

GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY

Bimonthly news on the struggle against the Jeju Naval base

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2020



The photos show Song and Ryu on Mar. 30 with signs that read, "Demilitarized Peace Island Jeju," and "Miss you, Gureombi," Song on Apr. 3, and people encouraging Song as he boarded the prison bus after the sentencing trial on Sept. 24, with signs reading, "Not Guilty," "Free Song Kang-ho," and "Life and Peace Village, Gangjeong." Photos by Choi Hyea-young and Choi Sung-hee.

“Gureombi Rock will be returned back to us without fail!”

By Choi Sung-hee

On Sept. 24, the Jeju local court sentenced peace activist Dr. Song Kang-ho to a two-year prison sentence and another peace activist, Ryu Bok-hee, to two years imprisonment suspended with three years of probation. Both entered the Jeju Navy Base to see the remaining Gureombi Rock there on March 7. Song Kang-ho is the second person to have gotten an actual prison sentence during the last 13 years' struggle. When he had to leave the courtroom guided by prison guards after the sentencing trial, he shouted to supporters, "Gureombi will be returned back to us without fail! Don't give up!"

The Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base and Gangjeong Peace Network made a joint statement that day: "The South Korean government and navy committed the crimes of scheming to divide Gangjeong Village, and sabotaging and destroying nature which can't be remade and returned back. Song Kang-ho's action was just civil disobedience to disclose the illegal navy base to the world[.] Today, we witnessed again how the power of the military-prosecution-judiciary tramples down a person's conscience. It is miserable. We strongly denounce the Justice Department for ruling Song's act as illegal and applying military criminal law to his case."

The following is Song's prayer as recorded in his final statement on Aug. 27 when the prosecutor demanded a three-year prison sentence against him.

"[.] May Jeju Island be a demilitarized peace island with no military base. May the Jeju islanders and our people realize Jeju is the geopolitical center of Northeast Asia[.]

To make Jeju Island as an Island of Peace, let Islanders themselves

teach and learn peace in every level of school so that they could be peacemakers. Thus, let the vigor of peace and unification spread from Halla Mountain to Baekdu Mountain, and let all three islands of Jeju, Okinawa, and Taiwan who are victims of tragic histories each have their own campaign to become a 'demilitarized peace island' so that the East China Sea, which is surrounded by those islands, will become the Sea of Peace and Co-existence which does not allow war nor military training, neither the port-call of warships nor the stopover of warplanes[.]"

You may send a letter to: Dr. Song Kang-Ho (Prisoner No. 219)
Jeju Post Office PO Box 161, Jeju City, Jeju Peace Island, Korea 63166.



In early October, people discovered that a big part of the sacred *Elaeocarpus sylvestris* tree, a natural monument, had broken. It stands near Gangjeong River. Photo by Oum Mun-hee.

Naval base entry road is destroying Gangjeong River

By Oum Mun-hee, Military Road Response Team

One of the important issues currently facing Gangjeong Village is the “Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Beautiful Tourism Port Entry Road” (which we call the “Gangjeong Military Road”) that is to connect the navy base to a major highway. The situation is urgent because this navy base expansion crosses over Gangjeong River, an important source of drinking water for Seogwipo City and the home of diverse wildlife. In addition, the construction is proceeding based on an environmental impact assessment (EIA) which contains falsehoods. Before the EIA, Gangjeong Village already released a statement opposing the road construction which threatens Gangjeong River. Nevertheless, the EIA left out many species, including protected species. As construction started in the middle of the mandarin duck (Natural Monument 327) habitat, bodies of ducks were found with bullet wounds, and the problem of road construction came back into focus. People’s hearts ached to see a large branch comprising half of the Gangjeong *Elaeocarpus sylvestris* (Natural Monument 544) broken, a victim of the construction and the fallacious EIA. The tree is affected by the military road construction because it is about 200 meters downstream from the construction at the planned site of the bridge over Gangjeong River. However, the EIA falsely marked the tree as being 450m upstream from the construction site. It is difficult to see how they could have mistakenly confused upstream and downstream and marked the tree 600m from its actual location. Moreover, people in the village have an emotional attachment to the tree, which has been the sacred tree of Illue Shrine for over 500 years. People from Gangjeong, other parts of Jeju and beyond visited the tree while inspecting the construction site; they discovered the damage and reported it immediately to the Cultural Heritage Administration. The pollution and damage to Gangjeong River is expected to keep increasing. The Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base formed a monitoring team to survey the situation. The team has also called on relevant agencies to stop the construction and asked for a meeting with the Jeju governor, though he has not yet replied.

