

Issue Report |

10 September 2012

Do You Know?

Human Rights Violations on 'No Jeju Naval Base Campaign'

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※ 「Issue Report II. Do You Know? : The Environmental Disaster by Jeju Naval Base Construction」 is also available at <http://www.peoplepower21.org/English>.

Summary

Jeju Island is located at the southern part of South Korea. Jeju, the Island of Peace appointed by the Government, is experiencing harsh conflicts because the Ministry of Defence and the South Korean navy are enforcing the naval base construction at Gangjeong village without a proper consultation with villagers. The naval base construction at Gangjeong is being pushed under the name of national project while human rights violations are frequently occurring. People in Gangjeong village have been protesting in a peaceful and non-violent way for 6 years against the Government's violence and attempts to construct the naval base.

From 2010 to August 2012, more than 490 people were arrested for their participation in peaceful demonstrations against the naval base construction. The arrestees include catholic priests, protestant pastors, foreign human rights defenders, as well as South Korean human rights defenders, environmental activists and most of all, villagers of Gangjeong.

The full report on human rights violations in Gangjeong, Jeju Island will be released in September 2012.

1. Entry Denial of Foreign Human Rights Defenders

In solidarity with Gangjeong villagers, many foreign human rights defenders visited Gangjeong village. Unfortunately, some of them were rejected to enter the country at the airport while the others were deported during their work in Gangjeong.

Two non-Korean human rights defenders were deported due to their involvement and protest regarding a naval base construction in Gangjeong village. On 15 March 2012, the Government ordered the immediate deportation of Mr. Benjamin Monnet, a French activist, while Ms. Angie Zelter, a peace activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee from the UK, was asked to leave the country before 22 March 2012. Among all, Mr. Monnet was deported, it was not properly notified to his lawyers, and did not even have a chance to file the revocation litigation against the compulsory eviction order.

Date	Number / Country	Occupation / Background
26 August 2011	3 people / Japan	Two activists from Asia Wide Campaign and a child of the activist / No clear reason was given
28 January 2012	2 people / Japan	Two activists from Asia Wide Campaign / No clear reason was given
14 March 2012	3 people / USA	Three members of Veterans for Peace / No clear reason was given
27 March 2012	2 people / Japan	A school teacher and her daughter / Visited Gangjeong village in the past
31 March 2012	1 person / Japan	A peace activist / No clear reason was given
2 April 2012	1 person / Japan	A musician / Planned to attend memorial ceremony of 3 April massacre and Gangjeong peace demonstration but denied entry
6 April 2012	1 person / Japan	A peace activist from Okinawa / No clear reason was given
5 June 2012	1 person / Japan	A peace activist from Okinawa / No clear reason was given
29 June 2012	2 person / Japan	Two members of Asian Wide Campaign / No clear reason was given

As of 12 August 2012, at least 15 foreign human rights defenders who tried to visit Gangjeong village were denied entry at the airport (3 Americans, 12 Japanese). Even for those cases where clear reason of denial was not given by the Immigration officer, it was implied or orally mentioned that they were denied entry due to their activities related to naval base construction in Gangjeong.

From 6-15 September 2012, the World Conservation Conference(WCC) is held by the International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN) in Jeju Island, only 7 km away from Gangjeong village. To raise awareness of Gangjeong issues to the participants of the WCC, many foreign human rights defenders and environmental activists planned to visit Gangjeong village. Unfortunately, as of 6 September 2012, nine foreign human rights defenders were denied entry to South Korea. Again, no official explanation was given to them at the time of denial.

