



Dr. Song Kang-Ho smiles a big smile as he is greeted by friends outside Jeju Prison, released on September 28 after 181 days.

Image: Jung Da-woo-Ri

19 Denied Entry Since Aug. 2011

Since August 2011, 1 Korean American, 3 U.S. Citizens, and 15 people from Japan or Okinawa have been denied entry related to the Jeju Naval Base. An unprecedented 9 people were denied entry to Korea and deported without reason during the WCC period (Sept. 6-15, 2012). Among them, at least two people were official IUCN representatives for their nation or IUCN members, while four people carried invitation and identity certification letters from a Korean National Assembly woman. 3 of the 9 faced entry denial more than once. It is clear that these serious human rights violations are intentionally being committed by the Lee Myung-Bak administration both as a form of intimidation and to silence democratic protest.

NAVY/ROK JEJU NAVAL BASE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ENORMOUSLY FLAWED

The Korean Jeju Civilian-Military Port Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is bulky at 1766 pages (2009). However, this is an inadequate survey. It is neither transparent nor fair. It has some major flaws which are listed below. In short, it covers up the tremendous environmental impact this colossal Navy Base will have on pristine environment, both during the construction and the operation phases.

Transparency: The EIA is not readily available to the public.

Fair and Independent: South Korean government has said repeatedly that the EIA was done fairly and independently and that the EIA can no longer be reviewed or challenged. The EIA was in large part carried out by Kyungho Engineering with some supplemental studies done by Ecocean. Both of these companies were paid by the Navy.

Missing endangered species: Totally missing from its voluminous pages are several important endangered species protected by national or international laws; red-foot crabs, narrow-mouth frogs, Jeju indigenous freshwater shrimps, and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins. Dolphin experts around the world are alarmed at the omission of the Northern-most inhabiting Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins comprising the smallest known population of Jeju shore resident stock (114 dolphins in 2009 by Korean Cetacean Research Institute, still largely unknown to the international cetacean society and yet to be published data in an international journal). The fear is that this small population may be severely affected and may not overcome the added stress.

Relocation of endangered species: When the red-foot crabs, narrow-mouth frogs, Jeju indigenous freshwater shrimps were found to inhabit the construction site, the Navy then carried out an inadequate and careless relocation programs in 2011.

Jeju Soft Coral Habitat: The EIA does not even cite the 3-year seminal research on Jeju soft coral habitat, performed by the leading expert, Dr. Song Jun-Im. The EIA claims that there are no corals inside the construction zone without even looking. It also states that there are no significantly large corals in the vicinity of the construction zone. Recent site visits performed by an international team of

experts show that there are significant and beautiful soft coral colonies along with hard corals living close to the construction site with photos to prove. The team concluded that there will be tremendous harm done to the coral habitat. According to Dr. Muzik, one of the world's experts on soft corals, Jeju soft corals, also unknown to the international soft coral society, are unique and spectacular and worthy of preservation.

Missing Sea Route: The EIA has no information about the holding area where the ships will be waiting or what routes the ships will take. We have recently discovered that there are in fact two sea routes. The first one that can avoid the UNESCO buffer zone has been determined too dangerous in heavy weather. The 2nd route that is safer for ships goes through the 1 km circle of protected zone around the Tiger Isle, which is designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and Natural Monument by the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea. In other words, the first route is unsafe for ships and the second route is unsafe for corals.

And these are only some of the major problems with this EIA.

If one side says that the environment will not be destroyed by this Base and the other says it will, and if you represent an organization or a government which care about preserving the endangered species and the environment at all, then the only way to resolve the issue is first to stop the construction and carry out an independent detailed research. Instead, the Korean government is oppressing the experts who are challenging the EIA. This oppression on scientific information and deportation of people who truly care about the environmental impact are in itself an acknowledgement that there is something to hide.



An endangered Crab battles a Samsung bulldozer outside the Korean Consulate in Honolulu, Hawaii during an anti-base solidarity protest.