Editor's note: In late October, dozens of reports of larvae in the drinking water from Gangjeong River were another indication that more must be done to protect this precious resource.

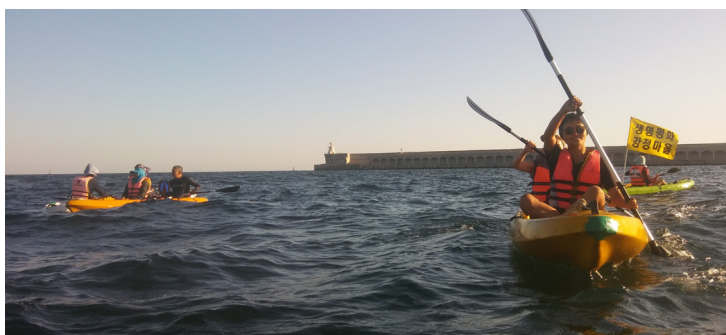
Gureombi Rock and Kim Jong-Hwan’s operation

Mr. Kim Jong-hwan was born and grew up in Gangjeong Village. For around 10 years, he has made a meal every day for the people who come from around Korea and abroad to join the ‘no Jeju navy base struggle.’ “It was so beautiful to enjoy a meal I made together with people on Gureombi Rock.” On Sept. 2, 2011, the road to Gureombi rock on Gangjeong’s coast was blocked by the Jeju navy base construction fence. Still, Kim Jong-hwan continued to provide meals to people in the protest community restaurant just next to the blocked road. This August he discovered that he had cancer. On Aug. 31, the same day that he went to the hospital before his operation, the Chief of Naval Operations came to the village to conclude the so-called ‘agreement on civilian-military co-prosperity and development.’ The day of his operation happened to be Sept. 2, the day that the fence was built nine years ago. Later, in an interview with a TV company, he said that he could not sleep for the last 10 years because of his suffering,

the suffering that he and the village experienced when they lost Gureombi. Many people encouraged him and the operation was a success. Even after the operation, he insists to continue to make meals in the protest community kitchen. It could be thanks to his meals that the Gangjeong struggle could continue for more than 10 years.



Kim Jong-hwan during a Jeju MBC TV interview this September (movie capture).



From Gangjeong Port in the west, or Gangjeong River in the east, kayakers paddle to the sea entrance of Jeju Navy Base and call out for the base to be closed and for Gureombi Rock to rise up. Recently a team known as “Gil-meong” have joined the kayak protests, as well as the daily 100 bows and human chain in Gangjeong, while also repairing and learning to sail the Jonah’s Whale yacht that Br. Song Kang-ho sailed to Gangjeong in 2019 with plans to sail for peace around Northeast Asia. Photo by Curry.



Koreans were encouraged to hold small family gatherings for Chuseok, the Korean harvest / thanksgiving holiday, this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Sept. 30, many members of the Gangjeong peace community gathered together at Samgeori Community Kitchen to cook traditional rice cakes and fried foods. After the meal, a lively game of yoot was played outside. Photo by Curry.

Why Do I Fast?

Currently, because of the increasing numbers of tourists and facilities to accommodate them, Jeju's nature is losing its originality. As drinking water, sewage treatment and transportation are facing ever more serious problems, the lives of islanders are becoming risky, also. The issue of over-tourism that is spreading over the world is happening in Jeju, too.

Still, the Jeju 2nd airport construction plan was announced five years ago with the assertion that the number of tourists should be doubled. It was a unilateral decision with no prior notification to the residents who would be expelled from their homes and no asking the opinion of Jeju islanders who would eventually live as victims of the 2nd airport construction.

