

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

Bimonthly news on the struggle against the Jeju Naval base

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Photo by Ceicill Han

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Sejong



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Jeju Fights Back: An Overview of the Latest Struggle

By Choi Sung-hee

October was critical. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) repeatedly announced that it would make a notification on the Basic Plan of the Jeju 2nd airport project within October. If it is notified, the project becomes legally effective. It was the most critical task for people to stop such a MOLIT notification. Further, despite denial by MOLIT and the Jeju Island government, it is quite clear that the 2nd airport would be an air force base. Therefore, one of the urgent tasks at hand was for people to pressure the Ministry of Environment (MOE) to disagree with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) made by the MOLIT, which is full of lies and omissions. The Jeju islanders also pressured the Island Council to create a special committee to gather public opinion on the project, as demanded by more than 80% of islanders. People concentrated their protest in front of the Island government & Council buildings in Jeju City, as well as in front of the central government complex in Sejong City & the Presidential House in Seoul. Emergency sit-in tents were installed and some people carried out hunger strikes. Others put pressure on the Yeongsan River Basin Environment Office located in the city of Gwangju to stop another resumption of expansion construction of Bijarim-ro, a connection road to the planned 2nd airport site in Seongsan, eastern Jeju. This focused emergency struggle period was settled with certain level of achievement as of mid-November, despite some dissatisfaction. The Island Council created a special committee. The Ministry of Environment (MOE) demanded that MOLIT supplement the SEA. The Yeongsan River Office decided to carry out a precise environmental investigation on the Bijarim-ro. Moreover, on Nov. 7th, around 300 civic groups together formed a nationwide committee to stop the Jeju 2nd airport project. Finally, the Island Council demanded MOLIT to postpone public notification on the project.

Protest summary for each site

(1) Nine days' prayer to urge total cancellation of the Jeju 2nd airport project (In front of the Presidential House, Seoul, Nov. 3 to 11)

Led by Jeju diocese priests and lay people, the vigil was joined by Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon, Fr. Moon Kyu-hyun, and Jeong Seon-nyeo (Joan of Arc). Recalling the words of Pope Francis, the participants emphasized that Jeju is not only for Jeju islanders but also a 'home' for everyone who loves life.

(2) A tent sit-in by the Islanders' Emergency Committee to Stop the Jeju 2nd Airport (In the center of Seoul, since Oct. 16) and a 16 days' hunger strike by Park Chansik (Oct. 31 to Nov. 15)

Park, situation director of the Islanders' Emergency Committee demanded: The Jeju Island Council's creation of a special committee on public opinion, cutting the total budget of the Jeju 2nd airport, MOLIT's withdrawal from the Jeju 2nd airport project, MOE's disagreement with the MOLIT SAE, and the Moon Jae-in government's decision to stop the project.

(3) A tent sit-in and hunger strike by Noh Minkyu, a young man from Jeju, (In front of the MOE and MOLIT headquarters, Sejong City, Oct. 15 to Nov. 3 with 17 days' hunger strike, Oct. 18 to Nov. 3)

Noh started to fast when the Minister of Environment did not respond to his requests for contact. Neither did the minister respond to Noh's two letters during his 17 days' fast. Noh addressed the young generation, urging them not to be robbed of their future by the vested interest class and capitalists.

(4) A tent sit-in by Kimi Kim, a Jeju woman (In front of Yeongsan River Basin Environment Office, Gwangju City, Oct. 16 to Nov. 14)

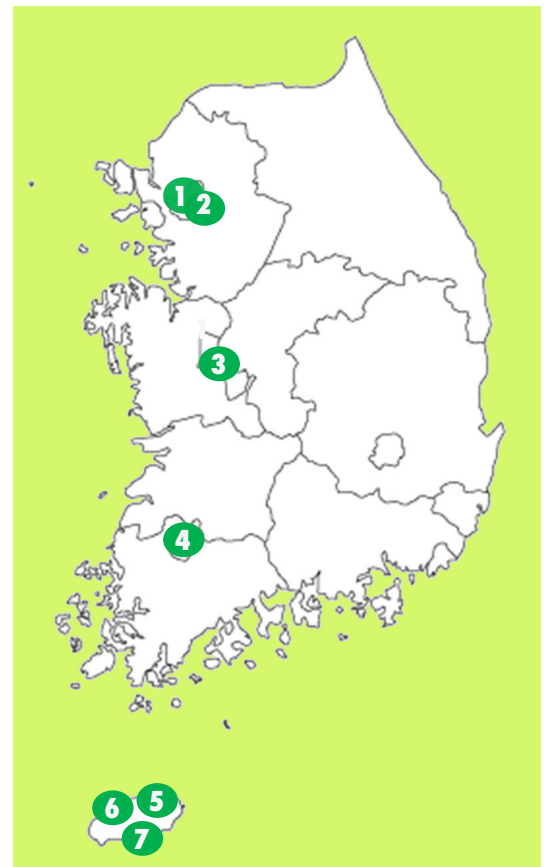
Kim crossed to the mainland to bring the Office's attention to the faulty EIA on the Bijarim-ro. Her 30 day sit-in helped to bring about a visit by the Office director to the Bijarim-ro and to meet with residents. The Office agreed to carry out a precise on-site environmental assessment.

(5) Citizens' on-site monitoring of Bijarim-ro (Bijarim-ro forest, Jeju, since March 19)

The monitoring is centered around a wooden cabin designed by a woman activist, Green C, in the forest next to the Bijarim-ro road. It hit its 282nd day as of Nov. 30. As the Jeju Island government is trying to resume construction based on a false EIA, citizens continue to monitor the site.

