

# GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

Monthly news on the struggle against  
the Jeju Naval base project

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South Korea

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## It is not the end but the beginning

Photo by Wooki Lee

Article by Hong Gi-Ryong (Chairman of Jeju Peace & Human Right Center)

We cannot give up. Since the construction is being pursued with lies and violence, we can't give up. The completion of the Jeju Naval Base doesn't mean our struggle ends but rather it means the beginning of new conflict and opposition. In order to restore justice and peace, the peaceful resistance must continue. Thus, we walk to peace. The Gangjeong Struggle has lasted for many years against injustice, lies, violence and suppression. So far, the media, politics and the judiciary have disregarded the truth of Gangjeong. Nobody has defended the noble motives of Gangjeong villagers who have tried to protect their land and sea in their struggle. Rather, the South Korean government and the Jeju Provincial government destroyed the nature of Gangjeong by nullifying the Biosphere Reserve unlawfully. Through the illegal crackdown, the blasting of Gureombi Rock and ruthlessly abusing

state power, villagers and peace activists speaking the truth were arrested and jailed. As a result, about 700 people were arrested, 600 of them have been sentenced, and some still await trial. Moreover, the total fines charged of villagers and activists are approximately 400,000 dollars. In spite of hardship, the reason why we can't give up the struggle is because we want to protect our island. This year has been the 10th anniversary since Jeju Island was designated as the Island of Peace by former President Roh. However, the Jeju Provincial government has contradicted this by forcibly pushing ahead the Jeju Naval Base construction. It tells us that the provincial government gave up the pursuit of an Island of Peace. Therefore, the vision for Jeju as an Island of Peace can be sustained and put into action only by residents and activists. The Gangjeong struggle just hit 3000 days. Five hundred people participated in the 2015 Gangjeong Grand

March for Peace & Life that was held from July 27th till August 2nd. Children, teenagers, elderly people, and disabled people participated and shouted out the slogan, "Let's keep Gangjeong and make Jeju Island an Island of Peace". This year we were sure to invite friends from Okinawa, Hawaii, Saipan, and the Philippines to walk in solidarity with each other's struggles. At the end of the year, the Jeju Naval Base is expected to be completed. The movement to oppose the naval base will evolve into a movement to close the base, and the resistance will continue. At the core of the resistance, the Gangjeong Grand March for Peace & Life will be the water that primes the pump of peace to help the water spout and flow well. Furthermore, the Grand March, as an embodiment of the global peace movement, will reach out to the entire Asia-Pacific region in which the Korean Peninsula and East Asia are situated.

## U.S. Ships and Fighter Jets Are Here

By Sunny

David Suchtya, a Commander of U.S. Navy, wrote two years ago the Jeju Naval Base: Strategic Implications for Northeast Asia. In his report, Suchtya detailed the various strategic importance of Jeju naval base for the ROK and the U.S. This analysis is followed by a conclusion where Suchtya personally suggests that once the naval base is completed, "the United States should send...medium-sized ships ... [since] it would be large enough to show support for our South Korean allies, but too small for China to view its visit as a U.S. escalation." Two years later, it appears as if Suchtya's recommendation has been ignored in the latest Strategic Digest 2015 (a reader-friendly manual on military strategies informed by the Asia Pivot, jointly written by the ROK and the U.S. military commands). The manual mentions the plan by the U.S. to send to ROK, new Littoral Combat Ships (LCS), Zumwalt Destroyers (DDG 1000), two other destroyers equipped with Ballistic Missile Defense (BDM) System, and MV-22 Ospreys, EA-18 Growlers, and P-8 Poseidon (all military aircrafts). This proposal obviously goes beyond – and against – Suchtya's recommendation that "the overall number of U.S. ships entering the Yellow Sea should not increase lest the Chinese view this as an American escalation," which could trigger a "regional arms race." Then what is the main reason for constructing the base? Suchtya mentions in his report that the Jeju naval base "reduces the overall U.S. defense burden" because "a slow growing U.S. economy and climbing Federal debt makes cuts to the U.S. armed forces unavoidable," which makes Jeju Naval Base "serve U.S. interests."



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The Gangjeong Village Association  
Jeju Island  
South Korea

25 August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,  
**AWARD OF 2015 MACBRIDE PEACE PRIZE TO THE PEOPLE OF GANGJEONG VILLAGE, JEJU ISLAND**

It is with immense pleasure that I announce to you the decision of the International Peace Bureau to award the annual Sean MacBride Peace Prize to the people of Gangjeong Village, and thus to you as their representative.