Seongsan, where the 2nd airport construction is planned, is the place with the most well-preserved nature in Jeju. It is a region where oreums (parasitic cones) form a colony with the nearby Seongsan Ilchulbong peak, a world natural heritage site and symbol of Jeju. This region must be preserved; if the airport is made here, the last remaining Jeju would disappear. Jeju would be an island of reckless development that even tourists would avoid.

In the 2nd airport construction plan, the scheme for an air force base is hidden as well. With the 2nd airport, an air force base would be added to the Gangjeong navy base, and Jeju would be an island of military bases for the US military.

A Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) is being conducted on this cruel plan. According to the Korean law regarding environmental impact assessments, before large-scale development projects are finalized, the SEA is a procedure to stop such projects that violate important national environmental policies or raise concern about environmental damage or ecological destruction.

Udo and Hundertwasser

Udo (Cow Island), 3.5 kilometers northeast of Seongsan, is famous for its coral beaches and volcanic cone. In recent years the island has been suffering from overflowing tourists and traffic. In June 2020, 'Next Island' construction company began building a resort and museum totaling 49,900 m² on Udo. The project plan sneakily escaped the requirement for an environmental impact assessment, as it is 100 m² short of 50,000 m². This project was opposed by Udo islanders in 2015, but after changing its name to 'Hundertwasser Park and Resort,' the project was relaunched at a meeting with only 24 villagers attending in 2018. Yet another place in Jeju has become a victim of blind development assisted by a few village leaders abusing their authority. The ongoing construction seriously threatens the unique volcanic plateau eco-system, namely the rocky cliffs and Dolkani beach.

Another problem is the colonial and Eurocentric approach of the Hundertwasser foundation. The late Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser himself is known to have promoted ecological activities such as tree planting and green restoration of natural cycles, so the non-profit foundation's Udo project can only be seen as a contradiction to the artist's legacy. Furthermore, their

By Kim Kyoung-bae, a resident of Nansan-ri, Seongsan, Jeju

The planned site of the 2nd airport is a habitat for narrow mouth toads, peregrine falcons, and lesser cuckoos, all legally protected species designated and managed by the Ministry of Environment (MOE). It is the MOE's original duty to protect these species' habitat. The MOE should fulfill its role and must disagree with the SEA on the Jeju 2nd airport made by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT).

I am continuing my 3rd hunger strike sleeping on the street in front of the MOE/MOLIT headquarters, to press the MOE to do its job. I desperately hope that my struggle, giving my flesh and bones to stop the Jeju 2nd airport project, will save my land, the future of Jeju, and the falcons, toads and all the wildlife of Jeju.

Editor's note: Kim Kyoung-bae (previously spelled 'Kim Kyung-bae') has carried out a total of five hunger strikes on the street in the last few years, including for 42 days and 38 days.



On Oct. 21, Kim Kyoung-bae resumed fasting in front of the MOE/MOLIT buildings in Sejong City for the third time. In order to give himself encouragement, he labeled the mannequins in funeral clothes as Seolmundae Halmang (the creator goddess of Jeju) and Martyr Yang Yong-chan (who self-immolated in 1991 to protest plans that led, as he predicted, to the over-development and re-militarization of Jeju). Photo by Woo Injung.

By Grace

description of the project as 'an adventure in modern times, a journey to an unknown land, a journey into the land of creative architecture,' recalls the attitude of old European adventurers traveling to colonize mystified and exotic lands. We questioned their motives and demanded an answer but they have not yet replied.



During the Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving) holidays, people picketed in opposition to the Jeju 2nd airport for many hours every day in the center of Jeju City and at Jeju International Airport. One of the banners they held read "The 2nd Jeju airport project avoids the fact that not only the sky but also the land and sea are already saturated. Jeju Island has already reached its ecological limit." Photo by Kang Sung-shil.