(6) Tent town sit-in in front of Jeju Island government hall (Since Dec. 19, 2018), as well as rallies and marches in front of Jeju City Hall

The tent town sit-in will soon hit one year since it started with a hunger strike by Kim Kyung-bae, a Seongsan resident. The tent town is also beside the Island Council building. The



Islanders' Emergency Committee joined the tent town with its sit-in tent on Oct. 24th. About 20 min away, in the downtown area near City Hall, numerous candlelight vigils and marches have been held.

(7) Gangjeong

The struggle against the Jeju Navy Base in Gangjeong hits 4,600 days on Dec. 12th. The Jeju 2nd airport (air force base) would be a completion of the navy base. Gangjeong people actively join the struggle against the Jeju 2nd airport.

(Graphic by Grace Kim)

The Deceptive Government Drive for the Jeju 2nd Airport Project

Excerpted and re-written By Choi Sung-hee

These short, incomplete excerpts focus only on the unilateral and deceptive government drive for the Jeju 2nd Airport. For more than 4 years, there have been innumerable people's protests, including dissipation of the government's dishonest information sessions. They also include 16-42-day hunger strikes by six people. For reference, the size of planned 2nd airport is 5,450,000m² (about 780 soccer fields) with a 3.2 km runway. It is now clear that the 2nd airport will be used as an air force base.

Nov. 10, 2015 The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) announces the plan for the construction of the Jeju 2nd airport in the area of Seongsan, eastern Jeju, along with the maintenance of the existing airport, as a result of prior validity research by a subcontracted company. They predict 45 million tourists to Jeju annually.

Jan. to Nov. 2016 Korea Development Institute (KDI) carries out a preliminary validity review on the Jeju 2nd airport project.

March 9, 2017 Jeong Kyeong-doo, then Air Force Chief of Staff and current Minister of National Defense (MOD), says that the air force is considering the Jeju 2nd airport as a candidate area for the creation of a Southern Search and Rescue Unit (air force base).

(MOLIT and the Jeju Island government deny that the 2nd airport would be used as a military base).

April 12, 2017 KDI makes public the summary results of its preliminary validity review. It finds that around 10 oreums (parasitic cones created by volcanic activity long ago) would pose as obstacles for flight safety.

Aug. 2, 2018 Jeju Island government starts expansion construction of Bijarim-ro, a connection road to the planned 2nd airport site. Construction is soon paused due to people's protest.

Dec. 28, 2018 MOLIT secretly makes its subcontract company, POSCO, to start to work on the Basic Plan, without consultation to Jeju Islanders.

Feb. 27, 2019 Jeju Island Council requests to MOLIT to halt the work on the Basic Plan.

May 10, 2019 By people's pressure, MOLIT makes public an ADPi (Aéroports de Paris Ingénierie) report which the government was hiding from the public for four years. The report finds that it is enough to expand the existing airport to meet the increasing numbers of passengers, which means there is no need for a 2nd airport.

Mar. 23, 2019 Jeju Island government resumes the construction of the Bijarim-ro. It is paused in late May when some endangered species are discovered.

June 25, 2019 MOLIT holds a unilateral report meeting on the final Basic Plan in Sejong City in the main land. (Citizens

hold a mock funeral for MOLIT in protest).

June 27 to July 26, 2019 During this period, MOLIT makes the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) draft available to the public. It holds an information session on July 11 which is dissipated by Seongsan residents.

Aug. 2019 The Ministry of Environment (MOE) demands the MOLIT make a precise reinvestigation, accounting for 10 items including the matter of bird strikes.

Aug. 22, 2019 Public hearing in Seongsan, Jeju. People point out many lies and omissions of the SEA draft.

Sept. 5, 2019 It is exposed that the Ministry of Defense (MOD) compiled a budget for the creation of the Southern Search and Rescue unit in its mid-term plan for 2019-2023. It is the plan to create an air force unit in Jeju with around 250 million USD from 2021 to 2025. People protest, recalling that President Moon Jae-in disagreed with the creation of the unit when he was still a presidential candidate in 2017.

Sept. 23, 2019 MOLIT submits to MOE the original SEA draft again without correction or supplementation.

Sept. 24, 2019 As asked by 13,000 citizens' petition, the Jeju Island Council passes a resolution requiring consultation of public opinion on the Jeju 2nd airport

Oct. 8, 2019 The National Assembly Committee of Land and Transportation visits the Jeju Island government to conduct a government affairs investigation, according to the request of the Island government who intended to make the 2nd airport project a fait accompli. Citizens hold a huge protest in front of the Island government.

Oct. 18, 2019 Jeju Island government shares the MOLIT Basic Plan (draft) on the 2nd airport development project for public access and opinion (until Nov. 4).

Oct. 28, 2019 MOLIT designates around 30 million USD in their 2020 budget for the 2nd airport.

Oct. 30, 2019 The opinion of the Korea Environment Institute (KEI), which is under the Prime Minister's office, on MOLIT's 2nd airport SEA draft is exposed. KEI said there should be consideration of alternatives, pointing out that the SEA is "a plan with very low location validity" and "improper to international and domestic safety regulations." KEI's concern is, above all, about the very high possibility of bird strikes as there are four migratory bird habitats within 10 km from the planned site of the 2nd airport (3 of them are within 5 km).

Oct. 31, 2019 The MOE demands again that MOLIT supplement the SEA. Otherwise, the Island Council staff committee meeting postpones the creation of a special committee on public opinion on the 2nd airport.

Nov. 1, 2019 The Land and Transportation Committee of the National Assembly passes the 2020 budget of 30 million USD for the Jeju 2nd airport.