The prize is part of a double-award that we are making this year, linking two island communities in Europe and Asia. The other recipient is the people of Lampedusa, Italy, who for many years have offered humanitarian assistance to the thousands of refugees arriving on the shores of their tiny island.

**The award of both prizes will be made at a special ceremony in PADOVA, ITALY on Friday October 23, 2015.** This event is part of a weekend programme forming the IPB Annual Conference.

The prize is a non-monetary one, consisting of an inscribed medal made of 'peace bronze', a metal resulting from the transformation of materials found in the construction of nuclear weapons. Thus the very substance of the prize is itself a peace message.

### AN INVITATION

The International Peace Bureau (IPB) decided Gangjeong, Jeju, as one of the co-recipients of the precious Sean MacBride award, 2015, along with the Island of Lampedusa, Italy. The official letter was sent to the village on Aug. 25.



# The 23rd Global Network conference in Kyoto

'The highlight of our Kyoto conference was our three-hour bus drive to the Ukawa village in northern Kyoto prefecture where the Pentagon recently deployed a 'missile defense' X-Band radar aimed at China and Russia. We presented the beleaguered village committee with our annual Peace in Space Award and promised them they were not alone in their fight to resist the X-band radar. (Bruce Gagnon, the GN message to Asia Pacific) '74% of the U.S. military presence in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa and the Japanese government seems set on changing the Constitution to be able to go to war again. However, the ghosts of the fire bombings, of Hiroshima, and Nagasaki have not been forgotten.' (Yosi McIntire, U. S., a conference participant)

The GN conference in Kyoto graciously organized by Prof. Atsushi Fujioka had two side trips to Okinawa and Hiroshima commemoration. Choi Sung-Hee, a village international team, had the chance to join the conference and trip to Okinawa. Choi recalled the trip, "The trip coordinated by Satoko Norimatsu, co-author of the Resistant Islands, a book about Okinawa, was excellent. What repeatedly came to mind was the staggering scale of the missing during the Okinawa War. The sense of present connected with the past comes in mind when you are in front of the Camp Schwab. Actually, whether you are in Gangjeong, Henoko, or Ukawa, such sense may well link us together into the future as well. If you are woman, you cannot but think of women who disappeared by the destructive forces of militarism. You would not want to see such thing being repeated for your future generations." (GN means Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. For detailed reports on the conference, July 29 to Aug. 2, please go to [space4peace.org](http://space4peace.org))

## Taiwanese anti-nuke activist's solidarity with Gangjeong

By Emily Wang

A "Demilitarized Peace Triangle of Jeju, Okinawa and Taiwan" was suggested this year by Hong ShenHan, a Taiwanese peace activist. We discussed the concept when we met him in Taiwan this year during a trip promoting inter-island solidarity for peace after he also participated in the 2015 Gangjeong Grand March.

ShenHan's visit to Gangjeong came shortly after the anti-nuke movement in Taiwan successfully stopped the construction of a nuclear power plant when it was nearly complete. In a speech at the Peace Center, he spoke of the parallels between Gangjeong and Taiwan's anti-nuke struggle: both situations reflected a system requiring that certain people be victimized and left to solve the risks that come from a logic of "economic development" in the case of the nuclear power plant and a logic of "regional interest of superpowers" that led to the military base. As an alternative, a "system of supporting" is needed to recognize reasonable limits to development and to see different stakeholders in order to understand and empathize with each other, while building a network of sharing and support.

To promote this peace agenda in Taiwan, ShenHan suggested several avenues: 1. facilitate dialogue with burgeoning Taiwanese Nationalists in light of China's ambitions regarding Taiwan; (2) use the Demilitarized Peace Triangle to promote a broader concept of peace among ordinary Taiwanese, who are mostly preoccupied with preventing attack by China; (3) seek complementary ways to support each other in Jeju, Okinawa, and Taiwan; and (4) finding new perspectives by working in solidarity.



Image by Dongseok. On September 18, two members from Japan who screened the documentary 'Gureombi, the Wind is Blowing', met with vice mayor Go to donate about 2,000 USD along with additional money raised through merchandises sold at the screening. Afterwards, the two members suggested that there should be a greater exchange and interactivity between the Gangjeong youth and the Japanese youth.