To: Jeju
From: the Hāyun Lāgu tree

이어도카야
Connecting
Island Kaia



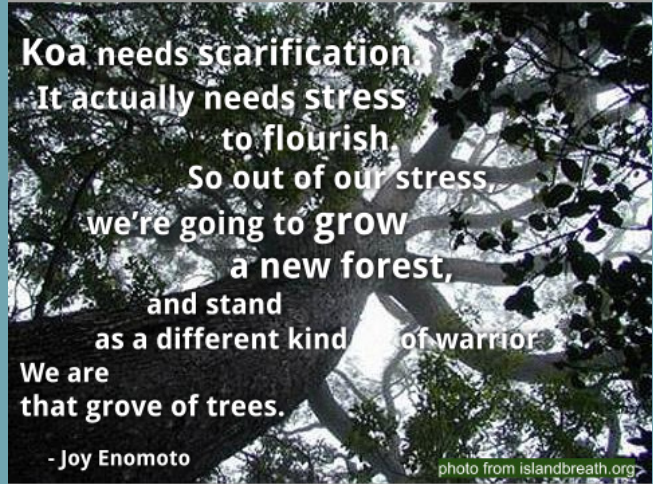
Photo: Guampedia

Original text: kokonutskaity_art

"I'm the very **last of my kind** standing tall on this land. They decided not to cut me down but gate me up and destroy everything around me. I only hope that my legacy will **live on through my seeds** gathered by those who want to see my children grow. The future is looking gray like the pavement that will surround me but there are still **little seeds of hope.**"

To: Jeju
From: the Koa tree

이어도카야
Connecting
Island Kaia



Koa needs scarification. It actually needs stress to flourish. So out of our stress, we're going to grow a new forest, and stand as a different kind of warrior. We are that grove of trees.

- Joy Enomoto

photo from islandbreath.org

Joy Enomoto and other Hawaiians who formed the Cancel RIMPAC Coalition opposing the RIMPAC war exercises this August (which included ships from Jeju Navy Base), hosted a webinar on Sept. 20 and formed a new organization called "Koa Futures," informed by the example of the Koa tree. (Koa means warrior in Hawaiian). / 'Prutehi Litekyan - Save Ritidian' shared a version of this story of the last hāyun lāgu tree on Guam. It was severely damaged by a typhoon and is threatened by the construction of a new live-fire training range. Graphics from the Facebook page "To Jeju."

Okinawa Opinion Statements

By Curry

On Sept. 8, Okinawa Prefecture invited people to submit opinion statements in response to the application of Okinawa Defense Bureau (ODB) for changes to the landfill construction plans at the new US base at Henoko. All Okinawa Coalition declared, "We will send more opinion statements than ever before to give strong support for the Governor to give a definite NO to the changes to the construction plan" and asked people throughout Okinawa and around the world to join. Inter-Island Solidarity for Peace of the Sea Jeju Committee sent one statement, and the Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base and Gangjeong Peace Network jointly sent another. As of Oct. 9, a historic number of 18,904 statements were collected, including from South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and multiple English-speaking countries. Hiroji Yamashiro stated that "the deep surging voices will make a significant opportunity for stopping the construction." (See more at standwithokinawa.net).

Hawai'i Petitions

From Pōhakuloa Training Area on the slopes of Mauna Kea to the Red Hill jet fuel tanks above Pearl Harbor, Hawaii's people and environment continue to suffer from the occupation of the US military. Online petitions call on the Hawaii government to "Not Extend \$1 Lease on 23,000 acres of Hawai'i State Lands in Military Pōhakuloa Training Area" and call for the navy, state and national bodies to "Protect Oahu's Drinking Water" and "Shut Down 20 Massive 75 Yr. Old Jet Fuel Tanks at Red Hill." The army violated the terms of the lease of Pōhakuloa Training Area, damaging cultural sites and polluting the land with depleted uranium. Despite a 2018 court order to clean up the site, the army did not comply and yet is seeking to renew the lease. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii Department of Health have asked the navy to make new plans to fix or drain the Red Hill fuel tanks, but ever since fuel leaked from the tanks in 2014, the navy has not made a meaningful effort to protect the local water resources. Concerned people in Hawai'i and around the world are raising their voices to hold the military accountable.