Nov. 5, 2019 Jeju Island government makes a false and unreliable report on the result of the collection of people's

opinions on the Basic Plan (draft) for the 2nd airport. While the opinions opposing to the 2nd airport were more than three times the number of agreeing opinions, the Island government categorized those opposition opinions into one abstract item: “the others.”

Nov. 6, 2019 A subcommittee of the National Assembly's Committee on Budget and Accounts made a condition that MOD can use its own policy budget for subcontract work for the creation of a Southern Search and Rescue unit, around 130 thousand USD.

Nov. 8, 2019 Jeong Kyung-doo, Minister of MOD says in the National Assembly that there can be no other site than the planned 2nd Jeju airport area for the creation of a Southern Search and

Rescue unit.

Nov. 15, 2019 The Jeju Island Council creates a special committee for public opinion.

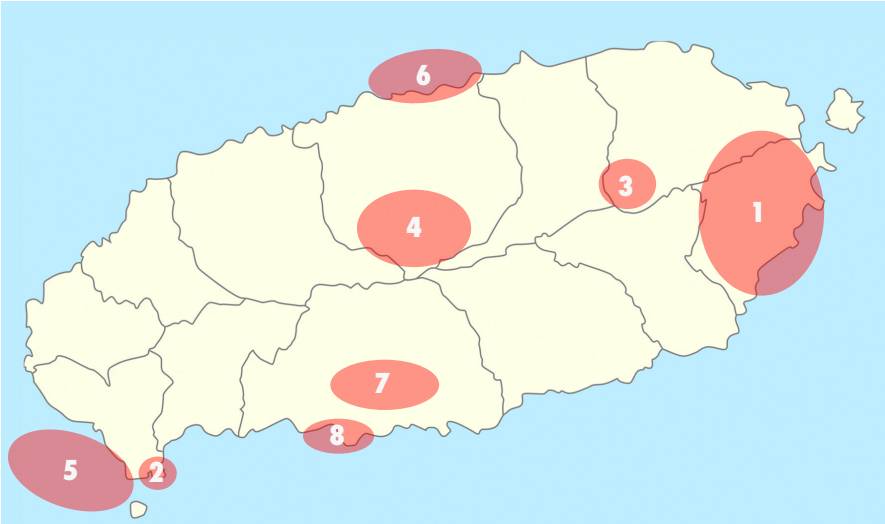
Nov. 18, 2019 Jeju Island Council special committee requests that the MOLIT delay notification of the Basic plan on the 2nd airport, and that the National Assembly cut the budget related to the Basic Plan on the 2nd airport. The Island government, however, refuses to make space for Islanders' public opinion on the 2nd airport.

(Source: Citizens' daily log records, writings and media articles)

Map of overdevelopment projects in Jeju

By Joyakgol

Jeju Island is suffering from various overdevelopment and tourism projects that exceed the environmental capacity of the island. Its ecosystem has already been seriously degraded. Here are some of the major detrimental projects that cause sharp division in Jeju.



Name / location / budget / area / status / problems

1. The second Jeju airport plan / Seongsan-eup / 5.1 trillion won / 5,456,437m² / The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport wants to build it by 2025 / Will also serve as an Air Force base
2. Mt. Songaksan New Ocean Town project / Daejeong-eup / 321 billion won / 191,950m² / Environmental impact assessment was approved by the Jeju provincial government in January 2019, but not yet approved by the provincial council / Chinese capital wants to build two hotels and a commercial complex in a historically important area
3. Daemyeong Animal Theme Park / Seonheul 2-ri in Jocheon-eup / 581,050m² / Lions and other African animals will be imported to make a safari in a UNESCO designated World Natural Heritage site / Jeju's volcanic forests will be destroyed
4. Ora Tourism complex / Ora-dong in Jeju-si / 5.218 trillion won / 3,575,753m² / Chinese company JCC wants to build a resort complex in the middle of Mt. Hallasan but failed to prove it has enough money to proceed with the biggest development plan in Jeju's history
5. Daejeong Offshore Wind Farm / 1.2km off the coast of Daejeong-eup / 570 billion won / 5.46km² / Jeju provincial council is reviewing the project / Will destroy the endangered Jeju dolphins habitat
6. Jeju New Port / Jeju port expansion and sea reclamation off old Jeju city area / 41 trillion won / The central and local governments are working together to build gigantic new port facilities to harbor cruises and huge ships by 2040, aiming to making Jeju a Northeast Asia cruise tourism hub / Will be another maritime environmental disaster with 1,280,000m² sea area reclaimed
7. Health Care Town Resort / Donghong-dong and Topyeong-dong in Seogwipo city / 1.5 trillion won / 1,539,339m² / Jeju Free International City Development Center(JDC) and Chinese real estate company Green Land Capital started building Korea's first for-profit hospital and a medical tourism complex. Authorization of the for-profit hospital was revoked and two lawsuits are pending. JDC wants to resume the construction of the medical resort in 2020
8. Jeju Navy Base (Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Beautiful Tourism Port) / Gangjeong Village / 1 trillion won / 480,000 m² / The base was opened in 2016 / A new access road is being built across the Gangjeong River and the soft coral habitat is threatened by dredging to make a route for cruise ships

(Graphic by Grace Kim)

The Pentagon Plans to Build a Billion Dollar Radar on Sacred Hawaiian Ground for a Missile Defense System (Excerpt)

By Lynda Williams, physics educator, political activist

The Pentagon is planning to build a billion dollar radar system called the Homeland Defense Radar Hawaii (HDR-H) on Oahu, Hawaii, to track incoming ballistic nuclear missiles as a part of the US Missile Defense system. A preliminary Environmental Impact Statement(EIS) names two possible locations for the 8-story-tall-by-8-story-wide radar station that would take up approximated 160-acres of land: Kuaokala Ridge and two possible sites in the Kahuku Training Area(KTA) on the North shore.