## Return to Jeju

By Regis Tremblay

Three years ago I came to Gangjeong Village to make a short film about the struggle against the construction of a naval base to accommodate America's "Pivot to Asia." My visit to Jeju and my feature-length documentary, *The Ghosts of Jeju*, changed the trajectory of my life.

*The Ghosts of Jeju* has experienced success around the world beyond my wildest expectations. It now exists with translations and subtitles in Korean, Japanese, Chinese, French and Spanish. The Russian translation is finished and awaiting subtitles. All of this work by volunteers who wanted to share it with their countries. To my knowledge, it has been seen in more than 20 countries and in 25 universities in the U.S., South Korea and Japan.

Returning to Jeju brought mixed feelings of joy and sadness; joy at seeing so many friends, but great sadness and anger seeing the nearly completed base. I am angered and ashamed at what the United States has done and continues to do in South Korea, Japan, Okinawa and wherever there are military bases.

I returned to the Pacific to begin filming for my new documentary, *11:57 – Three Minutes to Midnight* which begins where *Ghosts* left off. This film will focus on the dual threats to human existence which are nuclear war and climate change both caused by global Capitalism driven by the United States.

Hopefully this film will be completed in one year and be ready for a world premiere in Gangjeong during September 2016.



At the end of the 2015 Grand March, Silver and Paco present donations raised during the If You Don't Give Up You Can't Lose/Gureombi, the Wind is Blowing tour of the U.S. to Gangjeong Village.

## International Solidarity



Image by Regina Pyon. While in Gangjeong for 11 days, Bruce K. Gagnon daily joined protest in front of the navy base construction gate, with a banner he made.

# 2015 Gangjeong Grand March- Reflections

By Gayoon Baek

Coordinator, South Korean NGOs Network against the Jeju Naval Base / People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

Every year, since 2012, Gangjeong villagers and supporters marched around the Jeju Island to raise awareness of the problems of the naval base which is being built in Gangjeong, southern part of Jeju island. This year, the 2015 Gangjeong Grand March for Peace and Life was held from 27 July to 1 August. Since the Jeju naval base is expected to be completed by the end of this year, Gangjeong villagers decided to invite peace activists and villagers who have been fighting against military bases in their own country, to learn from their experience and consolidate solidarity among peace loving people in the region. Participants were from Okinawa, Saipan (Tinian Island), Philippines and Taiwan. During the 2015 Grand March, international participants had 'international solidarity night' with groups marching east coast as well as west coast, to share their stories and experiences.

Six Okinawans joined the march, which was the largest number, including Tomiyama Masahiro, who is physical disabled but joined the full march on his wheelchair. Solidarity between Gangjeong villagers and Okinawans has been long, and some Gangjeong villagers also went to Okinawa in May to join their grand march. Deborah and Zania from Tinian Island told us stories about how their beautiful island was exploited and destroyed by these super powers, especially by the US. Since not everyone was familiar with Tinian Island, it was an eye opening experience for all of us. Merci from the Philippines shared stories of Suvic airbase and Filipino people's victory to remove the US military bases from their own land. Even though the Philippines recently suffer from the return of the US to the region, its peoples' strong will to maintain their land peaceful inspired all of us. Finally, Sheng-han from Taiwan shared his successful stories on stopping almost built nuclear power plant in Taipei with people power. All international participants' message to Gangjeong was one message. With strong solidarity and consistent will of people to maintain peace and bring justice, we will achieve a victory at the end. And, we both promised that we will stand by each other in this struggle regardless our location and distance. We hope to further strengthen our network and solidarity in the future for peace in the region.

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## Merci A.

When I left Gangjeong Village after joining your Grand March for Life and Peace, I brought the beautiful images of your paradise island and the memory of your brave and just struggle in my heart. In a world which is being pushed to the brink of World War III, where the pristine environment is poisoned and destroyed to set up military bases, where women, men and children inherit toxic legacies from war and the greed of corporations, where peace, in many places is not the absence of war, but the silencing of dissent. The hope for humanity lies in the awakening awareness of every human being that we should never allow our human rights and dignity to be trampled upon; The defiant people of Gangjeong Village show to the world that the powerful elites may take over your land and waters, but they cannot conquer your spirit that desires peace.

Your peaceful struggles inspire me and ignite my passion to tell my countrymen and the world how the destruction of Gangjeong wounds all of humanity. We should work together to stop the naval base in Jeju Island, for life and peace in Gangjeong Village, in Asia and in the world!