Image: Renie Lindley



Image: Choi Sung-Ku

Korean poster for international "Keep Space for Peace Week".

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Consider making a donation to support our international outreach and public education efforts. Visit savejejunow.org/donate/ to donate.
2. Write letters to Gangjeong's prisoners of conscience (See page 3). Address letters to: Jeju Prison, 161 Ora-2dong, Jeju City, Jeju the Peace Island, Korea
3. Stay updated on the resistance by joining the "No Naval Base on Jeju!" and "Save Jeju" Facebook pages. Follow @SaveJejuNow for the most recent developments on Twitter. Also watch #gangjeong and #gangjeung - 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 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 the Gureombi Rock coast! Contact him at: lmw2828@jeju.go.kr or jejumaster@jeju.go.kr
6. Pressure the ROK National Assembly to cut the whole budget of the Jeju naval base. Contact english@assembly.go.kr or Moon Jae-In, Permanent Advisor, Democratic United party, Presidential candidate: moonriver365@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

For Gangjeong related videos, visit savejejunow.org or check these Youtube sites:
[1234y100](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1234y100) / [Dogeheadz](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dogeheadz) / [Benjdannour](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Benjdannour) / [Gurambe](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gurambe) / [Sungdong2012](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sungdong2012) / [Shalomsaa](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Shalomsaa)

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Front headline image source: Jang Hyun-Woo. Taken September 6th when 5 anti-base activists occupied a caisson.
Back image sources: Jung Da-Woo-Ri, Cho Sung-Bong, Mun Jeong-Hyeon, Jang Jun-Hoo, Jeon Jom-Blae



BASE STRUGGLE STIRS UP IUCN

By Koohan Paik

Last September, thousands of environmentalists from around the world descended upon Jeju Island for the World Conservation Congress, held every four years by the Swiss-based International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Gangjeong activists and villagers took this opportunity to make their struggle known to the visitors.

What emerged was a cutthroat war of ethics versus money between The villagers who would sacrifice everything to preserve their home, the South Korean government which would crush anyone in the way of its military aspirations,

and the IUCN, split between honoring its mandate to protect nature and human rights, or accommodating its primary sponsors -- the South Korean government and Samsung Corporation, also the lead base contractor in the base.

At the very start of the convention, IUCN members got a rude lesson in Korean Civics 101: villagers blocked from getting an exhibition booth, SWAT teams roving the building, Korean citizens racially profiled and searched at the door for anti-base literature, girls ejected for wearing anti-base tee-shirts. Government repression peaked three days into the Congress, when it was announced that Dr. Imok Cha, from the

Jeju Emergency Action Committee, had been deported upon arrival at the Seoul airport. Dr. Cha was to present scientific findings revealing numerous and severe flaws in the ministry of defense's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Jeju Navy Base.

That was when IUCN members began to denounce the Secretariat for compromising principles of democracy and good science. The Secretariat backpedaled furiously. It suddenly encouraged anti-base presentations and visits to the village, and allowed pamphleting, both inside the convention center and just outside the front door! Overnight, the Gangjeong villagers found themselves

the star attraction of the conference.

By day five an emergency motion to halt the navy base construction was introduced. A record 35 NGOs signed as co-sponsors. Finally the motion failed to get the 51% of votes amongst government members needed to pass. But it won easily among the NGO members, and if counted member-by-member, it would have passed by a landslide, at 289 to 188. In the end, the courage of international conservationists to stand alongside the Gangjeong villagers in their struggle has given them enormous hope. As one villager said the last day of the convention, "We are not lonely anymore."

U.S. links to base, ROK government lies uncovered

Jang Ha-Na, Korean National Assembly woman, stated on Sept. 7, "The Jeju Naval Base layout has been designed to accommodate nuclear-powered aircraft carriers that the South Korean military does not retain [and does not plan to make]. Further, the layout has been planned to a water depth demanded by the CNFK (Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Korea)."