An Archeological Survey of the Kauokala Ridge identified several sites that are of historical and cultural significance in the proposed locations including the Moka'ena Heiau located on the highest elevation on Kaena point. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists and Union of Concerned Scientists(UCS) have recently claimed that missile defense has a poor testing track record and is ineffective to protect the US homeland. [...]

The [Missile Defense Agency] MDA held public meetings in June 2018 to invite members of the community to participate in the scoping process to prepare a final EIS which is expected to be done at the end of 2020. Long-time Native Hawaiian activist Sparky Rodrigues was present at a public meeting. According to Sparky: "The USA military continues the attack and invasion of Hawaii. Another state and [Hawaiian Department of Land and Natural Resources] DLNR sanctioned abuse of conservation lands and sacred cultural sites. Desecration of Hawaii national treasures destroyed forever." If a permit is granted by DLNR, construction is slated to start in 2021, with a completion date in 2023. More rounds of public meetings will be held on Oahu in 2020 after the final EIS is released. (For the full text with same title, see OpEdNews, Nov. 17, 2019)

Okinawa and Miyako Visit to Jeju

By Curry

From October 23 to 28, eight visitors from Okinawa were hosted by Lee Gil-ju in Jeju. They had solidarity visits in Seongsan and Gangjeong and a movie screening and discussion time in Jeju City on the 27th. Filmmakers Fujimoto Yukihi and Kageyama Asako presented their new film "Eye of the Drone." Residents of Henoko and Miyako shared about the struggles against the US base expansion at Henoko (on the Okinawa main island) and against the Japanese Self Defense Force base expansion on Miyako Island. The visitors joined the daily human chain in Gangjeong on Oct. 25 and sang a protest song (Okinawa o Kaese) which many Gangjeong friends have learned while visiting Okinawa. Hayako Shimizu, a Miyako citizen activist leader, shared that she was inspired by the tower next to Samgeori community kitchen in Gangjeong to make a similar tower to monitor base construction in Miyako. Henoko resident, elder, and activist leader Fumiko Shimabukuro long expressed a desire to visit Jeju, and now at age 90 she was finally able to come.

Heavy Indictment of Pipeline Activists

Jessica Reznicek, who came to Gangjeong in 2015, and fellow Catholic Worker activist Ruby Montoya are each facing up to 110 years imprisonment for damages to the Dakota Access Pipeline. Since their 2017 direct actions to stop the construction of the dangerous pipeline, which has already had 10 oil spills, oil companies have lobbied for harsh punishment of environmental activists.



Oh Doo-hee, one of the Gangjeong activists as well as a renowned documentary filmmaker had her film "Swany: Recording of Protest Trip of Asia Swany in 1989" screened at The 17th Hong Kong Social Movement Film Festival on November 21. Bandi, Emily, Gunso and Grace accompanied her to witness Hong Kong at this crucial moment of its history and to bring the message of solidarity and peace to friends in Hong Kong. Photos by Grace.

Kings Bay Plowshares Trial Update

By Curry

A couple hundred supporters gathered from October 21-24 in Brunswick, Georgia, USA for the trial of the Kings Bay Plowshares 7. Attorney Bill Quigley argued that the defendants' belief in Isaiah's prophecy about turning 'swords into plowshares' and the commandment 'thou shalt not kill' motivated them to enter the Kings Bay nuclear submarine base on April 4, 2018 to make a symbolic protest against the weapons of mass destruction which are stored there and used to threaten the earth with annihilation. As Clare Grady testified, "The omnipresent threat of nuclear weapons is like a cocked gun held to the head of the planet. Even if you never fire, you are using the gun." The jury found the defendants guilty on all counts, but the courthouse nonetheless filled with song as supporters began to sing "Rejoice in the Lord always."

The sentencing trial is expected to be held in January 2020. Now only Fr. Stephen Kelly remains in jail, and the other 6 defendants are released on bail. The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 continue to hold vigils, festivals, interviews, art shows, and campaigns to raise awareness about the crime and danger of nuclear weapons. On Nov. 24-25, in conjunction with Pope Francis' visit to Nagasaki, Martha Hennessy and Carmen Trotta joined vigils at the Japanese Consulate in New York City and encouraged Japan to stop its reliance on US nuclear weapons. See more at kingsbayplowshares7.org.

UNC's abusive use of the UN flag

By Choi Sung-hee

Following the international petition to the UN to dissolve the UN Command (UNC) in South Korea (and UN Command-Rear in Japan) this April, there was an inquiry letter on the UNC's abusive use of the UN flag. The letter, sent to UN Secretary-General Guterres on Oct. 1, was led by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and signed by 40 domestic and international civic groups. According to the letter, on July 7, 1950, during the Korean War, "the Security Council made a grave mistake in authorizing the use of the UN flag for a non-UN, multi-national military command." There was even a UN resolution in 1975 to disband the UNC, which steals the name of the UN. The UNC, actually a US-led military organization, infringes on South Korea's sovereignty. It still exists in South Korea with the pretext of 'jurisdiction' over the South Korean side of the JSA at the DMZ. Therefore, it was quite unusual that the UNC visited the Jeju navy base on Sept. 20 this year. The purpose is still unknown despite citizens' inquiry to the government. Lee Si-woo, one of the leading opponents to the UNC, says "the most critical thing for the UNC in its 'revitalization' of itself is to conclude a Visiting Forces Agreement between the South Korean government and the UNC." The UNC, which is expected to work as an Asian NATO, must be dissolved.