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## Joan

During the 2015 GangJeong Life Peace Grand March, with other team members, I helped in the kitchen preparing food and washing dishes for about 600 participants (East team 300, West team 300).

The team met each morning at 6:00 in the 'Uilyehoegawn' dining hall in GangJeong village, we would wash, chop and mince vegetables. Some days we would chop 10 or more boxes of cucumbers, onions, frozen fish and a lot of pork. I mean, I do not know the exact quantities for each day, but we had a large amount of ingredients to prepare for cooking.

In front of the stoves other team members would begin to cook the ingredients that we had prepared. It was a pretty hectic time for us, getting ready to send food trucks to the Grand March teams on time. After sending the lunch some of us took a rest and others prepared some materials for dinner like we had done before. The food trucks came back in two hours bringing dirty dishes to wash. Before the trucks returned to the courtyard of the dining hall about 10 people were preparing to wash the dishes relay-style with five barrels filled with hot water. When the trucks came back the washing team received the drivers with cheers to praise their efforts, then we washed dishes for about two hours in near silence except to ask for changes of water and mosquito incense coils. Surprisingly, it was even a little annoying to be given ice cream or other snacks during washing time because we wanted to finish washing dishes as soon as possible without any disturbance.

After washing-up we had to again prepare vegetables and other ingredients for dinner while others cooked in front of the stoves. Then dinner was delivered on-time. Food wastes and dirty dishes were returned by the trucks. We then had to wash them for tomorrow's meal. The dining house workday finished at 10 p.m.

When there were lots of food wastes we felt sad but when someone left a praise about a meal, we were very happy. After six days with this routine I got confused about whether I had joined the March or had joined just the washing-up team. On the last day, we all gathered in front of the gate of the naval base construction site to make a human chain on the last day and I felt very moved by the many people who joined the march.

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## Itakura

Toward the end of the Asia-Pacific War, the Japanese military made a last-ditch attempt to preserve the imperial system, and those final battles resulted in the sacrifice of countless lives. To avoid American air raids, Japan's Imperial General Headquarters was relocated underground at the town of Nagano Matsushiro, requiring the mobilization of thousands of Korean laborers. The military authorities also tried to make all of Jeju into a fortress, building about 700 outposts and facilities throughout the island. As Lee Young Kwon wrote in The Journal of Travels in Jeju-do, "If the war lasted for one more month, Jeju residents would have faced total death like the Okinawa citizens, who died in the attempt to preserve the imperial system."

In recent years, Nagano Matsushiro residents and Gangjeong residents have joined in solidarity to oppose the Jeju naval base and promote peace. I walked in the Grand March for Life and Peace each year from 2012 to 2014, and I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of energy. In Japan after the Fukushima disaster, demonstrations occurred every Friday beginning at 7pm, when ordinary citizens would gather near Nagano station. Building on that momentum, an enormous demonstration on Friday, August 30th, protested against the war bill, including 100,000 people encircling the National Assembly and a total of one million people in 750 sites throughout Japan.

Now opinion polls show that residents oppose the new base in Henoko. I want to see participants of Jeju's Grand March grow to the point where the majority of Jeju residents oppose the naval base. The Governor of Jeju, provincial assemblymen, mayors of Seogwipo and Jeju City, and members of the National Assembly must also endorse the demilitarization of the island for the sake of peace in Jeju.

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## Hwi

I loved the idea of walking on Jeju Island from the very first moment I heard about the Life-Peace Grand March. It seemed like the best way to demonstrate that we will not stay still but keep moving forward. People from everywhere willingly chose to be on their feet side by side and soon, all hearts were intertwined under one idea: Bring peace to Jeju. Amazing thing was that many also found their own peace during the march.

Full of hope and joy, 6 days went fast it almost felt like one picturesque second. Then the reunion of two groups in Gangjeong village was just... too beautiful. I mean, how often do I get to meet total strangers who gets teary just by seeing me? If memory serves me right, hundreds of people became something close to a family on that day. My deepest appreciation goes to the staffs and sponsors behind the scene.

We will probably forget about what happened. Memories, they usually fade away after weeks. Maybe people won't remember the dances they've picked up. Well, that's fine. We will probably come back to witness more things happen. Memories will come back and dances... Let's just say the dances are in our muscle memory. So folks, don't you worry a thing. I wish I could see you all again next time.





