

# GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

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2016

Monthly news on the struggle against  
the Jeju Naval base project

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## Peace Movements Walk Together for 2016 Jeju Peace March

Article by Nanch'o  
Image by Chung Taekyong

Even before this year's Jeju peace march began, it had already exceeded expectations. The 2016 Grand March for Life and Peace was the first to take place after the opening of the Jeju naval base, a reality that had prompted last year's organizers to speculate whether people would come out in large numbers following the base's completion. But instead of a decline, there was an increase in overall participation, with over 550 people registered prior to the march and several more joining along the 6-day route.

Indeed, similar to previous marches over the past five years, domestic and international solidarity was a defining element. This year participants from places as diverse as Okinawa, Taiwan, New Zealand, Ireland, Sweden, Hawaii, and the continental US, joined Korean activists, including marchers from

Gangjeong and elsewhere on Jeju as well as those who flew from the mainland. Throughout the march, participants sang and danced to Joyakgol's new protest rock anthem "Drop the Lawsuit," calling for the South Korean Navy's withdrawal of its wrongful US\$3 million indemnity lawsuit against village advocates. In addition, one of the key destinations along the East Course was Seongsan, where marchers met in solidarity with activists opposing the announced construction of a second Jeju airport. Along with banners calling for peace on Jeju, some marchers also carried placards opposing the recently announced THAAD deployment in Seongju on the mainland of South Korea. Participating for the first time this year was a delegation from Veterans for Peace, including Bruce Gagnon, Ken Jones, and Will Griffin, who contributed to programs and conversations

throughout the march. The VFP delegation was to have included two Korean American activists, Hyun Lee and Juyeon Rhee, who help to coordinate the Solidarity Committee for Democracy and Peace in Korea and the US. However, they were denied entry and sent on a plane back to the US, despite the fact that they were Korean natives with no record of legal violations. Activists widely interpreted their denied entry as a reflection of the South Korean government's anxiety over the growing THAAD protests in Korea and abroad. This year's motto, "Pyeonghwa, goch'I glla!" is Jeju dialect for, "Peace! Let's Walk Together!" The mood of the march was similarly upbeat, as teams of volunteers helped ensure participants stayed safe, healthy, well-nourished, and in good spirits despite this summer's heat wave.

## Does South Korea need THAAD?

By Oh Hye-Ran  
Solidarity for Peace and  
Reunification of Korea

The South Korean and United States authorities are enforcing the deployment of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) in South Korea despite opposition from citizens. The Park Geun-hye government had previously denied any existence of requests or demands by the United States on the matter of the THAAD deployment in South Korea. However, blaming North Korea's satellite lunch on Feb. 7 the government announced the plan of deployment of the THAAD in Seongju, without any advance talk with the residents of the area. The United States wants to deploy THAAD in South Korea in accord with the Obama government's Asia Pacific pivot. But it will be impossible to intercept North Korean missile targeting South Korea with PAC 3 or THAAD.

The US Congress report in 2015 also pointed out the low utility of missile defense in South Korea. Still the reason that the United States intends to deploy THAAD, especially THAAD X-band radar in South Korea is to detect the Chinese mid/ long range ballistic missiles targeting United States and Japan. If THAAD is deployed in South Korea, the country becomes the outpost of United States-Japan missile defense targeting China and the security of Korea is put at risk. If the confrontation between the blocks of the ROK-US-Japan and DPRK-China-Russia is intensified, unlimited arms race and nuclear confrontation could become routine in Northeast Asia. Peace becomes distant and the door for unification is closed. The anti-base peace campaign should protect protesting residents' candles in Seongju and gather all the power and wisdom to repeal the plan of THAAD deployment in South Korea.



Image by Lee Hee-hoon, Ohmynews/ On August 15, the 71st anniversary of Korea's liberation from the Japanese colonization, 908 people in Seongju, North Kyungsang province shaved their hairs in the strong expression of opposition to the deployment of THAAD in Korea.



## Veterans for Peace Joining the March

It was a wonderful experience for Will Griffin, Ken Jones, and I to represent Veterans For Peace on the Grand March for Life & Peace around Jeju Island this summer. It was moving to spend time with so many great activists from around Korea and other countries. We were very impressed by the enormous amount of work it took to organize and support the two teams (east and west) of walkers. We were grateful for all the care the organizers gave to each of us – especially the ice cream on those hot days!