Date	Name	Nationality	Occupation / Background
4 Sep.	Ms. Imok Cha	USA	Medical Doctor, a member of Emergency Action Committee to Save Jeju Island, a consultant of the Center for Humans and Nature, a member organization of the IUCN Invited as a speaker to the Knowledge Cafe of the WCC held on 7 September 2012 Registered as a participant to the WCC meeting
5 Sep.	Mr. Yagi Ryuji	Japan	Peace Activist. Invited as a speaker to the 5th International symposium on environmental violations caused by US Military Bases in East Asia Arrived at Jeju airport around 12pm Hold invitation and reference from Ms. Hana Jang, a Member of the Parliament
5 Sep.	Mr. Tomita Eiji	Japan	Peace Activist. Invited as a speaker to the 5th International symposium on environmental violations caused by U.S Military Bases in East Asia Arrived at Incheon airport at 2:40pm Hold invitation and reference from Ms. Hana Jang, a Member of the Parliament
5 Sep.	Mr. Takahashi Toshio	Japan	Peace Activist. Invited as a speaker to the 5th International symposium on environmental violations caused by U.S Military Bases in East Asia Arrived at Incheon airport at 2:40pm Hold invitation and reference from Ms. Hana Jang, a Member of the Parliament
5 Sep.	Mr. Timiyama Masahiro	Japan	Peace Activist. Invited as a speaker to the 5th International symposium on environmental violations caused by U.S Military Bases in East Asia Arrived at Incheon airport at 2:40pm Hold invitation and reference from Ms. Hana Jang, a Member of the Parliament

Date	Name	Nationality	Occupation / Background
6 Sep.	Mr. Umisedo Yutaka	Japan	A singer from Okinawa / A Japanese delegation to the IUCN / A member of Hanrasan Association and a representative of Save the Dugong, a member organization of the IUCN
6 Sep.	Mr. Matsushima Yusuke	Japan	A member of Save the Dugong, a member organization of the IUCN
6 Sep.	N/A	Nigeria	Registered as a participant to the WCC meeting Not confirmed whether they planned to attend any demonstration related to No Jeju Naval Base campaign
6 Sep.	N/A	Nigeria	Registered as a participant to the WCC meeting Not confirmed whether they planned to attend any demonstration related to No Jeju Naval Base campaign

* Please note that above table will be updated in the future and updated version will be circulated again.

2. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

From 2010 to August 2012, at least 490 people were arrested and detained by the police due to their peaceful protest against the construction of naval base in Jeju Island. Main charges including: obstruction of business, violation of the Public Waters Reclamation Act, Misdemeanour, suspicion of violence, violation of the Assembly and Demonstration Act, obstruction of official works, property damage. It is also widely found that the 'obstruction of business' clause is being used as a systematic recourse to weaken the freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

23 August 2011: The National Police Agency(Seogwipo Police Station) sent a 'Prohibition Notice of Outdoor Demonstration and March' in response to the requests from Gangjeong Village Association and Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea.

13 April 2012: The National Police Agency(Seogwipo Police Station) notified Gangjeong Village Association that it is not allowed to hold any demonstration from 15 April 2012 to 12 May 2012. The prohibited six areas were Gangjeong Stream Gym Park, parking lot, in front of the Naval Base Construction Business Committee, in front of the construction site, Jungduk three-way intersection and Gangjeong part. In addition to this, marching from Gangjeong Stream Gym Park to Gangjeong port and Gangjeong meeting hall was also prohibited. This was almost all parts of Gangjeong that are related to the naval base construction.

Daily religious ceremonies including catholic mass are ongoing in Gangjeong village, especially in front of the naval base construction site or the Naval Base Construction Committee. However, during the religious ceremony, a large number of police forces are standing next to the site which increase unnecessary tension and sometimes, physical violence is occurring towards participants to the religious ceremonies. In some cases, clerics including catholic priests, nuns, and protestant pastors were arrested during the mass.

3. Excessive Use of Force by the Police and Impunity for Police Violence

On a regular base, the police take photos or videos of participants to peaceful assemblies in Gangjeong and use it as an evidence to give various charges on them. According to the Supreme Court's decision, only when the crime is committed on the site and only when it is necessary to conserve the evidence, taking photos or videos without warrant is allowed. Therefore, it is illegal to take photos or videos under the purpose of imposing legal restrictions on human rights defenders and environmental activists who are joining peaceful protest.