# 2015 Gangjeong Grand March for Life and Peace



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1. Photo by Park Seung Hwa

2. Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon, Hong Ki Ryong, the village mayor Cho Kyung Chul. Photo by Song Dong Hyo

3. Gangjeong activists serving lunch for the march participants. Photo by Song Dong Hyo

4. The international participants speak at the press conference. Photo by Song Dong Hyo

5. Photo by Kim Min Soo

6. Meeting the locals on the way. Photo by Yang Dong Kyu



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7. Morning Gangjeong dance. Photo by Wooki Lee  
 8. Villager Gang Boo Eon. Photo by Wooki Lee  
 9. A march participant looking at the naval base construction site. Photo by Wooki Lee  
 10. Arriving at the naval base construction gate. Photo by Wooki Lee  
 11. Sewol ferry victims' parents having an evening talk. Photo by Wooki Lee  
 12. The evening concert on the last day of the march. Photo by Park Seung Hwa



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# Outrageous move by the Navy towards Gangjeong village

As the South Korean government is pushing forward the militarization of Jeju Island, the navy has been taking steps to put Gangjeong village into a deeper financial trouble, an outrageous and yet repulsive move by the military to make the peace-loving people suffer. The navy has sent on August 25 a letter to Gangjeong Village Association, notifying that the villagers have to pay approximately USD 8,000 to the Ministry of Defense to cover the expenses of the so-called administrative implementation that took place on Jan 31 to get rid of the Gangjeong resistance camp at the navy apartment building construction site.

According to the notification letter, the MoD hired 100 young thugs from the mainland and paid USD 500 to each gangster a day. But many circumstantial evidences show that MoD's crackdown operation with the help of hundreds of riot cops was unlawful because the Jeju islanders' resistance did not pose any imminent threat against the national security. It wasn't any emergency situation during the violent crackdown. On the contrary, the Jeju provincial government had been trying to solve the issue peacefully during which, all of a sudden, the navy attacked the small village with a thousand troops. This is how the state is attacking its own people that it is supposed to protect.

This is not the first time the military is trying to suffocate Gangjeong. In June, Samsung claimed compensation of about USD 23 million to the government for the delay of Jeju naval base construction. Then, the navy announced in late July that it will use a right to indemnity and have Gangjeong village pay the whole amount instead. The village is in a deep financial trouble after the 9-long years of struggle to make Jeju a non-militarized island of peace. However, the Marine Corps is already building a new artillery unit base in Sinchon village, a clear sign that the military is turning the island into a gigantic war base. Jeju naval base is just a beginning of a long scary death plan ahead. People need to rise up.

By Hotpinkdolphins

## Captive Dolphins Return to Jeju Sea

Finally, 2 more captive Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins, Taesan and Boksun returned to Jeju sea on July 6. These dolphins are indigenous to Jeju Island with the population of only about 100. And the number is decreasing. Since they live around the coast of the island all throughout the year, they were good friends with Haenyo sea divers and islanders loved them. The two dolphins were supposed to be sent back to the sea 2 years ago when 3 other captive Jeju dolphins were set free to their home sea in July 2013, but due to their poor health their release was postponed indefinitely. Taesan and Boksun were showing typical symptoms of depression. They were illegally caught in 2009 and sent to a nearby aquarium to perform daily dolphin shows. But they refused to eat frozen fish and get close to trainers. Hotpinkdolphins found out about the case and started the 'dolphin liberation campaign' in 2011. And after 4 years, we have fulfilled our mission. So we are working on the second phase of the campaign, making the Jeju sea peaceful. Jeju sea is not healthy. Actually it is suffering from all sorts of pollution, reclamation plans, and planting underwater structures. Dolphin's habitat has been under threat by the naval base construction, overfishing and other careless development projects for building casinos and resorts near the sea. We have to know that if the dolphins can't live on the sea, then humans can't live on the island either.



Image by Hotpinkdolphins. Farewell to Jeju dolphins, 'Goodbye and let's live peacefully together'

## 'Black Eagle' Air Show Invades Village

Recently on Aug. 26 and 29, the ROK Air Force's Black Eagles fighter planes thundered over parts of the residential areas in Seogwipo City, including Gangjeong village. Though the flights lasted no more than 20 minutes each, the residents' normal lives were greatly interrupted by horrible noise, fumes from the engines, and red, white, and blue smoke from these war machines. The air show was performed as a part of the Air Force-hosted public event named 'Jeju Sky Love Festival.' The regional event is a part of the nationwide public event called 'Space Challenge' organized by the ROK Air Force. There had been no prior consultations with the villagers about these disruptive, dangerous demonstrations of force overhead, and there was not even an advanced notice to the villagers. You may think of these occurrences as 'pre-emptive psychological operations.' Even though the title of the event uses public-friendly words such as 'Sky Love,' what it really means is 'militarization of space.'