Back in Bath, Maine the Zumwalt 12 recently went to the first court hearing for our June arrests during the ‘christening’ ceremony for a new ‘stealth’ destroyer. We have to return to court again twice more before our combined trial, which should be held in January. Five of the 12 of us arrested for blocking the road and gate into the ceremony have been to Gangjeong village so you can say that our protest was very connected to the Navy base struggle on Jeju. It is likely the new Zumwalt destroyer will someday port in Gangjeong. We wanted to get the Navy crew used to seeing protests before they arrive at the village.

We feel it is important that we support each other around the world as the Pentagon expands bases and the dangers of war continue to grow. Not just one organization, not just one village, not just one country can defeat the corporate dominated US war machine alone. It takes all of us holding hands together around the planet to create peace.

Let’s convert the military industry complex and deal with our real problem called climate change. Let’s make solar, rail systems, wind and tidal power instead of more weapons.

Let’s go together!

*Bruce Gagnon lives in Bath, Maine and works for the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space.*

## Visiting Gangjeong Village

By Leah Wang  
Director of Peace In China

It was a great surprise when we saw the “Grand March for Life and Peace” in our Northeast Asia Youth Peace Camp reunion/evaluation meeting agenda. I heard about Gangjeong village’s struggle at Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute (NARPI) in 2011. I was amazed by how much effort the peace activists put into such a challenging task. It seems impossible for us from China to imagine how to fight against the government in such a huge issue. Especially when I realized this navy base is mainly built against China, I am surprised that the majority of Chinese people don’t even know about it.

A total 6 of us from China joined the peace camp reunion, three teachers and 3 former campers. We all had experienced some kind of peace camp before, and we felt excited but somehow a little worried too. To be honest, we had never joined any kind of public demonstration inside our country. When we joined the group, we found everyone very well organized and enthusiastic. Our worries disappeared and instead, we started to talk to the people walking together.

The 3 Chinese girls also met a few same-age Korean students and made friends in such a short time. As for me, I see in them the hope for future peacebuilding work. We all hope more people from China can start to pay attention to important issues related to our life and peace. We hope peacemakers can become a majority in the world. And best wishes to everyone who are “fighting” for peace in Gangjeong.

## Stop the UFG war exercise!

“It is about Aug. 20 when some warships began to appear again in the Jeju navy port. It is with the approach of the Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) war exercise,” Park Inchun whose Facebook account had been removed by invisible hands wrote on his recently restored Facebook page. From Aug. 22 to Sept. 2, the UFG took place in South Korea, the world’s biggest ROK-US war exercise against North Korea. It involved more than 50,000 South Korean troops and 25,000 US service members. On Aug. 9, the U.S. announced the temporal deployment of bombers to Andersen Air Force Base on Guam. What is the use of war exercises, it only increase unnecessary tensions in the region! Step up for Peace talks!

## Fr. Kim Sung-hwan is abroad for two years!

Fr. Kim Sung-hwan is most remembered for sitting in front of the base construction gate every daily mass and for leading non-violent protests against the base construction. He has been recommended to study in Ireland for two years. Saying he would come back to the village after two years, he left the village at the end of July. People warmly hugged him blessing him. We miss him but pray for his peace!

## A meeting with Kozue Akibayashi

We had a great chance to meet Kozue Akibayashi, the President of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. She visited the village for a short period this June. There was a small gathering with her on June 24. The WILPF built in 1915 during the WW I works to ‘address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security’ and to connect the grassroots women with international politics. According to Kozue, there are two premises for militarism. One is ‘power is needed for protection’ and the other is a question of ‘who has power and who is protected?’ Kozue reminded us that such premises are based on gender and gender is used to justify the existence and necessity of militarism. She also pointed out that governments want people to regard military base issues as if it is a local matter. However, it is important that citizens make efforts to inform and share with people how military bases concretely affect not only a village but also its socio-political surroundings. She also talked about women activists’ difficulty of having dual tasks to consider both the whole struggle and women’s rights and dignity. Such difficulty exists not only in Gangjeong but also in almost all places such as Okinawa and Philippines fighting against military bases in the world.