Mr. Koh Young-Dae, Executive research fellow at the Research Institute for Peace and Reunification of Korea, wrote an article on Oct. 4 in which he states, "It is proper to consider that the Jeju Naval Base is a U.S. Base in the sense that its main facilities, water depth inside the breakwater (where cruise ships and U.S. Aircraft carriers would dock), water depth of the mooring dock for submarines, and the turning basin, are designed and being constructed following demands by the U.S. Military to fit vessels which the U.S. military retains.

Again, on Oct. 10, Assembly woman Jang Ha-Na and her office obtained and publicized the meeting minute records of the base technical committee controlled by the Korean Prime Minister's office. The minutes make clear that the committee knew from the beginning that the port design was never for 150,000 ton cruise ships, and that the central and Jeju Island governments assertion that the port would be a dual-use civilian military harbor are completely false.

As Mr. Koh points out, "Currently, territorial conflicts are being daily intensified in the East South Sea. In light of this, the U.S. is strengthening her maritime domination of East Asia. To secure additional bases for itself, the U.S. is returning to previously used naval bases such as Subic Bay in the Philippines and Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam. For the U.S. Navy to station at these bases again, it must pay rental fees to the applicable nations. [And yet,] the Jeju Naval Base is being constructed wholly by [Korea's] budget and will be provided free to the U.S. military."



강정에서 서울까지
11월 03일(토) 여의도-용산-서울시청광장(18시)
대행인 김수기 / 후원회 44-1301-04-09349 / 후원전화(02-441-1301) / 후원팩스(02-441-1301) / 후원홈페이지(www.gangjeong.org) / 후원메일(peacekj@naver.com) / 후원전화(02-441-1301) / 후원팩스(02-441-1301) / 후원홈페이지(www.gangjeong.org) / 후원메일(peacekj@naver.com)

Advertisement for The Grand March for Life and Peace taking place across Korea from Oct. 4 - Nov. 3

Government ignores UN inquiry on human rights

"[On May 30], the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of associations, and Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders sent 7 page allegation letter to the South Korean government on alleged acts of harassment, intimidation and ill-treatment of peaceful protesters against naval base construction in Gangjeong village. However, the South Korean government has not yet sent their response or explanation to the Special Rapporteurs for more than 100 days while the Government is requested to submit their response within 60 days."

The Clearing

By Joe T., U.S. Veterans for Peace

I am sitting on a bridge in Gangjeong Village, Jeju Island, South Korea. It is 12:42 pm. The driveway to the lower gate of the naval base site is across the street. Village activists block the entrance to delay delivery of cement that will help cover the blasted remains of their once sacred coastline. Four security guards appear outside the gate. Thirty workers file in after lunch, unaffected by the blockade. In a park across the street, four police buses filled with police await the word to clear the entrance. Two more security guards appear, and then three more. The time is getting near. The clearing is about to begin.

During the five years of resistance, the beatings, arrests, and hospitalizations are routine. But today the tension level is relatively low.

The traffic cop with his incessant whistle appears, a sure sign that within minutes the clearing will begin. At 1:10 nearly 250 police march across the bridge and split into three groups. The vast majority appear to be young recruits in their late teens or early twenties. Eighty to ninety on the north side, about sixty on the south side near the entrance, and another seventy cross the street and line up facing a stone wall, arms locked, three-deep, to form a human containment area for the activists once they are cleared from the entrance.

At 1:14 the flurry begins. The interlaced arms and legs of women activists on the ground are violently pried apart by seven to eight women police and the first activist is carried to the containment area. A succession of these 7-8 member police teams march in, hover, disengage arms and legs and deliver the next villager or supporter to the containment area. When the women are cleared, it is time for the men. When the men are cleared, it is time for the people sitting in the chairs to be carried to the side.

Nine cement trucks and four other vehicles enter. The police return to the busses as quickly as they arrived. The clearing is completed. The activists, one badly bruised on his chest and arm and others shaking off the rough handling of the police, asking only to retain their heritage, their shoreline and peace, return to their places at the entrance and await the next clearing. The clearings occur between five and nine times a day.