## Jeju's Soft-Coral Suffering from Damage that Demands Urgent Attention

The area off the coast of Gangjeong village has been regarded by the international scientific community as the largest and most spectacular habitat for soft corals in the world. Designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and Korean Natural Monument #442, these forests of soft corals have been seriously damaged by the Jeju naval-base construction and are at risk of further destruction, as reported in an August 5th press conference announcing the findings of a study organized by Gangjeong residents and environmental advocates. The maritime research, undertaken on July 31 and August 1st, examined two major sections of these habitats.

The rapid change of Gangjeong Sea has been particularly evident since the summer of 2012, which marked the period after the blasting of Gureombi Rock had begun in March, followed by a construction method involving caisson breakwaters. Directly as a result of the naval-base construction, this activity disrupted the flow of sea currents and released unprecedented amounts of pollution and debris into the sea's waters. During that process, the Korean Navy has failed to abide by the obligatory monitoring measures as stipulated by the Environmental Impact Assessment. This accelerated and ongoing die-off of soft corals in Gangjeong Sea can only be attributed to the Jeju naval-base construction, which itself is an unlawful project enabled by corrupt and anti-democratic practices. The degradation of these habitats was further aggravated by ignorance and inertia on the part of the overseeing government agencies. In its official response, the Korean Navy has made unsubstantiated claims that soft corals have not shown major changes and blamed any difference on natural factors other than the construction of the naval base, such as the impact of typhoon or seasonal shifts.

Gangjeong residents refute these misleading claims and call upon the relevant government agencies to respond to their urgent demands for: (1) the participation of government agencies in the ongoing monitoring of soft-coral forests by Gangjeong residents; and (2) investigation and enforcement of proper measures to stop the Navy's violations.

*This English summary is based upon the 20-page report released in Korean on August 5, 2015.*

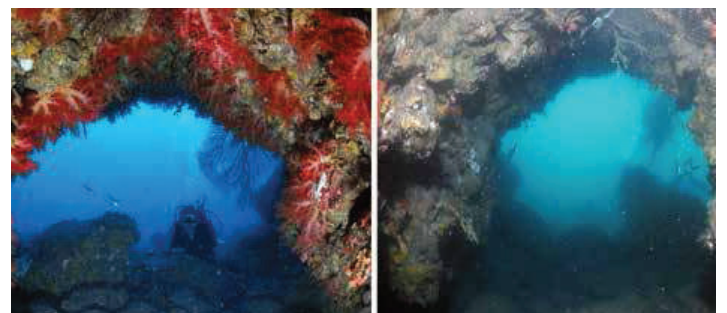


Image by the 'People's Task Force Team for the Monitoring of Soft Corals Affected by the Jeju Naval Base Project' / The change in the Sea of Gangjeong lighthouse area is compared between the years of 2008 and 2015.

# "The Ghosts of Yasukuni" cancelled by Jeju city

Marking the 70th anniversary of the independence from Japanese colonization in Korea, the photo exhibition "The Ghosts of Yasukuni" by Kwon Chul was planned to open at the historical Gwandukjung Pavillion (one of the oldest building in Jeju, which was used to train soldiers in Chosen era) on August 15. However, just a few days prior to the opening Jeju city suddenly withdrew the permission to use the exhibition space inside the pavilion after receiving the complaints from Independence Memorial Committee in Jeju. It later turned out IMC misunderstood the artist's intent, but the city's cultural department was criticized for reversing their

decision without offering a clear explanation to the artist. Kwon Chul, an established Korean photographer who's mainly worked in Japan, had spent past 10 years to document Yasukuni shrine, the place of commemoration for the spirits of those who died in service of the Empire of Japan, particularly in the Pacific War. This exhibition was intended to remind the audience of the reviving militarism in Japan by showing that the shrine has become normalized and integrated in the landscape of Japanese everyday. In his photographs one can find not only the extreme right-wing politicians but also many visitors enjoying

the daily picnic seemingly oblivious to its historical background.

The irony is that it wasn't Japanese but Korean government who interfered with the obvious criticism on the Japanese imperialism. In referring to its colonial history Korean government tends to undermine the current militaristic movement in Japan by focusing on the victim's history such as the comfort women. And that's precisely why Kwon Chul's photographs on Yasukuni might have been too provocative for their taste, because they reveal the scary truth on "now" a bit too much.