Image by Choi Hye-Young, a meeting with Kozue Akibayashi on the far left.

## Takae, a village of 140, faces 500 riot police

Takae is a village of 140, surrounded by forest, located in the north part of the Okinawa island. The villagers have opposed the construction of U.S. military helipads around the village, and kept doing sit-in actions in front of the gate of the construction site from 2007, and stopped the construction. On July 11, the day just after the election of the Japanese Upper House, Japanese government suddenly restarted the construction, and sent 500 riot police from mainland Japan to Takae, despite the great win of the anti-base candidate in Okinawa electoral district. On July 22, the riot police violently excluded a hundred of citizens from the sit-in tent. One of them broke a rib and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. The gate was opened by the Okinawa Defence Bureau, and some of construction materials were brought in. The next day, the citizens created a new sit-in tent across the road from the gate, and have continued protesting strongly against the construction. Now the gate is guarded by dozens of the riot police, security guards, ODB, and construction materials, such as gravel, are brought into the site by dump trucks every weekday, and the 500 riot police have still flooded around the village. Takae needs your help. Please check out the updates.

## International Solidarity



Image by Rhee Ju-yeon and Lee Hyun-jung/ On July 25, Rhee Ju-yeon and Lee Hyun-jung, two Korean-American peace activists who were to join Gangjeong Grand March in Jeju and other peace activities in the main land of Korea were unjustly deported at the Incheon airport. The two were given no specific reasons. It is questioned whether the current South Korean government intends to oppress the growing campaign against the plan of THAAD deployment in South Korea.

# 2016 Gangjeong Grand March and Peace for the Sea Camp: Reflections

By Curry

August is a hot season, both in terms of weather and in terms of big gatherings for the Gangjeong peace movement. Gangjeong Grand March for Life and Peace was held August 1-6 and the Inter-Island Solidarity Peace for the Sea International Peace Camp was held August 24-28 in Taiwan. Both gathered many likeminded people from around the world to share their experiences and solidarity.

Despite the heat and hard physical conditions, there is something that magnetically draws people to join the Gangjeong Grand March each year, all 98.3 km (West course) or 110.2 km (East course) from Gangjeong to Jeju City. Local Catholic parishes and organizations along the way provided breakfast for the walkers, while support teams in Gangjeong made the lunches and dinners and washed the dishes. Safety teams directed traffic while running back and forth beside the walkers. Little bits of shade and ice-cream bars provided refreshment on some days, while hours of heavy rain provided refreshment on other days. Somehow in the evenings, the marchers had energy left over for small group discussions and cultural celebrations.

Just a couple weeks later, more than fifty participants from Jeju, Taiwan, Okinawa, Luzon, Hainan, and Ishigaki joined the third annual Peace for the Sea camp, which was hosted by past participants from Taiwan in Kaohsiung and Taitung. We learned about the history and complex identities of the people of Taiwan and their struggles against industrial waste pollution and for the return of indigenous people's lands. We visited Houjing, where citizens blocked an oil refinery that dangerously polluted their air and water for three years until the government agreed to close it, and the seaside at Fudafudak, where indigenous people have successfully campaigned against illegal hotel construction. We had symposiums about "Indigenous people, self-determination, and peace" and "War experiences and peace practices beyond the boundary." The following reflections can give you a taste of the diverse encounters that participants made during these two solidarity events.

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## Will Yang

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Sunshine, sweat and heavy breath. People are walking on the beautiful path in Jeju Island. This is the annual anti-naval base grand march. The number of participants this year is way more than last year. People from everywhere in Korea are still caring about this issue, despite the naval base being already completed.

I am a Taiwanese journalist who had joined this grand march in 2012. After four years, I come back to this lovely village. The villagers still welcome me with their passion like what they had done four years ago. But I notice something is different, some part of the village is totally changed. Some people told me that a lot of villagers already accepted the fact the naval base is completed. So, many villagers start to give activists a cold shoulder. Disappointment, frustration and anger start to rise in the dark corner of this peaceful village. The life in this small village is changing, little by little.