Kings Bay Plowshares Sentencing Update

7 Kings Bay Plowshares activists carried out symbolic actions to expose the evils of racism, extreme materialism and militarism at the nuclear submarine base in Kings Bay, Georgia, USA on April 4, 2018. Liz McAlister was sentenced on June 8 this year to time served (17 months). On Oct. 15, Fr. Steve Kelly was sentenced to 33 months in prison. He has been in jail since the plowshares action and should be released soon, but may be transferred to Washington State for violating probation from trespassing at the nuclear submarine base there. On Oct. 16, Patrick O'Neill was sentenced to 14 months. He had been released on bail, so he will report to a federal prison near his home in January. All three were also sentenced to three years probation and a portion of restitution (\$33,501) shared jointly with the other defendants. Due to the pandemic, the other 4 defendants requested postponement of their sentencing trials scheduled for November.

More Coal-Fired Power Plants?

On October 12, 2020, South Korea's Ministry of Environment announced that construction at the coal-fired power plant in Samcheok, Gangwon province, would be halted. Coastal erosion had escalated since the construction began in 2018. Unfortunately, the construction is planned to resume in 2021 despite strong opposition from local residents as well as environmental activists. Once the two generators are built in 2023, they will emit 1.8% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions, 13 million tons. This plan is criticized for diverging from the path to 0 net emissions by 2050. In the meantime, Korea Electric Power Corporation said they will make no new overseas coal-fired power plants and close their existing ones by 2050.



On Sept. 12 people joined the nationwide "We Want to Live" photo campaign organized by Korea Climate Crisis Emergency Action at various sites across Jeju where the environment is threatened by overdevelopment, militarization, pollution etc. Also, representatives from Jeju People's Assembly Against the 2nd Airport, People Doing All Things to Save the Bijarim-ro, the Committee Against the Daemyeong Animal Theme Park in Seonheul 2-ri, and the Committee Against the Development of Songaksan presented at a talk titled "Disappearing Island" hosted by Korea Federation for Environmental Movements in Seoul on Oct. 15. Photos from Sept. 12 by Moon Yong Po and Kim Soo-Oh.

Web journal shares the story of Gangjeong

Guest editor Seth Martin reached out to many people who have been connected to the Gangjeong struggle, asking them for contributions to the "Rock! Paper! Scissors!" online journal of Jesus Radicals. The theme for this issue was 'Decolonization, Incarnation, and Liberation.' Contents include: "Planting Seeds of Consciousness Outside the Navy Base" an interview with Joan of Arc, "It will be women that end this war" a conversation with Christine Ahn, "Two Hundred Years: Colonization and Decolonization in Hawaii" by Pua'ena Ahn, "The Heart of Gureombi" by Larry Kerschner, "Redevelopment Resistance in the Heart of Seoul: The Noryangjin Fish Market Struggle" by Ana Traynin, and more at www.jesusradicals.com/rockpaperscissors-624244.html.

Let's Save Ha-je Village and the Hackberry Tree

By Oh Doo-hee, Peace Wind

Next to the US Kunsan Air Base is the seaside village of Ha-je. Since 2000, the South Korean Ministry of National Defense (MND) forcefully evicted the residents of 644 households from Ha-je, saying that it must secure a safe distance from the US base magazine [explosives storage]. Then, the US military demanded that the MND hand over the land. Currently, however, the residents of two households and a 600 year-old hackberry tree are preserving the village. Citizens of Gunsan City [the base uses the old romanization 'Kunsan'] and other peace-lovers made a citizens' meeting to save Ha-je village and conducted a petition campaign, while Gunsan City Council adopted a resolution 'opposing the provision of Ha-je Village to the US military' and proposed it to the government this June. However, the government has not given any answer. The citizens' meeting held a cultural festival to save the hackberry and Ha-je Village on Oct. 30. Kunsan Air Base belongs to the US Pacific Air Forces Seventh Air Force. However, the base was expanded 2.1 million sq. meters since 2005 and an unmanned aerial systems (drone) unit under the US Army 2nd Infantry Division 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade was stationed at Kunsan Air Base. With twelve Gray Eagle drones, it is currently

the biggest drone unit in Asia. That means the base has been transformed into the key base of the western shore military belt of Pyeongtaek-Kunsan-Gangjeong in the United States' strategy against China. As a result, the residents and hackberry of 1,000 year-old Ha-je Village are at risk of vanishment.