Image By Oum Mun-hee. The mother who lost her son from Sewol Ferry Tragedy visited Gangjeong Village during the Grand March for Life&Peace. At the tent of mass, every night some activists light the paper lantern that is drawn with a different story of student victims. On the day the mother was there, coincidentally her son's story was hung and she happened to see it and couldn't help crying at the moment.

## Trial Updates

- Mr. Kim Jong-Hwan, a Gangjeong resident, received clemency from the Jeju local court on July 1. It was after the Supreme Court remanded his case after reversal of the higher court decision a year ago. By the court decision on July 1, the term of his probation was reduced from three to two years(which suspends his 18months prison sentence). The court also turned down the prosecutor's demand that he be monitored for three years.
- On July 23rd, the Supreme Court handed down decisions regarding 19 people who had joined the protest to block trucks carrying explosives, which were slated for blasting Gureombi Rock in April 2012. The verdict was not-guilty for five, probation for two, and a total of about 20,000 USD fines for 12 people.
- On Aug. 12, the civilian court of the Seoul central district court gave a partial victory to three people who had filed suit against the state in 2011. During June of that year, several individuals posted comments on the ROK Navy homepage, protesting the base construction for its inevitable damage to soft-coral habitats. The Navy claimed those comments were baseless and removed about 117 comments from its site, without notifying those involved. The court decision ordered the state to pay each of the three individuals approximately 250 USD as compensation for mental distress caused by suppressing the citizens' freedom of speech. The National Human Rights Committee had previously dismissed the plaintiffs' appeal in 2013.
- On Aug. 15, Korea's 70th anniversary of liberation from Japanese imperialism, Park Geun-Hye excluded the citizens of Gangjeong from special amnesty, which was granted to about 2 million people throughout the country. For Gangjeong residents, it was the second such exclusion from special amnesty despite appeals on their behalf by both ruling and opposition party members as well as religious leaders. Nevertheless, the Gangjeong villagers had put no stock in such amnesty from the beginning. The villagers have long expressed their position that accepting special amnesty would be a betrayal unless the base construction is stopped.
- Additionally, two people have chosen jail rather than pay fines for their participation in anti-base protests. One activist who chose prison for 20 days is Kim M. K., who makes a lantern drawing everyday as a tribute to the Sewol ferry victims, and another is Rev. Park Sang-Hee, who was jailed from July 6 to 22.
- As of August 2015, an estimated total of 56 individuals have been detained. This number includes people who have chosen prison rather than paying what they regard as unjust fines.

## Connecting Bath and Jeju

By Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

On Aug. 25, I had a meeting with the villagers and activists in Gangjeong, Jeju Island. The title of my talk was 'Why Jeju?' I highlighted Obama's Asia pivot, missile defense, and Jeju naval base. It was my fourth time visit to Jeju following the 23rd annual Global Network conference in Kyoto and commemoration in Hiroshima this year.

Part of my talk was to connect Bath, Maine where I live and Jeju where the Aegis ships made in Bath will be ported.

Bath, a shipbuilding town since the late 1700's, produces only destroyers at the Iron Works today. I've been working for years to call for conversion of BIW to peaceful production. We often protest there and I am always looking in the workers eyes, searching for special people.

One of those special people is a man named Peter Woodruff who worked at BIW for 35 years. He was first BIW worker to speak at a protest during the 'Christening' of an Aegis destroyer, he called for conversion of shipyard to build wind turbines. A few years ago he asked me to help him write a petition saying "We workers want to build wind turbines" and he got 800 workers to sign it (5,000 work there).

In Gangjeong, I urged people to keep protesting even after the base is completed particularly because American sailors need to see resistance to the US empire. Protest against growing militarism is important to save our Mother Earth threatened by climate change of which the Pentagon is No. 1 polluter in the world.

### The anti-naval base struggle shown in numbers





# The St. Francesco Peace Center

The Saint Francesco Peace Center initiated and built by the Catholics led by Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon and Bishop Kang U-II had its opening ceremony on Sept. 5, with a celebration mass officiated by Bishop Kang. An invitational exhibition of artwork by two female artists, Hong Bo-Ram and Hong Jin-Sook, also opens in the center.