On the other hand, some activists are showing more energy than 2012. On their face, I can see the future of this struggle. I can feel the hope inside of their hearts. And I believe, this anti-naval base movement will come not only to matter to the villagers, but also to the nation of South Korea.

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## Mie

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In August 2016 I was introduced to the 5 day 2016 Peace for the Sea International Peace Camp in Taiwan. More than 40 people attended from countries and areas in our region including The Philippine's, South Korea, Taiwan, Okinawa and many others. I was really excited to meet so many people who are passionate about peace, the environment and the rights of indigenous people.

The main reason I went to the camp was to meet my friend from Jeju. They came to visit my home, Ishigaki and Yonaguni for a small group meeting about solidarity of the inter islands in East Asia, and I helped them as an interpreter.

One of the Peace camp organizers asked me to have a short presentation about the recent Japanese militarization in Ishigaki, so I studied and collected information on the situation. It was a great opportunity for me to learn about this topic.

I had been feeling guilty that I knew very little about what was going on Ishigaki, Yonaguni and other islands. In fact, through my preparation for peace camp, I became more interested in this and similar issue. Now I strongly feel that I should work to strengthen solidarity and helping to work towards peace in the southwestern islands of Japan where we are facing a military crisis. Hopefully we can bring more people from southwestern islands to Peace for the sea peace camp 2017!

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## Will Griffin

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The 2016 Gangjeong Grand March for Life and Peace was my very first peace march. As I walked with people from different parts of the world, I wondered how did I get here?

Ten years ago, I was a US Army Paratrooper training to go to Iraq in October 2006. After that deployment, my life was changed forever.

Both my parents served in the US Army. I was born in war. I was born in West Germany in 1984, right in the middle of the Cold War where Germany had been split into two countries. After Germany, my family moved to South Korea, another country split by war. Later, when I turned 18 I joined the US Army from 2004 to 2010 and was deployed to two more wars; Iraq and Afghanistan.

I was a slow learner. It took me four wars to learn that war is the wrong choice. After dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for many years after my military service, I questioned over and over why the US invaded Iraq and Afghanistan. I never got a good answer until I joined Veterans For Peace in 2014.

Today, I'm traveling the world and deploying to areas of conflict, not as a soldier but a warrior for peace. The Gangjeong peace march has solidified the notion that I am finally on the right track. Never again will I go down the wrong track. Thank you Gangjeong for helping me wake up to a life of peace.

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## Jjuya

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I live often forgetting that I now exist thanks to people who lived before me and dedicated their lives to fighting against war, discrimination, and state and corporate violence. Participating in "2016 Peace for the Sea Camp" was a meaningful time to learn directly about the arduous and persistent struggle in many islands for the enjoyment of the inherent human right to live freely in peace.

If I had not joined the camp, I would have looked at these islands just as beautiful places to hang out. It is like that for most tourists visiting Jeju, who do not know or do not care about Gangjeong where the naval base has been built. A place is beautiful when it preserves its own beauty as it is. People living in a place have the right to decide how to live to enjoy and preserve the beauty of the place. People I met in the camp have struggled to overcome loneliness, fear and the thought of giving up.

Their struggle is "the beautiful struggle of truly beautiful people" to protect the beauty from all the destruction of forceful power aiming for selfish purposes and profit without people's consent. I felt warmth and empathy because we work together, with the same vision. I hope this camp is continued and sustained for those who are fighting for justice and peace today. I will fall down together, stand up together and walk together with them.





# 2016 Gangjeong Grand March for Life and Peace



Left photo by Eundu/ The westward team led by the ex-mayor, Kang Dong-kyun.

Below photo by Eundu/ White faces and yellow umbrellas to remember the Sewol tragedy.



Left photo above by Chung Taek-young/ East and West team meet in Jeju City.

Center photo by Lee Wooki/ Marchers walk through Jeju City on the final day.

Below photo by Oum Mun-hee/ The dish washing team.



Left photo by Curry/ People enjoying the beach during the march.

Bottom right photo by Lee Wooki/ Everyone danced to Joyakgol's new song "Drop the Lawsuit" at the festival at the end of the march.





