle?

A: On May 14, 2007, it was announced that a massive naval base would be built here in Gangjeong. The previous mayor had not been forthcoming with the villagers regarding the plans of the Jeju Provincial Government, the Central Government, and the Navy to build the base in Gangjeong. He had not considered the opinions or concerns of the villagers, which caused them to feel betrayed. Consequently they lost trust in him. On June 19, 2007, a group of villagers agreed to organize a committee to stop the base in Gangjeong. I was one founders of the committee. It was during this time that the former mayor was impeached from his position. On August 10, 2007, I was selected to replace his position as mayor. On August 20, we had a resident's poll. 680 out of 725 [out of 1050 voting age adults] voters were against the naval base being built in Gangjeong. Based on this result, the villagers' organization became the Committee to Stop the Naval Base.

Prior to the problems brought to our village by the issue of the naval base, residents had lived in peaceful harmony for 450 years. All of Jeju Island had come to refer to our village as 'The First Gangjeong.' Sadly, due to the issue of the naval base, harmonious relations among neighbors, and within families, have been destroyed. This has caused me to become deeply involved and committed to stop the naval base. I want to see peace and harmony restored to our village.

Q: You were in prison for 3 months [Winter of 2011]. What was that experience like for you?

A: It provided a precious opportunity to look back and reflect on my life. For 90 days I kept asking myself: 'Why am I here?', 'Have I done something wrong for the nation?' Asking myself these questions hundreds of times, I always came to the same answer: 'I am not guilty.' The government may disagree, and I know they can arrest me again. But I have been fighting for over five years, and can fight for another fifty years. I am in very high spirits. They can put me in jail for 90 days or 9,000 days, but they cannot touch or jail my spirit.



Image: AWC Japan

A member of AWC Japan at the 12th weekly anti-Jeju Naval Base protest in front of the South Korean consulate in Osaka. At least 12 Japanese and Okinawans have been deported or denied entry to Jeju since August 2011.

Typhoon Bolaven Destroys Site Fence, Caissons

On August 28, Another typhoon struck Jeju and South Korea. Strong wind and waves leading up to the strike had people bracing themselves for the worst. When the typhoon finally came its intense wind and rain knocked out the electricity for more than 12 hours and brought destruction to the village, especially the farm greenhouses.

The Naval Base construction site also sustained heavy damaged. Many tetrapods were broken and large portions of the wall surrounding the site were torn down. The large concrete caissons, already damaged from the last typhoon were destroyed, breaking in pieces and some sinking completely. Although people were happy to see this damage to the site, they shuddered to think about what these poorly-made caissons probably did to the sea life where they collapsed.



Image: Cho Sung-Bong

Jeong Young-Hee, Chair of Gangjeong Village Women's Association

Chair of the Gangjeong Village Women's Association returns from Japan

By Choi Sung-Ku

The annual "World Conference against ANH Bomb," was held on the 6th of August, to in remembrance of the horrific events in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Peace activists gathered from all over the world against military bases, nuclear weapons, and wars. Jeong Young-Hee, a farmer and chair of the Gangjeong Village Women's Association, attended the event this year as one of the representatives from Korea.

Mrs. Jeong was impressed by Cara Flores-Mays, a peace activist from Guam, who made a powerful speech during the conference. Her father was initially one of the residents who agreed with the military base build up when the US navy first arrived in Guam. In the beginning, US navy pushed the residents to sell their farms offering them premium land prices and providing them with food they had never had before, such as ham, spam, and sausage. Eventually Guam became so contaminated that crops no long grow on the land. The people there also cannot fish anymore even though they used to make 500 dollars per day fishing before the bases. Flores-Mays speech confirmed the urgency to save her own village!

Mrs. Jeong emotionally appealed to 8,000 people at the stadium, with a strong voice and in tears, "Please help us to save Gureombi and Gangjeong village!" Later, She confidently told a Japanese reporter, "We will save our village against the naval base so that Gangjeong village can become a sanctuary for peace for all the people who have suffered from military bases, nuclear weapons, and wars."

Protests in Japan/Okinawa over the Osprey and in Hawaii against RIMPAC

By Ann Wright, peace activist, former U.S. Army Colonel, and retired U.S. State Department Official (Excerpt from a longer article, Green-Washing War, Sinking Ships, Drones from Submarines – Largest International War Games around Hawaii. July 25, Op-ed News)

In Japan, on July 23, the first 12 Osprey's arrived to protests. The Ospreys will be on the Japanese mainland at Iwakuni Air Base only briefly, but opposition there has been "unusually strong, with both the mayor and the governor saying they do not support even temporarily hosting the aircraft. Opposition to the large military presence on Okinawa is deep-rooted. Protesters on July 23 held a sit-in outside the base where the Ospreys are to be sent."

The US Embassy in Toyko countered on July 23 by stating that the 12 Ospreys are critical to defending Japan, "Deployment of these aircraft in Japan is a vital component in fulfilling the United States' commitment to provide for the defense of Japan and to help maintain peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region."

The next day, on July 24, Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda told the Japanese Parliament that no Osprey flights would take place until investigations into the Osprey's April crash in Morocco and the June crash in Florida were completed and Japan was satisfied the aircraft are not a safety hazard. [-]

On July 2, 2012, activists in Honolulu held their first protest of the RIMPAC exercises. In front of the two New Zealand ships easily accessible at Aloha Tower in Honolulu's commercial harbor, one activist held a sign saying: "Mahalo (Thank you) New Zealand for anti-nukes; No Aloha for RIMPAC war games."