The hackberry tree. Photo by Peace Wind.

Keep Space for Peace Week

The topic of this year's Keep Space for Peace Week was 'Defund the Space Forces.' While the Trump administration created the Space Force in December 2019, mainly to confront China and Russia, the South Korean Air Force has been preparing for its own space force for a long time and wants to have space war capabilities by 2050. The Jeju Aerospace Museum, co-founded by Jeju Free International City Development Center and the South Korean Air Force promotes this dangerous vision of the air force for the future. What should be remembered is the Outer Space Treaty concluded in 1967 which reads, "the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries[...]." For more, see space4peace.org



A section of the Air Force gallery, Jeju Aerospace Museum tells of the militarization of Jeju through multiple wars. People must not allow Jeju to be the island for space war. Photo by e-Sang.

SCM and THAAD



On Oct. 22, people in Soseong-ri bound themselves inside ladders to fight against another delivery of THAAD product improvement materials. Photo by the NO THAAD situation room, Soseong-ri, Seongju, main land of Korea

At the 52nd SCM (Security Consultative Meeting) on Oct. 14 this year, United States Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and ROK Minister of National Defense Suh Wook "committed to make a long-term plan to establish conditions for the stable stationing of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery." It is a great deception, as the Moon Jae-in government has said that the current THAAD deployment in Soseong-ri is temporary. Meanwhile, as seen on Oct. 22, upgrades for THAAD performance improvement have continued. The SCM spoke of the continuation of "U.S.-ROK-Japan trilateral defense cooperation," as well as the "shared goal of fostering closer space policy development for the alliance," among other totally unequal and dangerous agreements on issues such as the right to wartime operation control, the UNC, defense cost-sharing, etc.

Jeju Navy Base should be watched

Located in a strategic spot, the Jeju Navy Base is being swept into the US-led Indo-Pacific strategy for the United States domination in the region, not to mention South Korean President Moon Jae-in's emphasis on the importance of Jeju Navy Base as 'a stronghold for maritime power.' When two South Korean warships returned from the RIMPAC international war exercises in Hawaii, they joined a maritime drill off Guam with Australia, Japan, and the United States on Sept.10-11, followed by another drill called Pacific Vanguard joined by the same four countries. These drills were conducted regardless of COVID-19, as was the Korean naval academy students' military "cruise" training, which departed from Jeju Navy Base in Oct. 14 with a loud festival held on a destroyer and a newly built logistics support warship. The 72-day training involves a 43-day international training including visits to Malaysia and Guam. Otherwise, on Oct. 28, the navy dared to have a conference called 'the navy in the era of post-corona and the 4th industrial revolution,' at the civilian-military complex center of the Jeju Navy Base. In their joint statement, the Association of Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base and Gangjeong Peace Network denounced the connection among the military, government, industry, and academy for militarization. People also pointed out the need for 'disarmament, welfare, and responsibility toward the climate crisis... in the era of post-corona.' They also pointed out that talks promoting South Korea's participation in the US-Japan led Quad or Penta alliance is treacherous and intensifies military tension in the region. The Moon Jae-in government is increasing its 2021 defense budget by 5.5% and plans to build light aircraft carriers whose high cost will only burden people. Once made, it is very likely that light aircraft carriers would be mobilized for the US domination strategy in the region.

US depleted uranium stored in Korea

According to the office of a National Assembly member from Suwon, the United States Air Force stores around 1.8 million bullets of depleted uranium in the ammunition storage of the South Korean 10th air wing, at the military airport in Suwon and at the United States and South Korean Air Force base in Osan. Of the 1.8 million bullets, about 1.3 million bullets are stored in Suwon, only 2.3 km from a residential complex.