# Peace For the Sea Camp, August 24-28, 2016



Left photo By Curry/ On this beach known as Fudafudak (shiny lands) by the Amis people the Miramar hotel was illegally constructed through a "Build Operate Transfer" contract from the city government. The Taiwanese Supreme Court ruled it illegal and the construction halted, but the existing structure remains.

Below photo By Awil/ After presentations from Taiwan, Okinawa, Jeju, Luzon, Ishigaki, and Hainan, we were treated to a surprise in Lalauran- representatives for each country of origin were tossed in the air!



Right photo by Joyakgol/ People listened to a local resident who introduced the residents' struggle against the oil refinery in Kaohsiung.



Left photo By Hotpinkdolphins/ A fort at Cijin on the west coast of Taiwan once controlled by the Qing Dynasty, the Japanese, and the Nationalist KMT dictatorship. During the dictatorship, citizens were not allowed to access the beach or they would be considered Communists.



Above photo by Awil/ Participants entered the town of Lalauran on the east coast of Taiwan by jumping over a fire, a tradition of the Paiwan people.

Below photo by Awil/ The Paiwan people fought successfully for the end of shooting practice after stray bullets were entering their farms and houses, but they are still protesting for the return of their land which was taken 30 years ago to build this airfield.





# Seongsan area residents resist second airport project

Residents of the villages of Onpyeong, Sinsan, Nansan, Susan, and Goseong were shocked with the national government's abrupt November 2015 announcement of Jeju's second airport on their lands. Initially referred to as the "Sinsan Airport" and described as a small one-runway airport in Yonhap News press releases, the project would actually encompass the land of five villages with the majority of the site on the ancient village of Onpyeong. The selection of the site was handled without local consent. This project also includes a large airport city in the forested upland regions and possibly a high-speed rail line connecting the current Jeju International Airport to this site. This region holds a special place in Jeju culture. According to the founding myth of Jeju's Tamna civilization, three foreign princesses arrived on these shores to marry Jeju's three ancestral demigods Go, Yang, and Bu. Honinji cave in Onpyeong's borders is considered the cave where the three ancestors and the three princesses consummated their marriages. Shamanic practices persist intact. As ties to ancestry and the land remains strong in this region, villagers from four of the five villages – excluding Goseong, which has yet to join the protests – refuse to give up their land. Candlelight vigils began immediately after the November announcement in front of Sinsan Elementary School, but the first major demonstration was held before the provincial office on December 22, 2015. Leading the protests were senior village men and leading women dressed as the Tamna demigod ancestors and the venerated wind deity Yeongdeung Halmang. Villagers have periodically protested at the Seongsan district office, but the situation remains at an impasse. The Jeju government has continued to fail to live up to promises for open bilateral negotiations. Groundbreaking is scheduled for 2018.

## HULA GIRLS

By Omi from Hawaii

Sharing hula was not on my agenda when I came back to Gangjeong. I am impassioned, however, on the power of music and dance to bridge cultures and to build solidarity between peoples. It was by the persistent requests of women in Gangjeong that I finally surrendered and said, "Yes! Let's hula!" I am in awe and thankful for what surfaced over the course of two weeks. We held classes at the Peace Center in the morning. The first day 6 girls showed up. Then next day, more! We scheduled to meet every other day. We were addicted. But why? Sure, hula is beautiful. But I wanted to make sure we understood that the beauty of hula has great depth. Through this dance, Hawaiian people are able to understand their history and share it with the world. At one point, hula and the Hawaiian language were banned. It is a privilege to perform this sacred dance and learn its stories. In hula, our hands tell story. We gracefully worked through the movements to learn "basics" - hands weaving images of the sun, mountains, sea, wind and rain. Our basic story is one where humans honor nature. I look outside at Gangjeong and know all the dancers in our class understand this.

And I hope that through our time together, we understand a bit more about ourselves and how movement can set you free.

## Everyday at the Gates

By Sungku

Every day (except Sunday) activists gather at the main gate of the Jeju Navy Base before 11 o'clock. For the last 7 months, since the official completion of the base construction, we have been picketing in front of the Navy Base. Taking photos, picketing and demonstrations are legally allowed, but the guards are often hostile as we protest, swearing at us and taking photos and video. The guards are not soldiers but hired personal of the Navy. Ironically, we are fighting with the guards daily, not Navy. Navy personal stay at their station inside of the base, observing us from a distance. The military songs played within the base are so loud and can be heard across the village. One activist attempted to play a strong protest song through a much weaker speaker. It was no where close enough to carry sound across the entire village, but loud enough to make a naval officer to come out to try to stop the music. The music is still on and no one complains now. Other activists continue to picket about the number of activists who have been arrested. There is one activist who pickets daily while also studying in front of the sign of the navy base. Other activists are reading or even dancing for an hour or more while picketing.