Jonah's Whale came to Gangjeong

By Brother Song

On 15 Sept. the Jonah's Whale started to sail from Tokyo, Japan to Jeju island. It arrived at Shimonoseki on 25 Sept. and restarted on 27 Sept. She finally came to Gangjeong on 30 Sept. All peace activists in Gangjeong village have welcomed Jonah's Whale. She raced with typhoons, meeting 3 different typhoons on the seaway. Fortunately, just after her arrival, the last typhoon Mitag rushed into the harbors of Jeju island.

The Frontiers bought this yacht for sailing for anti-war and peacebuilding activities, mainly in the East Asian sea. The Frontiers plans to recruit young people for navigating to the islands on the sea where people are struggling because of the military bases being built. Crews of the boat will encourage them not to give up fighting against militarism and to show solidarity for peace in that area.

The Frontiers hurried to prepare the boat for sailing together with the Golden Rule, which is supposed to come to Jeju next year. We want to build a fleet review for peace in the East Asian seas. We are going to accompany the Golden Rule to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the 75th anniversary commemoration of the atom bomb dropping.



Veterans for Peace's historic boat the Golden Rule is currently in Hawaii. Photo by Veterans for Peace.



The Jonah's Whale in Gangjeong Port. Photo by Yang Sang.

Inter-island Solidarity for Peace of the Sea in Kinmen

Kinmen's Memories of War

by Sahaja

Peace for the Sea International Peace Camp was held from September 6-8 in Kinmen Island. The camp's theme was "War, Memory and Life Experiences: the Peace We Know." Participants joined from Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Taiwan. Many of these work actively for peace in their home countries and have joined Peace for the Sea Camp consistently each year.

Kinmen island is part of Taiwan; however, it is 210 km from Taipei and only 1.8 km from the Chinese mainland. In 1949, during the civil war between the Communists and Nationalists, the army of Chiang Kai-shek was pushed from the continent. They thought that if they lost Kinmen, then they would also lose Taiwan. Guningtou war memorial exhibits show the fierce fighting of October 24-26, 1949. As the defeated Communist army were about to reorganize their forces to push forward, they instead had to send soldiers to the Korean War. Nonetheless, bombings continued until 1979. Martial law ended for Taiwan Island in 1987, but continued until 1992 in Kinmen.

We spent most of our short time visiting places with the scars of war: the broadcasting tower, the barricades on the beaches, the underground tunnels, the Kaoliang liquor, kitchen knives made from bomb casings, and a brothel that had been run by the licensed prostitution military unit. The brothel was run for over 30 years with the justification that it would reduce crime. Women prisoners were given the job of working there.

Most of the Kinmen economy depended on the military, but after the end of martial law, when many soldiers left Kinmen, the vestiges of war were turned into tourist attractions. Now many tourists come from mainland China and they see the fortifications that had been made against them. Now most drinking water in Kinmen also comes from mainland China.

Since the inauguration of President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016, tensions with China have increased in Taiwan, but Kinmen has become more dependent on China. Without military or power-games, it seems natural for neighbors to help each other. Like the turning of bombs into kitchen knives, maybe those who had been at war can become partners in the future. But I worry about the future of Taiwan as I see how China is treating Hong Kong; I hope that Kinmen does not again become the frontlines of war.

It is the task of inter-island solidarity to find the way forward. It is a small annual gathering, but by not giving up we hold onto the hope that we can stand up to the big powerful countries. We recognize that our problems are not only our own and overcome geographic barriers, militarism, state violence, and the scars and fears of war to form a new identity and spread a message of hope that a world without war is possible.

Kinmen Peace Camp Reflection

by Joy

I think this is the fifth time that I joined peace camp. Every year I am just like a sponge to absorb new information.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Joy. I am from Taiwan, but I know nothing about Taiwan and know nothing about peace. Before I joined peace camp, I never thought about peace; I didn't know what happened in Okinawa or in Gangjeong. I'm Taiwanese, but I didn't know about Kinmen either. I am surprised too, why did I know nothing? But, I think it is never too late to learn.

Due to cross-strait tensions between Taiwan and Mainland China, the people of Kinmen lived under martial law from 1956 to 1992. On Aug 23, 1958 the Mainland Chinese army attacked, and over the next 44 days, dropped 470,000 bombshells. Could you image if you lived in Kinmen at that time? What would you do? I cannot imagine at all, and I don't know what I would do, run away or fight to death?

I think it's very important to know the history, to

meet the people who have experienced it, to know how they feel, and to know how we feel about it, too.

I am really glad that through this peace camp, I began to know many Kinmen friends. I think it's not the end; it's the start from which we can brainstorm to see what we can do for peace.



Camp participants took a group photo with with a Hawaiian flag and t-shirt (gifts from Kristin Douglas and Ann Wright), in solidarity with the movement to stop the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea. Photo by Ching Jin Zih.

Inter-island Solidarity for Peace of the Sea in Kinmen



The Taiwan participants read their portion of the camp statement on the last day. Photo by hotpinkdolphins.



The speakers in Beishan Broadcasting Wall were used as part of cross-strait psychological warfare, each side appealing for people to defect to their side. Photo by Curry.

Looking at the Jeju 2nd Airport in a time of Climate Crisis

By Shin Hyun-jeong, Jeju Youth Green Party

On Oct. 15, farmer's organizations from around Jeju gathered at the entrance of the Jeju Provincial Government building and held a press conference dressed in funeral clothing. The farmers said, "Unparalleled environmental disaster is an immediate concern for our lives tomorrow. We are directly facing threats to our right to life." They complained about the damages to their life caused by the continuous typhoons and heavy rains since this summer. Indeed, Korea suffered unparalleled damage from 7 typhoons this year. It was the first time to have so many typhoons since 1950. [...]