On July 15, 2012, 30 protesters challenged the desecration of Hawaiian lands in a protest against RIMPAC war games. As they gathered opposite the main gate of Pohakuloa Military base, a red flag flew over the base indicating that live fire and bombing was taking place. Concerned citizens from Hilo, Kona, Waimea and Na'alehu, included old time Kaho'olawe Island "Stop the Bombing" activists (Kaho'olawe Island was used for bombing practice for over 50 years and only stopped in 1990 after a decade of protests by the Hawaiian community Members of the Ka Pele family who several years ago led a peace gathering to pray and build an ahu (stone altar) at Pu'u Ka Pele on Pohakuloa in opposition to the bombing found that access to the ahu and pu'u has been blocked by concrete barricades and chain linked barbed wire fence.

WE MUST INFINITELY AFFIRM OUR LIVES OF ENDLESS LOSS

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

Every morning I spend some quiet time reading the New Testament in Greek. Because of the English comparison translation, I can understand it without a dictionary. But sometimes I want to check a Greek grammar book regarding the fussy passive form or irregular verbs in past tense. But how can I have everything I need in prison? Today, I read Matthew 26:26 and after, the Last Supper. It brought me to tears thinking about Jesus' 3 years of joy and life together with his disciples. Although Leonardo Da Vinci set The Last Supper in a noble family's stately hall, it seems to me that their last supper would have been a simple table with unleavened bread and wine, in small dark place, like prison. It seemed sad that they wouldn't be able to share a meal together anymore. I don't know why the last supper with loved ones comes to me mournfully.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writings from prison about his past joyful times with his loved ones also hurt my heart. I especially remember a part where he wrote a confession that when he looked back at joyful times with plentiful tables like Easter or a relative's birthday, he felt powerless in his unsure destiny, not knowing whether he could have such a great time again or should just be satisfied with those beautiful memories of the past.

Bonhoeffer's earnest desire to meet his loved ones again was eventually denied. When he returned to his loved ones, he wasn't alive. The history of injustice murdering justice is constantly repeating, not only in the time of Christ, but also in Germany in the 1940s and still now at the beginning of the Millennium in Korea. We should learn the hidden truths of history through the life and death of those who were persecuted because of Jesus Christ and righteousness. The meaning of life lies not in victory but in defeat. I'm not talking about the small defeats, moving back a few steps or losing a few times. I am talking about our destiny. To beat back despair and frustration, to overcome all trials, we must infinitely affirm our lives of endless loss and yet never give up.

I do believe the truth that though we lose, God will win; we will die, but God will save us again.



Image: Jung Da-Woo-Ri

Father Mun lies on the ground in shock after being knocked down during the Eucharist

"a serious challenge and outrage to the Catholic church", demanded an apology, measures to prevent a recurrence, and an immediate halt to the Jeju naval base construction. The Catholic Confederation for Justice, one of the largest umbrella groups, and the Seoul archdiocese Justice & Peace commission also issued statements of condemnation and demands for apology.

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

The Interference of the Heart is Not a Transgression

By Kim Dong-Won (Excerpt from a longer article written in prison)

I feel a deep connection to Gangjeong village, a relationship that began over a year ago. My passion for Gangjeong village has become an unquestionable truth and I am blessed to have been given something to truly love in my life. I've loved Gangjeong for over a year, and because of this I've often heard the same uncomfortable question from many people [in prison and from the police], a question which seems to come from envy. "What does Gangjeong matter to you?" This question hurts my feelings and I feel sorry to those who approach like this, who feel there must be a reason for a relationship.

Friends, Gangjeong didn't use to matter to me. But since I got to know Gangjeong with my heart, I've loved Gangjeong. My heart says that Gangjeong village has been greatly hurt and unfairly victimized. Although I can't respond logically to those who ask that question, I can answer with my tears.

The interference of the heart is not a transgression. It's not necessary to ask a reason for love. If we do have sin, it is that we are not able to think about our suffering neighbors or even offer a short prayer for them. When people who have allowed their heart to interfere gather in Gangjeong then we will find the peace we are hoping for. The people who do not prevent their hearts from interfering are a like a bright light in the darkness. Friends, please allow your heart to interfere and touch those around you. Do so persistently.

I say it again, the interference of the heart is absolutely not a transgression.



Image: Jung Da-Woo-Ri

Kim Dong-Won has been in prison since June 30.

POLICE TRAMPLE CATHOLIC PRIEST'S HOLY EUCHARIST

By Regina Pyon

During Catholic mass at the Jeju naval base construction gate on August 8, the Eucharist was trampled by the police. This unprecedented incident in the history of the Korean Catholic church happened while Father Mun Jeong-Hyun was officiating the mass with the consecrated Eucharist at the gate. The Catholics have a daily mass at 11 a.m. at the gate, and in the past, the cement mixing vehicles have waited until the religious ceremonies were finished. However, on that day, the police attacked, interrupting the mass to let the vehicles pass the gates. In that process, Father Mun was knocked to the ground and the Eucharist was trampled. Father Mun, shocked to experience this situation, unprecedented in his lifelong priesthood, remained in the place he fell for two hours. Upon hearing the news, Father Koh Byong-Su, co-chair of the Korean Catholic Solidarity for the Peace Island Jeju, a collective of 15 Diocesan Justice and Peace commissions rushed over to collect the broken 'body of the Eucharist' to complete the disturbed liturgy.

On August 10, regarding 'the trampled Eucharist', the National Justice and Peace Commission of Korean Catholic Bishops' issued a statement in the name of Bishop Lee Yong-hoon. It stated that damage to the Eucharist is

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2012. Please join us!



Visit:
savejejunow.org/international-action-week
or Contact:
gangjeongintl@gmail.com