Image by Pang Eunmi. Activists create their own forms of protest in front of the main gate of the navy base.

## Jeju's militarization presented in 2016 East Asia Tribunal of Eviction

By Joan Kim and Emily

Gangjeong Anti-Naval Base Committee participated in the 2016 East Asia Tribunal of Eviction held in Taiwan from July 2nd-4th in order to attract international attention on the issue of forced eviction caused by Jeju's militarization. The Jury on this international trial was formed by the international jurists and lawyers of the living rights and human rights and the participating cases of forced-eviction were applied voluntarily from all around Asia. The participants from Gangjeong were not only presenting the Gangjeong case but presenting the whole picture of Jeju's militarization historically and geographically from the Alldreu Air field (military facility since Japanese colonization time) to Gangjeong naval base and from Gangjeong naval base to the Seongsan 2nd Airport to show how the militarization problem can never end inside a village but bring the change of all island even to the whole region. Go Gwon-II, chairperson of Gangjeong Anti-Naval Base Committee, specially emphasized how villagers' land got expropriation under the name of national security and also recently navy even filed a suit for the exercise of indemnity rights against villagers and activists, which are actually not different from the displaced people due to the development project. On the last day, all the local and international participants of the 2016 East Asia Tribunal of Eviction held a solidarity march in Taipei, capital city of Taiwan, walking till Taiwan's Presidential House. Unexpectedly, during the event, it happened that Taiwan's navy 'accidentally' launched a missile to the direction of China causing the death of fisher men in Taiwan. Responding to this incident, participants from Jeju expressed that it is hard to know how an 'accident' in Taiwan can bring the impact to Jeju naval base. This also attracted some attention from Taiwan's citizens and press. Following the regional tribunal, the 5th International Tribunal of Eviction Session will be held under the People's Social Forum in Resistance to Habitat III (Quito, 17 to 20 October 2016) both as an essential step carried out under the World Zero Evictions Days. While the legal struggle against militarization seldom reached any success domestically, more international practices to a better justice system is so necessary and important to try for the international paradigm shift. If military base is a monster we created all together, we all share a part of responsibility to restore this unjustified and traumatized world. This is what motivated us to participate this people's tribunal in the beginning.



Image by an event participant. Joan and Emily at the march for the event above in Taiwan.



# Hotpinkdolphins summer camp in Gangjeong

Every summer, marine environmental group Hotpinkdolphins organizes 'Dolphin Camp' for elementary school kids. This year's camp was held in Metburi area, Gangjeong village, and 9 kids participated in the 4-day camp in late July. 2016 Dolphin Camp chose the rocky Metburi area, the starting point of Gureombi Rock where Gangjeong stream joins the sea to avoid from light pollution and noises. Thanks to the location, the camp participants could jump in to the icy cold river wherever free, and

they were able to sleep to the natural sound of frog's lullaby. This year's Dolphin Camp setting was a little bit uncomfortable for the kids since the organizers wanted them to learn an ecological way of living in their everyday lives as well as the importance of conservation of cetaceans and marine ecosystem. We tried to minimize the use of cars so that we had to walk a long way under the hot sun to participate in daily village activities such as peaceful human chain around the navy base. The camp comprised of several

workshops where kids helped cook every meals with everyone and learned how to traditionally color textiles by using natural dyes from plants such as Jeju persimmon. They dived into the river to explore underwater life and learned firsthand how it went through changes before and after the naval base construction from Hotpinkdolphins activists. Three nights passed so quickly but it was enough time for the participants to feel that what we need more importantly for the planet Earth is a healthy sea with dolphins and not military bases.