Jeju's sea levels are rising 3 times faster than the world average. As a volcanic island, it is hard to make use of surface water, and the majority of Jeju's water sources are underground. The lives of farmers and all Jeju residents are at risk. Beyond 'climate change,' now no one can doubt that we are living in a time of climate crisis; we feel it in our bones.

In such a time of climate crisis they say that they are building another airport in Jeju. They say that because of increased flight demand, they are seeking Jeju's sustainability. "Increased flight demand" and "sustainability" cannot coexist in this sentence. Airplanes have higher greenhouse gas emissions per hour than any other means of transportation.

Per kilometer travelled, airplanes emit 4 times as much carbon dioxide as a bus and 20 times as much as a train. If you ride a plane for 4 hours, you are using 1/5 of your personal annual carbon budget, according to the rate to stop global warming from reaching fatal levels in 2030. In this time of global crisis, it is a retrogressive expression to speak of seeking sustainability while increasing carbon emissions. To claim to seek sustainability while increasing the number of tourists is another anachronistic expression. Over-tourism has long been pointed out as a problem for Jeju. Maintaining excessive numbers of tourists is destroying Jeju's environment and causing the discomfort of the residents. Already, Jeju's environmental capacity is more than saturated; it is in excess. Although Jeju isn't even able to handle 15 million tourists in Jeju, they say that they want to attract 40 million.

(Excerpted and translated from her original Korean article in Jeju Today)



Underground tunnels connect the houses of Chonglin village. For years bombs were exchanged between Kinmen and the mainland on alternating days: one day of bombs fired from both sides, then one day of peace. Photo by Ching Jin Zih.

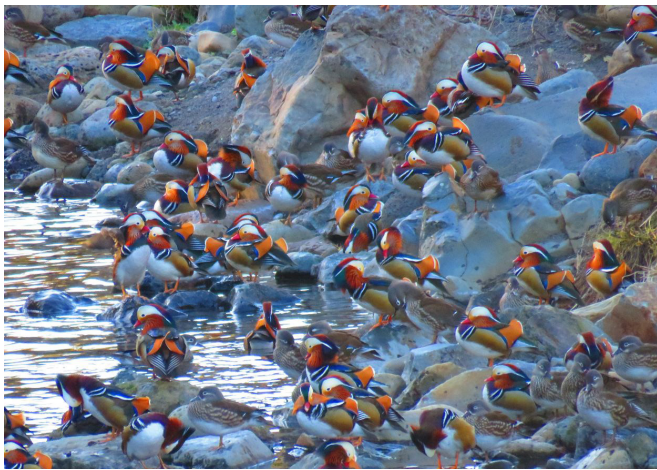
The Indo-Pacific Strategy and Jeju navy base

by Choi Sung-hee

Following the ROK-US Submarine Warfare Committee Meeting on Oct. 19, the Commander of Task Force 70 (US 7th fleet) visited the Jeju navy base on Nov. 24. The visit occurred during the war exercise called Pacific Vanguard in waters off the coast of Guam. It was joined by Australia, Canada, the United States, and South Korea from Nov. 20 to 28. In May, the same exercise was held for the first time to carry out the United States' Indo-Pacific strategy. That time, it was joined by Japan instead of Canada.

On Nov. 22 the Moon Jae-in government succumbed to United States pressure to extend GSOMIA (Global Security of Military Information Act) with Japan, despite most South Koreans' demand to end it. Even though the Moon government 'conditioned' the extension of GSOMIA, it can hardly escape criticism that it compromised to US pressure to build the US-Japan-South Korea trilateral alliance for the sake of the United States' Indo-Pacific strategy.

The US and South Korean defense chiefs held a 51st Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) on Nov. 15. A civic group, Solidarity for Peace And Reunification of Korea (SPARK) expressed concern that the SCM is increasing the possibility that South Korea can be unlimitedly drawn into the United States' space operations and its Indo-Pacific strategy which targets China through full spectrum expansion over all the areas and degrees of ROK-US military cooperation. We should keep our eyes on the Jeju navy base.



Around 300 mandarin ducks (South Korea natural monument No. 327) and other birds live near the route of a new four lane entry road to the Jeju navy base which is now under construction. Unless construction stops or the route is changed, these birds' habitats would be greatly damaged, as well as the water source of Gangjeong stream. Photo by Park Inchun.



On Oct. 18th, 19 students from the Korean University Student Progressive Alliance crossed the wall of the US embassy in Seoul, using two ladders. They held a banner which read, "[US Ambassador] Harris should leave this country after supporting a fivefold increase in USFK support costs!" They shouted that they oppose the increased costs that South Korea is expected to pay for the United States Forces Korea. Currently four of them are in jail due to the action. Photo by Korean University Student Progressive Alliance.



Activists campaigned at the Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition (ADEX) in Seoul (Oct. 15-20) to raise awareness about how Korean-made weapons are killing and displacing innocent civilians in places like Yemen, with no accountability for the profiteers. They used many tactics such as face painting peace signs for children, posters showing the human cost of the arms trade, leaflets looking like paper money splattered with blood, grim reaper costumes, "War starts here" signs, and more. Photo by Stop ADEX Campaign.



2019 Keep Space for Peace Week in Jeju, Oct. 5 to 12. "No to NATO, No to USFK UN Command, Close the Jeju navy base! No 2nd Jeju Airport (air force base)! No THAAD!" For more information see space4peace.org/ Photo by Pang Eun-mi.