The police checked phone records of human rights defenders who joined peaceful protest against the naval base construction in December 2011. The police explained that they tried to identify collusion among participants which brought chilling effect on the exercise of right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

Peaceful protesters have been arrested under the charge of obstructing official work while they make complaints against police violence. Even though villagers take photos or videos of police violence and submit it as the evidence, judicial process is very slow when it comes to cases related to police violence. Also, some police officers do not reveal their identity during arrest which makes it difficult for victims to make charges against them. Sometimes, women human rights defenders were arrested by male police officers. In this case, sexual harassments are frequently happened during the arrest.

4. Major Human Right Violation Cases

Samsung C&T and Daerim, two construction companies claimed for damage against 10 villagers including Mr. Dong-kyun Kang, the mayor, and they are now facing around 289,780,000KRW (around 255,000 USD). The case is still in process at the court.

16 April 2012: Some human rights defenders including peace activists and environmental activists connected their arms with PVC pipes and made a human wall to prevent a construction vehicle from entering the construction site. The police used electronic saw to cut the PVC pipes which were attached to human rights defenders' arms. The police continued to use the saw to cut it even though human rights defenders were screaming out of fear. The saw was not strong enough to cut the PVC pipes but 14 defenders including one catholic priest were arrested during this struggle.

19 May 2011: Nine people including villagers and human rights defenders who were peacefully protesting were taken to a police station.

30 September 2011: Three religious pastors were arrested while they were having a mass at the naval base construction site. They were arrested under the charge of interfering businesses.

2 September 2011: Around 600 police officers from the mainland entered Gangjeong village and arrested more than 35 people including catholic priests, nuns, human rights defenders and peace activists.

24 August 2011: The police arrested and detained Mr. Dong-kyun Kang, the mayor of Gangjeong village, under the charge of interfering businesses.

7 July 2011: The police applied for an injunction to 76 people including Mr. Dong-kyun Kang, under the charge of obstructing businesses.

5. Recommendations

- **To the South Korean Government (Ministry of Defense)**

Immediately stop Jeju naval base construction!

Allow Gangjeong village to remain a community of life and peace, and keep Jeju Island as the Island of World Peace!

Protect and promote freedom of peaceful assembly, association, expression of all human rights defenders as guaranteed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders!

Immediately stop arbitral decision on entry denial of foreign human rights defenders!

End impunity for police violence!

Release all human rights defenders including peace activists and environmental activists who were arrested and detained due to their peaceful protest against the Jeju naval base construction!

No to arms race in the Asia Pacific! Yes to peace in the Asia Pacific!

No militarization of the sea! Make the sea of East Asia the sea of Peace!

Give peace a chance!

- **To the International Union for Conservation of Nature**

Act independently as an authoritative organization that has represented environmental organizations worldwide!

Take a firm stand against South Korean government on entry denial of foreign human rights defenders who intend to participate in the World Conservation Conference!

Protect and promote local people's right to peace and right to environment from being sacrificed under the name of economic development and national security!

Reconsider the decision on rejecting the exhibition booth applied by Gangjeong Association Village!

Give peace a chance!

Asia-Pacific Peace Declaration for No Naval Base in Jeju Island International Action Week

Bring peace and cooperation to East Asia!

Don't militarize Jeju Island and the pacific!

Make Jeju an Island of World Peace!

While witnessing the construction of a gigantic naval base in beautiful Gangjeong village in Jeju Island, located in the Western Pacific Ocean, we cannot help but raise questions again: why war and destructions are repeated under the name of peace and prosperity?

The 20th century was the century of war and militarization!

Two World Wars broke out followed by the Cold War. Even during the Cold War era, big and small wars continued. The legacies of conflicts stay until today and turn various parts of world into powder kegs.