By Joyakgol

## Jeju navy base and cruise terminal are also off limits?

As many of us know already, the official name of Jeju naval base is Jeju Civilian Military Complex Tourist Port which comprises of the military base and cruise terminal. Facing the severe resistance against the idea of building a massive naval base to the pristine island from Jeju islanders, the Korean government came up with the new idea of mixing tourism facilities with military installations at one port to soothe down angry residents by promising that cruise ships with thousands of tourists on board would bring economic prosperity not only to the village of Gangjeong but the whole city of Seogwipo and southern part of Jeju Island.

But, can a civilian facility coexist with military facility at the same place? Avoiding this key question, the government forced the construction for the base and it was completed in February. And now the navy revealed its true intention in June that it will designate the whole complex port as the 'Military Base and Installation Protection Zone' including the cruise terminal and wharf area. "What? The villagers need base commander's authorization in order to run business in the tourist area that was supposed to be controlled by civilians? What about thousands of visitors and influx of cash? Are we deceived by the government?" The navy was under heavy fire by angry Jeju residents again. It is obvious that Military Base and Installation Protection Zone will hinder free movement of tourists in the cruise area. As criticism became bigger, the navy said in late July that cruise terminal and wharf area would be excluded. However, according to the navy, the whole water area will be included in the off limits area where taking photos and other actions by tourists are strictly prohibited. Do you want to come to Gangjeong if you're on board a cruise ship?

## The government wrongdoings wasted around 7.8 million USD

The government has filed a damage lawsuit of around 3 million USD against the people of Gangjeong village in March stating that the protests against the naval base construction caused a 14 month delay of the base construction. However, Wi Seong-Gon, a Jeju based National Assembly man (The Minjoo Party), pointed out that the base construction was delayed due to the navy's poor administrative process and incorrect governmental policy decisions. According to Wi's press release on July 13 after his inspection of the Ministry of National Defense budget, at least 135 construction days were added due to order from the Jeju Island government to the navy to correct their violations under the Environmental Impact Assessment. These violations included failure to install a sufficient diversion channel, makeshift settling basin, and silt-protector. Also 77 days were added and 7.8 million of additional costs were wasted because of the temporary placing of the six caissons (huge concrete structures for the building of breakwater) which had been destroyed by typhoons. The temporary placing of caissons was a huge waste. Wi stated that the fundamental responsibility for the occurrence of additional costs caused from the delay of the Jeju base construction lies on the Government, therefore, the Government should not hand over the burden to Gangjeong villagers.

## Trial Updates

▶ On August 8, a male activist nicknamed Dokdo was arrested in the downtown of City of Busan where he currently lives. Dokdo had refused to pay fines of around 250 USD from the Special Obstruction of Justice charge from 31 January, 2015 when he participated in the protest against the state demolition of people's sit-in tent which had been built in opposition to the military residence construction outside the base but inside the village. At the time Dokdo was involved in protesting from a makeshift watch tower next to the sit in tent and from where most protesters eventually arrested. Dokdo was since released as his colleagues paid the fines on his behalf.

## Refusing to be investigated

On July 20, Kim Miryang, a female villager went to the Seogwipo Police station to be investigated for the April 28 incident where the villagers and activists protested against the soldiers in military vehicle who were passing through the center of the village as a part of military drill.

Kim had originally refused to be investigated for that incident, arguing that the protests were just and nonviolent. However a marine officer in the passing vehicle accused some of those protesting of defamation and traffic interruption, all of whom were asked to present to the police station for investigation.

The protesters believe that such police call is totally unjust and decided not to respond. However, Kim had to settle the issue before her overseas solidarity trip, so she attended the police station on 20 July with the understanding from the police that the visit would only take around 30 minutes to complete. However, while being investigated on the above issue, the police also informed Kim that she was to be investigated on an additional charge on the other day. Kim stated to police that she would follow through with the additional investigation raised that day on another visit in following days. However, police insisted that they must continue with all pending investigations that day. As Kim resisted, the police forcefully arrested her.