Image: Jung Hyun-Won

Typhoon Repair Together

The typhoon brought not only great impact to the naval base but it also to the farmers of Gangjeong. Many villagers really wish to actively protect their beloved hometown but many of them are overwhelmed with typhoon cleanup.

In the past, the government would send army recruits to help the villagers after typhoons but now many villagers refuse this help because of their struggle. Instead the villagers invited activists, and together they worked to repair the damage.



Image: Emily Wang

Villagers and Activists do “3 steps, 1 bow” to the construction site on Sept. 2, the one year anniversary of the completion of the construction wall around Gureombi.

VILLAGERS AND ACTIVISTS HOPEFUL AFTER WCC 2012

By Kenneth A., U.S. Veterans for Peace

The people of Gangjeong, recently had a wonderful opportunity which they were able to use to get out the word of their dilemma to many people throughout the world. South Korea was sponsoring the World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the venue was right next door!

With quick thinking and fast action many of the WCC attendees had been informed beforehand of the Gangjeong naval base and the environmental destruction it would cause. A motion was submitted in the congress to oppose the naval base construction but was strongly opposed by the South Korean government, the host of this conference. It was a great political and lobbying struggle but the issue did get placed on the agenda for a vote on the last day of the conference.

The dedicated opponents of the base from Gangjeong Village with supporters from Japan, Taiwan, The United States and elsewhere went to the conference center on Saturday, the day of the vote and made their presence and concerns known to the conference attendees. They started the morning with song and dance in a joyful and charming way.

After perhaps a half hour they rolled out padding to be used as prayer mats and began a series of bows in prayer that the spirit of their cause might prevail. After 500 bows word of the vote came to them. Though an overwhelming majority of the NGO’s in attendance supported them, the governmental members, largely through abstention, did not and the measure did not pass. The irrepressible and positive spirit of these dedicated souls then broke into more joyful song and dance. What an inspiring group!

There is good reason for hope still. Many more people in the international conservation community now know of the travesty beset on the villagers and some of them have vowed to continue the struggle to help end this destruction of a beautiful and important coastline and the diverse life within these sacred waters.

Jeju, Island of Peace Under Siege

By Antonio M. Claparols, President of the Ecological Society of the Philippines (excerpted from a longer article)

As of this writing, the 5th World Conservation Congress has gone to a close. It was held in the naturally beautiful and culturally-rich Jeju Island – known as the “Island of Peace”. During the Congress, many issues were taken up on the state of the planet. However, it turned out that the venue itself became one of the most controversial issues.

The reason behind the controversy was Motion 181 which calls for the protection of the people in Gangjeong, a 400-year-old fishing and farming village in the island. Its gentle people have lived in harmony with nature for thousands of years.

Reportedly, the base site has “the cleanest water on the island. Endangered soft-coral reefs offshore will be destroyed when the seabed is dredged to get U.S. warships into the port.”

Definitely, building a U.S. naval base will impact the island and the people. Any EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) will show the devastating effects of having a Naval base on Jeju.

I can share with you the impacts of having a military base, as our country had the two largest military bases outside of the continental United States. Both Clark Air Force Base in Pampanga and Subic Naval Base in Zambales. Both provinces had old cultures and pristine environments.

Both bases have changed the culture of the people. It destroyed their way of life. A base also serves the needs of the men. Prostitution and gambling. Drugs and corruption are some by-products of bases. The environmental, social, economic and cultural values changed. Consider the nuclear waste that it carries. The pollution it brings. Ballast water and toxic waste will remain. Noise pollution in the marine environment will effect all marine living things.

In 1992 our Congress finally voted to kick out the air and naval base. But they left behind a legacy of toxic pollution and all the evils brought forth by its presence. It will totally destroy Gangjeong and the island of Peace.

The world must keep an eye on how an environmental asset like Jeju Island is now being compelled to be a collateral to military progress. Let Jeju Island be freed from being an Island of Peace under siege.