The Asia-Pacific region, where the Korean peninsula is located, was one of the most intensive battlefields in the world. During the 2nd World War (the Pacific War), the whole Jeju Island was used as an outpost to stage war in China. And during the era of turmoil caused by the Cold War, the Island experienced 3 April Massacre in 1948 that resulted in more than 30,000 civilians' death by their own Government.

After the end of the Cold War and at the beginning of the 21st century, the whole humankind sincerely hoped for a new era, an era of peace and cooperation. People wanted to bring justice not only by getting away from an exaggerated fear from outside, but also resolving conflicts and violence inside the community. Also, people expected all governments to cooperate with each other to solve problems the world faces rather than pointing guns at each other. In this way, we all dreamt of harmoniously developing a democratic system where people's happiness, safety and sustainable lives are top priorities. Around this time, the idea of making Jeju Island an Island of Peace was also raised. Jeju Island which belongs to the divided Korean peninsula is a world natural heritage site.

Unfortunately, the new millennium started with another war. Justice has not been delivered and democracy has been set back. In the last 10 years, war, destruction and greed have swept the whole world, unregulated and uncontrolled. As a result, the world economic crisis has emerged. This disaster was caused by neo-liberalism and militarism being not put under democratic controls. 99% of people had to pay for the price in pain and agony.

Militarism is rising again in East Asia despite lessons from the past.

Arms race and military confrontation have accelerated in parallel with East Asia's potential and economic vitality despite global economic crises. In the last few years in East Asia, militarism and conflicts regarding sovereignty and territory have been dramatically rising. In the Korean peninsula where the 59th year of the Armistice Agreement continues without ending the Korean War, military tension has been rising sharply. Military alliance and military drills which are legacies of the Cold War have intensified with more aggressive gestures under the name of maritime security.

While militarization of East Asia is further intensified under the excuse of military threats from outside, national and regional cooperation to solve problems such as damaged environment, polarized economy, and broken social security and community is developing only too slowly.

Why does the history of conflict repeat even if most people do not wish for it? Why do solutions that have proven to be failing and making everyone unhappy continue to be used? Why do things such as evicting people, destroying their environment and threatening their safety under the name of economic growth and national security continue? Is it really impossible to make the world into a place where everyone can peacefully cooperate and co-exist without being stolen or stealing and without being occupied or occupying?

The Pacific must be the sea of peace and lives, not the sea of war and destruction.

The Pacific Ocean means peaceful ocean. It was named by a European who sailed the ocean in search of Asia. However, when we look back on the history, since the Ocean was named as the Pacific, lives of the people who lived in the ocean have never been peaceful.

Now, we must change this. The sea of East Asia, the Western Pacific Ocean, is a common livelihood of all people who are living here and the biggest platform of trade and exchange worldwide. It should never be a place of conflict, struggle, and dispute. What we have to bring to the sea of East Asia is not militarism but a cooperation that makes everyone happy.

People have gathered here to realize the dream – though now endangered by the construction of a naval base – to make an Island in East Asia the Island of World Peace.

There are Jeju people including villagers of Gangjeong who have continued a non-violent and peaceful resistant for the last 6 years against the construction of a naval base which will militarize the sea of East Asia.

Gangjeong village is a buffer zone of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and one of the oldest and the most beautiful villages in Jeju Island. Clean water from two big streams falls into the front sea of Gangjeong village all year round. These two streams are rarely found in Jeju Island because the Island is made of a volcanic rock called basalt. Thanks to this, Gangjeong village has been the centre of agriculture and residence in Jeju Island since the Bronze Age. Gangjeong village and its front sea is also a livelihood of many endangered species including soft coral, narrow-mouthed toad and the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins. At this place, to save their own community and environment, villagers have peacefully protested against navy base construction, which has been enforced without their consent.

Living peacefully without being caught up in war and conflict is individual and collective right that everyone is naturally entitled to. Gangjeong villagers' human right to peace and human right to environment must be protected and promoted. Their freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association must be guaranteed at all times.

Jeju people have a full right to stand against a repeat of the last century's tragedy. Also, they present a strong call to open a new era of peace and cooperation in East Asia for themselves and for all of us.