Kim was in police custody for 48 hours and is still refusing to be investigated for the additional issue in protest to police's forceful measures against her, which means she is now on the wanted list and the police can arrest her any time. Yet, she is adamant that she will refuse to respond to such a police call for three reasons: 1. The accusation on the protesters on April 28 is totally unjust. 2. The navy/government's damage lawsuit against the village should be immediately dropped 3. The police should drop forceful measures against the citizens. Kim is not the only one currently making these demands. Mr. Cho Kyung-Cheol, the village mayor has been refusing all such unjust police investigations. Instead, he is keeping vigil in the villagers' sit-in tent to protest against the navy lawsuit, day and night for six months so far.



Image by Noh Suntag/ From July 5 to 17, an exhibition called 'Two Elders' was organized in Seoul. It was an exhibition of calligraphy and wood engraving works by the two long time peace activists of Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon and Mr. Baek Gi-wan. The purpose of the event was a fundraising for several irregular workers' houses.



# A sea voyage for peace during the march

By Erika

During the Grand march, there was a peace sailing team. Sailing is a part of the activities of the 'Inter-Island Solidarity for the Peace of Sea,' a network which dreams to realize peace above all in the Sea around the three Islands of Jeju, Okinawa, and Taiwan to transform it to 'Gongpyeonghae', meaning the 'Equal and Peaceful Sea' with no armed conflict and all lives existing peacefully together. The sailing team has a dream to sail around Jeju Island with a yacht that uses only the power of human beings and wind. The 10th sailing exercise during the period of the march this year was done from Gangjeong in the south to Seongsan in the east. It was done by kayak though as we could not borrow a yacht. But it turned out that kayaks fit better for our exercise this time!

A solid team spirit during the sailing gave us strength to conduct the tasks of finding places for camping, obtaining food for meals, taking proper rests, and taking orientation such as pre-inspection on kayaks and emergency measures. The most important was to understand how the sea changed with the weather. There were concerns about the possibilities of being capsized, submerged and blocked by fog...still the sea safely led us to our destination. And our sailing for peace solidarity will be continued.

## Visit by many youth groups

By Dongseok

A week at the end of July, about 140 young people from various youth groups such as the Peace Pilgrim, Youth Square and Hope Butterfly visited Gangjeong. They made field trips to many sites of the village, created banners with stitches, attended peace education workshops, helped villagers in their farming, joined daily life & peace 100 bows and human chains, and toured the April 3rd Peace Park and other historic sites. Many of the groups also organized community events and invited villagers with meals and music concerts to appreciate and support the villagers' struggle. Thanks to them, the village was gratefully reenergized.



Image by Curry: University students from the mainland and Jeju worked together for 2 weeks in July to build 6 new tiny houses for Gangjeong activists.

### How You Can Help

1. Write a letter to the South Korean government to close the Jeju base project and to the US government to stop the support for it.
2. Write letters to the South Korean government to drop the lawsuit of USD 3 million against the people of Gangjeong.
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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# Painting works on military ships

By Park Inchun

When a military ship entered in the past, the works in the Jeju navy base used to be no more than emptying shipboard sewage, refueling oil and bringing down the trash. However, even the repairs of hulls are now being done inside the base. It brings serious concern about pollution. On August 5th a corvette moored in the navy port and had painting work done. This means that the work was done first with a compressor but later with a roller for the deck and sides of the hulls. There is no maintenance facility for painting works in the navy base in Gangjeong. Merely exchanging component parts or repairing is possible here. Some people say the opposition movement against the base after construction was already completed is of no use but the real monitoring of the base may be from now on.



Image by Bandi/ On July 7, a small group of US soldiers visited the Jeju navy base newly opened this February. It is unknown why they visited the base which is officially a South Korean base. People have long suspected though the base would be used by the US military because of the ROK-US mutual defense treaty.



Image by Pang Eunmi. In order to build an access road for the 'civilian' part of the navy base, the Samgeori community kitchen and surrounding buildings were forced out of the way. The kitchen has been cut in half, and the watch tower and houses have been moved.

## The 3rd Gangjeong Peace Conference

Going Together Toward Life and Peace

Sept. 2(Fri.) to 4(Sun), 2016

A previous day event: Thematic Group\_ Asia Peace Edu. Workshop on Sept. 1

Opening ceremony at 2pm, Sept. 2

Keynote address by Dr. Chris Rice at 4pm, Sept. 3

Conference closing ceremony at 2pm, Sept. 4

Venue: St. Francis Peace Center and Gangjeong Village