Image: Taiwan Solidarity Meeting

Gaze from Island to Island, a forum and documentary exhibit organized around the anti-naval base struggle of Gangjeong village, Jeju island, was held on September 16th, 2012 in Taiwan for International Action Week.

INTERVIEW WITH PEACE

PRISONER KIM BOK-CHUL

By Choi Sung-Ku

It’s the 10th of October and as of today its been 120 days since Kim Bok-Chul was arrested. On June 14, he was arrested according to a deceptive police plan. Another activist had hand-cuffed himself under a concrete mixer truck

and the police asked Mr. Kim to go under and persuade that activists to come out. But when he went down he was suddenly arrested for blocking the cement truck.

I’m meeting him in prison to hear about his life there. While in prison he has done many things which he never did outside prison, such as experimenting creating news foods out of prison food. He has also quit drinking and

smoking and he is working out daily.

Recently he had a hearing about being released on bail but his bail was denied. Many people are worried because he has been held for so long, but he seems to be okay and just says, “They will let me free someday.”

He also says, “We are arrested simply because we are doing what is right, acting with our consciences to keep Jeju Island peaceful.”

“You don’t need to be too sad or worry about prisoners. Our life in prison is not so bad, maybe just a little inconvenient,” he added trying to comfort me.

Before his arrest, a doctor had recently advised him to get treatment for his lungs, but he looks very healthy right now. He is peace activist Kim Bok-Chul, who is supposed to be on Gureombi Rock, the place he desires, not in prison.

GANGJEONG IS A POLICE STATE

By Kristin D.

On the beautiful summer morning of June 30th, I got a text message on my phone saying something had happened down at the port and to please come if I could. When I arrived, the scene from the top of the hill could have been straight out of a Hollywood movie. A sea of police in riot gear covered every inch of ground from one end of the port to the other. Perfectly formed rows of blue and white police busses blocked both entrance and exit. Lights flashing, the “arrest van” was ready for the drive to jail. The unspoken message to anyone watching was clear: *Let this be a threat to deter you from taking part in this resistance. And oh, in case you missed it, we outnumber you.*

That day they outnumbered Kim Dong-Won by at least twenty to one. A young activist deeply committed to what he believes in, had swum out to an offshore barge and climbed up into the neck of the crane it was carrying. The crane was used for illegal offshore dredging in the construction of the naval base. The navy had persistently ignored legal requirements for dredging in the area. It took this drastic action to get the illegal dredging to stop further destruction to already threatened soft coral beds and endangered marine life. But meaningful dissent does not always fall within the boundaries of legality. Words and deeds of the peace activist often bring him/her into acute conflict with police. In Gangjeong, “crime” (which may or may not have been committed) has become a government tool to wear down, intimidate, arrest, detain, fine, deport, and isolate peace activists. Between January 2010 and August 2012 alone there have been almost 600 arrests for peaceful demonstration in protest of the naval base in Gangjeong.

Kim Dong-Won remains in jail at the time of this writing. Not so much for climbing up into a crane, as for the fact that even in jail he is living his life according to his beliefs and is willing to suffer for upholding them. Similarly, the five other prisoners currently being held in jail for peaceful protest of the naval base being constructed in Gangjeong are being detained because of their deep commitment to peace and a world without destruction.



Image: Cho Sung-Bong

Kristin waves a flag at a peace concert and rally in Jeju City.

GANGJEONG PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Please write letters of support to

No. 598	No. 264	No. 187	No. 188	No. 538	No. 290
Since June 14	Since June 30	Since Sept. 6	Since Sept. 6	Since Sept. 11	Since Sept. 14
Mr. Kim Bok-Chul	Mr. Kim Dong-Won	Rev. Jeong Yeon-Gil	Mr. Park Suk-Jin	Mr. Yoon Choong	Mr. Park Seung-Ho

Jeju Prison, 161, Ora-2 dong, Jeju City, Jeju the Peace Island, Korea