There will be a peace conference in the Center for three days from Sept. 7 to 9. The conference will feature presentations, discussions, and meetings relating to the theme, "Reviewing, Reflecting On, and Planning for the Demilitarization of Jeju, the Peace Island." Specifically, the challenges of transforming the 1930s-era Japanese Alldreu airfield into a Peace Park, building solidarity for demilitarization and peace in Northeast Asia, and establishing strong Peace Education programs will be addressed during the conference.



Image by Wooki. Both in July and August, there have been a cleaning day organized by the committee of Gangjeong Village Anti base movement for Gangjeong River flowing just next to the naval base construction site. As the summer vacation season continues, more travelers and visitors enjoy the river. Some people carelessly litter.



Image by Sunny . Gangjeong, Ssang-Yong, Milyang, Chungdo, Sewol, and Yongsan all meet together at Gangjeong Village for a wild night of foods, drinks, and singing merriment.

## How You Can Help

1. Write a letter to the South Korean government to stop the Jeju base project and to the US government to stop the support for it.
2. Write letters to Gangjeong's prisoners of conscience.
3. Stay updated by joining our Facebook groups and following us on twitter.
4. Organize a solidarity event (concert, movie screening, protest, etc...)
5. Then share about it on social media.
6. Visit Gangjeong!
7. 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](http://savejejunow.org) or check these Vimeo/Youtube users :

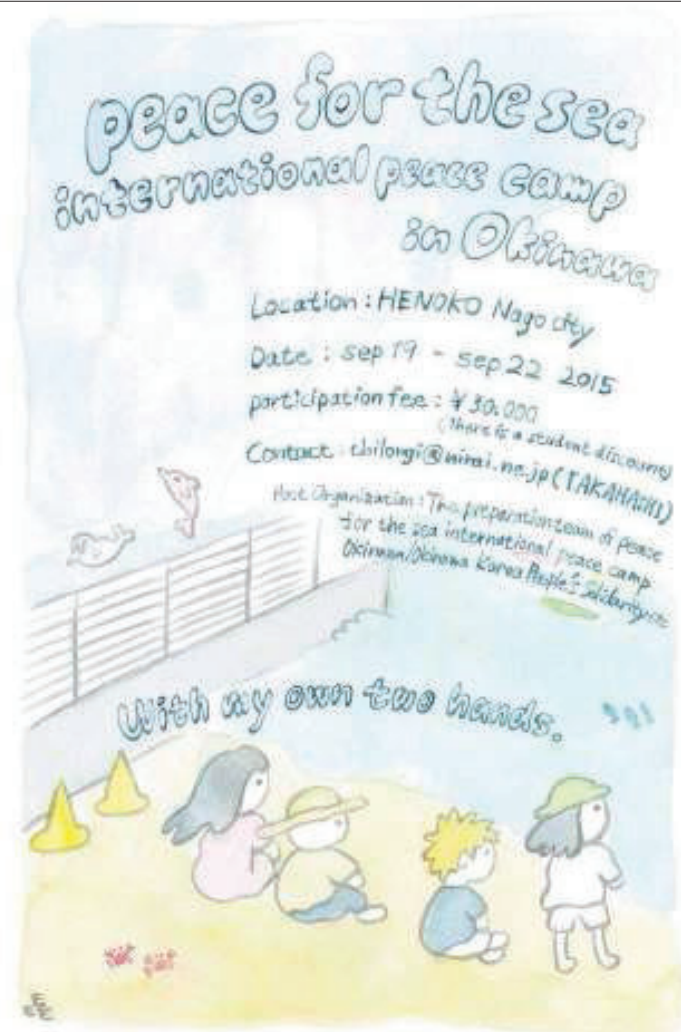
Vimeo : cho sung bong / DH Song / Regis Tremblay  
Youtube : Gang-Jeong Il-Gi / Shalomsea / 1234yz100 / Sungbong2012

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# No Developments in Compensation for the Base!

By Go Gwon-II, Gangjeong Village  
Vice Mayor

On the 5th of August, Gangjeong villagers made a decision, in a special general meeting, that they would not accept any of the island's government development plans if these development plans will be considered as a compensation for the naval base. The villagers are refusing to unconditionally accept the Island government's proposal on development projects aimed at compensating the base project, but they have made it clear to say that they accept support on projects only when they are separate from the base project and initiated by the villagers. The village association believes that this decision will help to restore residents' sovereignty, to give benefits to all the residents, and to decide the future of the village by the collection of the villagers' opinions.



# Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Never Again! Ban Nuclear Weapons Now