A Sewol Ferry survivor's fast in front of the presidential house

By Hwang Yong-woon, Sewol Ferry activist

Kim Seong-mook, a survivor of the Sewol ferry, hit the 25th day of his fast in front of the presidential house as of Nov. 3, 2020. He is demanding that President Moon Jae-in implement the truth investigation and punish the persons responsible for the Sewol Ferry sinking incident seven years ago. The Moon Jae-in government has done nothing to implement the truth investigation. Meanwhile, barely 160 days are left of the statute of limitations. However, extending the statute of limitations is meaningless unless evidence is collected and preserved. The Special Committee investigating the Sewol Ferry Disaster does not have power to enforce investigation of bodies involved in the disaster such as the Presidential House, National Intelligence Service, military, and Defense Security Command. The prosecutors do not have the right to investigate the military either. President Moon himself should use his legal right as president to make an investigation committee that can be held responsible. As a presidential candidate during the people's candlelight revolution, he pledged to carry out the Sewol Ferry truth investigation and punish those responsible. Otherwise, the invoice disappeared for the iron bars heading to the Jeju Navy Base which were loaded on the Sewol Ferry, and some even suspect that these iron bars were to be used for nuclear facilities whose plan was never made public.



Photo of Kim Seong-mook (right) by Hwang Yong-woon

Nuclear Weapons Banned Formally

by Curry

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) will come into force on Jan. 22, 90 days after Honduras became the 50th Member State to ratify the treaty on Oct. 24. Signed by 122 nations on July 7, 2017, the treaty is the fruit of years of activism by survivors of nuclear explosions and tests and civil society groups such as the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). The treaty stipulates that member states must “never under any circumstance develop, test, produce, manufacture or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.” The treaty will exert a moral pressure on non-member states, including nuclear armed states and those under the so-called ‘nuclear umbrella’ such as South Korea. The Korean A-Bomb Victims Association, and Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea (SPARK) are carrying out a signature campaign to “demand not only the South Korean government but also all other nations to sign on to TPNW to realize a nuclear-free world.” (Please sign at <https://forms.gle/JSebd4rdL8p2HDs26>). Many in South Korea and the US approach denuclearization as if North Korea were the only country to threaten the world with nuclear weapons. In contrast, the TPNW offers a path to freedom from the vicious cycle of environmental degradation, scapegoating, polarization, and the lie that ‘mutually assured destruction’ is ‘safety’ and ‘peace.’ The treaty contributes to a growing consensus that nuclear weapons are an unnecessary evil.

Why I Keep Going to Gangjeong

by Cha Cha

I visited Gangjeong again after traveling in Latin America for 2 years. Firstly, I wanted to check on Father Mun, because before my trip his condition was not good due to the US warship that was anchored then at Gangjeong naval base. Fortunately, he's back in good health these days. The village was quite changed. There were many new restaurants and stores and a banner reading, “Welcome military personnel, 15% Discount.” I also had a chance to join Gangjeong friends to kayak from Gangjeong stream. The water used to be extremely clean and drinkable, but I heard that harmful larva was detected there. I am not sure what will happen in the next few years. I met a bunch of new friends during this visit. They asked me lots of questions, especially about what makes me keep coming to Gangjeong over the long term. The Gangjeong navy base issue is not just local residents' own problem, not a NIMBY issue either. So I can't leave them to fight on their own. I'm supposed to be part of the fight. It is directly connected with the peace of the Korean peninsula. I don't want to live in the shadow of war. There is no Earth defense force like “Fresh-Men” or “Power Rangers” in real life, so we all need to preserve peace, and I won't stop my solidarity.

Nanjing Film Screening in Daejeong

Each year since 2014, citizens groups from around Jeju have gathered on Dec. 13 for a memorial service for the Nanjing Massacre at Alddreu Airfield (where Japanese warplanes re-fueled for the bombing of Nanjing in 1937). This year local organizations- the Daejeong Women Peasants Association, and the Committee Against the Development of Songaksan- are taking a larger role in the planning. In addition to the Dec. 13 memorial service, a film screening was held on Oct. 31 and symposium (Nov. 28) has been planned so participants can learn more and reflect together about why we remember the Nanjing Massacre here in Jeju.