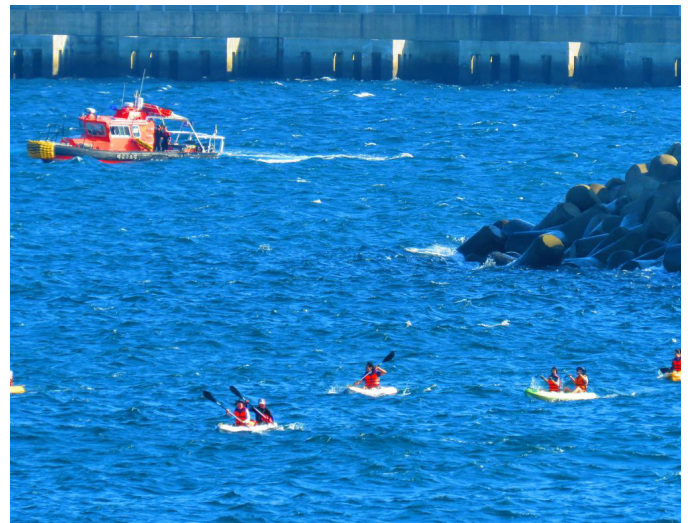
Jeju April 3rd went to the UN Human Rights Council

By Baek Gayoon, Jeju Dark Tours

In September 2019, the bereaved families of the Jeju April 3rd and civil society groups went to Geneva to attend the 42nd session of the UN Human Rights Council to address the Jeju April 3rd Uprising and Massacre to the international level. Groups working on “comfort women”, Korean War victims, as well as forced labour victims under the Japanese colonization, also joined this advocacy trip. The groups delivered an oral statement in response to the annual report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence, specifically calling for the amendment of the Special Law on the April 3rd and for justice for the victims. The groups also held two side events, <Transitional Justice in Korea: Jeju Massacre and the Korean War> and <Human rights under the Japanese colonization: "comfort women" and forced labour>. A survivor of the Jeju Massacre delivered a testimony which touched participants’ hearts and brought attention to this issue. On the last day, the group held a street campaign to raise awareness on the issue-concerned. This was the first time that the Jeju Uprising and Massacre was addressed at the UN Human Rights Council and we will continue our international advocacy until justice is upheld.



Sungmisan alternative school students helped repair kayaks on Oct. 18. On the 19th, while some students helped build a kayak storage rack, others practiced kayaking at Gangjeong port. Photo by Bandi.



Sept. 26 was a beautiful day for a kayak practice (and for swimming). The Gangjeong sea is still a beautiful place if you don't look towards the navy base or see how the corals are dying underneath you. Photo by Curry.

Ecotopia friends biked south from Seoul to show solidarity with the Jeju peace movements. After visiting Seongsan, they biked to Gangjeong and joined in a kayak protest on Sept. 17. Photo by Park Inchun.



On Oct. 18, people of Gangjeong picketed for hours in front of Jeju navy base while the Defense Committee of the National Assembly visited for the investigation of government affairs. "Navy, Accept the National Truth Investigation! 'No' to the 'UN Command' who visited the Jeju navy base! Cut the whole budget and Shut Down Jeju Navy Base!" Photo by Yang Sang

Yang Yong-chan, Presente!

Nov. 7 hit the 28th year for the remembrance of Yang Yong-chan who self-immolated in 1991 to stop the Jeju Special Law which promotes reckless development in Jeju. He was a Jeju native, son of a farmer, and only 25 years old at the time. As he anticipated, Jeju is currently suffering greatly from over-development and militarism 28 years later. Still, his spirit inspires many people to keep going on their fight to save Jeju.



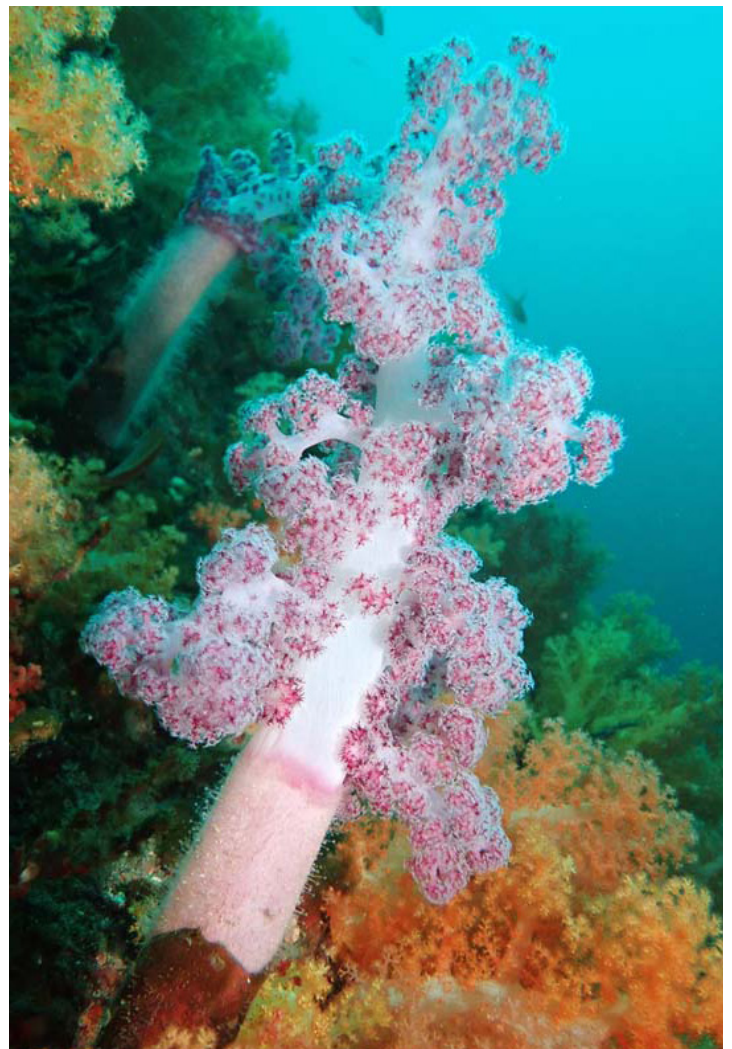
Using the Korean folk song "Spring in My Hometown," the "My Hometown" performance directed by e-sang explored concepts of identity, memory, aspirations, roots and the experiences of the displaced, sexual minorities and irregular workers through song, voice, dance, and street performance. After preparations in September, the final performance in Jeju City was delayed by typhoons until Oct. 27. Photo by Shin Hyun Jeong.