People of the world can move one step closer to a peaceful world and the new era of coexistence by standing in solidarity with Jeju people's struggle

We, together with the wish of the peoples of the world for world peace, hereby declare the International Action Week for No Naval Base in Jeju Island and strongly urge the followings:

- Stop Jeju naval base construction immediately!
- Guarantee human right to peace, human right to environment and freedom of expression of Gangjeong villagers!
- Guarantee Gangjeong villagers' right to speak during the World Conservation Conference which will be held in Jeju!

- Allow Gangjeong village to remain a community of life and peace, and keep Jeju Island as the Island of World Peace!
- No militarization of the sea! Make the sea of East Asia the sea of Peace!
- No to arms race in the Asia Pacific! Yes to peace in the Asia Pacific!
- Give peace a chance!

2 September 2012

Proposed by:

Gangjeong Village Association

Jeju Pan-Island Committee for Stop of Military Base and for Realization of Peace Island

National Network of Korean Civil Society for Opposing to the Naval Base in Jeju Island

Reference

- 7 June 2011 [Statement] Stop the Construction of Naval Base at Gangjeong in Jeju Island (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/778089>)
- 13 July 2011 [Interview] Stop the Naval Base in Jeju Island, South Korea! by Bishop Kang Woo Il (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/802165>)
- 13 July 2011 [Interview] No Naval Base in Gangjeong by Mr. Gang(Chief of Gangjeong Village) (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/802605>)
- 16 July 2011 [Statement] We appeal to save Gangjeong (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/806882>)
- 21 July 2011 [Statement] Sudden arrest of Jeju Gangjeong residents & peace activists (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/808423>)
- 30 September 2011 [Interview] Noam Chomsky's Solidarity Message to Save Jeju (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/831525>)
- 4 October 2011 [Statement] Jeju Island should remain an island of life and peace (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/832020>)
- 3 November 2011 [International Conference] Jeju Naval Base and Peace in East Asia (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/841072>)
- 8 December 2011 [Statement] Jeju International Interfaith Solidarity Visit (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/855791>)
- 3 February 2012 [Column] The Battle for Jeju Island: How the Arms Race is Threatening a Korean Paradise (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/869134>)
- 12 March 2012 [Video] Story in Jeju - Calling for Peace in Gangjeong (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/877817>)
- 21 March 2012 [Open Letter] Open Letter by International Human Rights Organisations to ROK governments, condemning human rights violations in Gangjeong (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/881659>)
- 21 March 2012 [Press Conference] Press Conference on Human Rights Violations in Jeju with Angie Zelter (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/881754>)

- 29 March 2012 [Statement] Statement of Support by the Right Livelihood Award Laureates for the nonviolent struggle against the construction of the Korean (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/885755>)
- 18 April 2012 [Press Release] PSPD submitted individual complaint to the UN on human rights violations at Gangjeong, Jeju Island (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/908368>)
- 24 April 2012 [Press Release] CIVICUS and PSPD Joint UPR Submission on the Republic of Korea (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/901047>)
- 7 May 2012 [Appeal Letter] An Appeal Letter to Jeju Governor Woo Geun-min from 78 Individuals (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/917434>)
- 1 June 2012 [Statement] 2012 Peace Activists' Conference for the Life and Peace of Gangjeong Village (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/910042>)
- 12 June 2012 [Appeal Letter] Appeal Letter to Join an International Action Week For No Naval Base (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/924963>)
- 10 July 2012 [Statement] Statement to the IUCN and the World Conservation Congress (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/925562>)
- 30 July 2012 [Appeal] Appeal for Short Solidarity Messages: The Grand March for the Peace of Gangjeong, July 30 to August 4, 2012 (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/925577>)
- 30 August 2012 [Open Letter] Request a meeting on the exhibition booth applied by the Gangjeong Village Association for the World Conservation Congress (<http://www.peoplepower21.org/English/944941>)

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