Congratulations to Christine Ahn, recipient of the 2020 US Peace Prize

The US Peace Memorial Foundation awarded the executive director of Women Cross DMZ with their annual prize, recognizing her "outstanding leadership and activism to end the Korean War and halt militarism on the Korean Peninsula." Christine Ahn responded to her selection, commenting, "I humbly accept this award on behalf of the countless and nameless Korean activists whose lives have been destroyed in their quest for peace and reunification, as they faced tremendous obstacles by forces that continue to profit from this unended war. For me, too, the road to peace has not been easy. I have been rebaited, surveilled, denied entry to my homeland, and, hardest of all, alienated within my own family. But this peace prize sends a strong message of hope to the diasporic communities here in the United States. It not only affirms our mission of peace but also the critical role that women play in that effort. It's time to move U.S. foreign policy away from endless wars that have sown chaos and violence in our homelands, and to recognize the leadership of women in creating the conditions that normalize peace."



Songaksan volcanic cone, known for its unique geological features and its history of fortification (along with neighboring Alddreu Airfield) under imperial Japanese rule, has been threatened with plans for a giant Chinese resort called "New Ocean Town." Although Governor Won Hee-Ryong visited Songaksan on Oct. 25 and declared that he would 'put a full stop to overdevelopment,' it seems to be a political ploy with no tangible changes on the part of his government. Meanwhile, monthly full moon festivals are held at Songaksan by the People Who Love Songaksan, and one of the organizers is Yang Yoon Mo, the film critic who was imprisoned 4 times for anti-base actions in Gangjeong. Photo from the Oct. 3 festival by Kim Soo-Oh.

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 :

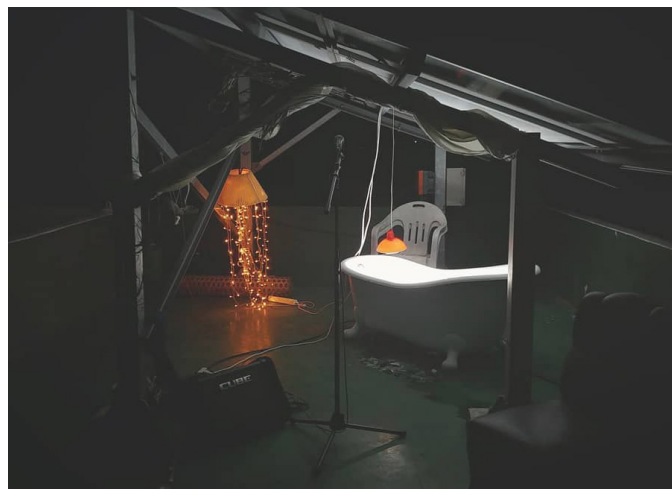
Vimeo : cho sung bong / DH Song / Regis Tremblay
Youtube : Gang-Jeong Il-Gi / Shalomsea / 1234yz100 / Sungbong2012

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Korea Peace Appeal held a webinar on Oct. 29, social media campaigns, signature drives, a letter to US presidential candidates and a selfie campaign, and was promoted online and offline by partners across Korea and the world. Have you signed and shared? See more at endthekoreanwar.net.



On Oct. 23 and 24 there were performances as part of the exhibition "Jup Jup: you are also gleaned." This exhibition is the second edition of "We Home- Welcome to Our Home," curated and directed by Gangjeong activists, Gunso and Bandi, whose house 'Gong-gan' was itself the exhibition space. The first edition was held last May at the house of two activists that was facing the demolition. This edition focused on the act of gleaned, and the exhibits were composed of objects that had been thrown out but the house residents have collected and used. The performance included singing, telling stories, sharing the gleaned objects and food. You can find out more about the project here: <https://www.facebook.com/wehome20>. Photo by Sunkyung.



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