Jeju Queer Free City

The 3rd Jeju Queer Culture Festival was organized by citizens in Jeju City on Sept. 28, with the participation of around 300 people. Despite conservative Christian groups' annual interruption, the festival finished well without troubles. This year's slogan is 'Jeju Queer Free City,' a parody of 'Jeju Free International City,' promoted by the JDC (Jeju Free International City Development Center) whose vision is 'Global Leading Company to Create Values for Jeju.' Organizers of the festival say that in JDC's vision, only capital is free while minorities are excluded and oppressed. Many civic groups and citizens who oppose reckless development and militarism expressed solidarity with the festival.

2019 Red Award

People Doing All Things to Save the Bijarim-ro was presented with a 2019 Red Award in Seoul on Nov. 7. The annual ceremony brings together artists and activists from the field to encourage each other's works and build solidarity. In 2018, the Gangjeong activists received a Red Award.



Only two cruises have visited the "Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Port" (navy base) since it opened in 2016. However, an application was submitted to change the protection status of part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in order to dredge a new route through the soft coral habitat, so cruise ships can enter the port at a 30° angle. The Soft Coral Task Force Team conducted four under-sea diving survey trips in 2018-2019 and documented 6 endangered species, 2 natural monument species, and over 9 other nationally protected species at the proposed dredging site near Tiger Island. The survey team submitted their findings with photo and video evidence to the Cultural Heritage Administration. Photos by Choi Hea Young.

2030 Peace Vision Symposium

by Lee Sung-joon, St. Francis Peace Center

About 60 activists participated in a convention November 15-17 in Gunsan. Oh Doo Hee of Peace Wind opened the event, saying, “20 years ago we worried that the Korean Peninsula would become a US outpost against China, and now it is happening. The horizon of peace activism has become much broader. Let’s urgently examine how the field, policy and (peace) education can have synergy, collect our concerns, and prepare our for the next 10 years together.”

On the first day, we made a timeline tracing the flow of Korean peace activism. We got a taste of different thoughts, concerns and plans regarding how to end the Korean war and make a peace regime. One participant shared from the book *The Night of March 1st* about how declarations, manifestos, and underground newspapers were decisively important during the March 1st independence movement (in 1919 against Japanese colonial rule). Declarations “are a method to compose in advance the future, which is not yet, but must be.” What if we collect 7 million signatures declaring “the war ended” in 2020? [applause~]

We took a field trip to the disappeared village of Haje beside the American Kunsan Air Base. We went to see a nettle tree which preserves 600 years of the village’s history. A former resident shared, “We miss our hometown. It was such a prosperous neighborhood that they said even the crabs went around carrying 1000 won bills, but everyone was forced out by the military base. We have been protecting this tree until now, but we don’t know if it will be fenced off next year and we won’t be able to see it anymore.” It seemed so similar to Gangjeong’s situation, that I sighed. On the last day, our task was to find the vision for our peace activism. A highlight was that though the ages of the participants have gotten younger, peace activism’s scope has gotten wider. Many participants were interested not only in denuclearization, an end-of-war declaration and the climate crisis, but also in visions of gender equality. It was a good opportunity to meet people from each field of action and study; I regret that I did not get a chance to talk to more of them.

A Place Where People and Stories of Peace Gather Together

By Shining Lake Jungjoo

Gangjeong Peace Center has been there for as many years as the Gangjeong struggle.

It is our meeting room, gallery, second hand shop, café and information center. In October and November as well, we enjoyed the various activities that happened there. So-Shim-Jang is a monthly event for bringing friends and things to share. It is a sort of flea market so people sell things they do not use or need anymore and share their talents by doing Tarot Cards, drawing portraits, paper cutting and artwork, etc. Also, there was a movie screening on October 13th. The director, Moon Chang-hyun shared the story of her documentary about what happened to the village named ‘Gi-Peu-Shil’ in KyungSang Province, South Korea, site of the Youngju Dam Project. Every Saturday, the Peace Center runs a pub so that villagers and supporters come and hang out with friends over a glass of beer and food. Please come and join us!

How You Can Help

1. Write a letter to the South Korean government to close the Jeju base and to the US government to stop the use of it.
2. Stay updated by joining our Facebook groups and following us on twitter.
3. Organize a solidarity event (concert, movie screening, protest, etc...)
4. Then share about it on social media.
5. Visit Gangjeong!
6. 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 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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Special thanks to Gangjeong Friends for financial support.



For the first time, the Gangjeong Peace Choir was invited to sing at a concert on the mainland. The Peace and Reunification Concert on Sept. 28 marked 100 years since independence activist Ryu Gwansun was martyred and 800 years since the historic interfaith dialogue of St. Francis with the Sultan of Egypt. Photo by the Franciscan Family Volunteer Association

