

Plenary: “Global Impact of U.S. Militarisation”

- Bath Iron Works, Maine and Gangjeong
- Shipbuilding town-only ships they build are Aegis destroyers that will come to Gangjeong village.
- Bruce Gagnon- christening to converting the shipyard to do peaceful and productive things like building wind turbines
- Problem is US is addicted to war and military production is the no. 1 industrial export product-more wars mean more exports
- Working and trying to develop the idea of conversion within the community-impossible to sustain military empire of 800 bases around the world





Gangjeong and Peace Movement around the World

- *The struggle in Gangjeong Village is important for the Peace Movement around the world because everything is in focus there. These people are farmers and fishermen who will lose their livelihoods and their 500 year old village. They are protesting against the military and imperial expansion of the United States; they are protesting the occupation of their country by tens of thousands of American troops; they are protesting against the violation of human rights; and they are protesting against the desecration of a pristine ecosystem, home to several UNESCO world heritage sites. They are protesting against the increased militarization of the “Island of Peace”.*

Bishop Peter Kang U-il of Jeju Catholic Diocese

Mr. Oh Cheol Soon Society of Friends

3 steps one bow

- Bishop Peter Kang U-il: “Peace around the whole country flows from here at Gangjeong. We pray everyday courageously and tenaciously at the entrance of the construction site with the presence of thousands of riot cops and the threat of arrests coming from them. We have never given up hope that one day we will be able to live peacefully without the massive naval base for nuclear warships. We will keep praying. So when you come to South Korea, please come down to Jeju and meet these incredibly beautiful people.”

Columban missionaries visit Gangjeong



Naval base on Island of World Peace?

- Despite its delicate ecosystem, as well as the island's history of atrocious violence, the Korean government has built a naval base on the southern coast of Jeju Island in the village of Gangjeong. The base will accommodate 20 warships equipped to hold U.S. Aegis missile-intercepting systems. Jeju residents have been fighting this construction project for the past ten years, including the bishop of Jeju, priests and sisters, The Frontiers, and countless other groups
- The scope of the South Korean government's project makes it clear that the base will accommodate large U.S. naval vessels and stand as a hedge to the growing Chinese global influence.

Welcoming overseas visitors



Global Network

- Bruce Gagnon, longtime peacemaker and coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, was the first one to introduce activists in the US, as well as countless others, to the nonviolent struggle in Jeju Island to stop construction of a new U.S.-backed naval base. His inspiring peace work has not only included stopping construction of this new base, but campaigning to stop the militarization of space and for the closing of the nearly 1,000 U.S. military bases worldwide. When addressing the struggle on Jeju Island, Bruce makes an important point that bears repeating: This nonviolent campaign to stop the construction of the new naval base on Jeju Island is an important symbol for the international peace movement. It brings together all the issues -- militarization, disarmament, the environment and human rights

International Solidarity



Making of Irish documentary 'Jeju's Aching Heart' for Irish Television.



25 min documentary made for Irish TV “Jeju’s Aching Heart”

‘Against the seething anger of the people of Jeju, the construction of a naval base on what locals call sacred Gureombi Rock on Jeju Island now seems unstoppable. But equally unstoppable is the sheer determination of the people in this fishing village to continue their resistance. Primarily for use by the United States military, the base will extend US presence in the region. Neither the US nor the British defence departments deny that US presence in the Pacific region is aimed squarely at China. While the stated motive is to “protect freedom of navigation” in the Malacca Straits and the South China Sea, in reality it controls China’s strategic oil routes – vital in the event of escalating tensions.’

Exhausting every means to stop the construction

- Gangjeong villagers have used every possible democratic means to overturn the decision by Seoul to construct the base there
- The villagers have squatted on their farmland that was seized by the government, and laid down in front of cement trucks intending to pour concrete over the volcanic rock where pure spring water meets the ocean. Despite the fact that 94 percent of Gangjeong residents voted against the base, the central government, the military and Jeju officials colluded to make Gangjeong the designated site.

March for the life and peace of Gangneung



Bishop Kang walking for peace



Military Empire

Consequences of Military Empire

- * Undermining the sovereignty of host nations
- * Militarizing and colonizing the host nation's culture
- * Assaulting democracy and human rights
- * Seizing people's private property and damaging their homes
- * Causing life-endangering military accidents and crimes that are rarely punished

Okinawa-74% of US military bases-0.6% of land area-massive burden of bases and yet one of poorest prefectures.

Okinawa-US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma 'most dangerous base in the world'-noise, air pollution, in middle of crowded city of Ginowan

Relocation' -Henoko, Oura Bay, pristine coastal local, rich in biodiversity, blue coral reefs and seagrass provides a feeding ground for dugong (sea cow and mascot of protests groups)

-Dugong, a relative of the manatee is a celebrated cultural icon and national monument-folktales tell of the gods who come from afar to our islands riding on the backs of the dugongs and the dugongs ensure abundance of food from the sea

Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior, Earthjustice, US Center for Biological Diversity

Rainbow Warrior's 2nd visit to Henoko Oct 2015 ten yrs on.

Greenpeace Japan condemns central govt for overriding Gov Onaga-
"shocking that the government is failing to protect Japan's endangered species and trampling over the wishes of so many Okinawan's."

Oura bay-the landfill site for the construction of 2 new airstrips

July 2014-Earthjustice files lawsuit against DOD with District Court in California on behalf of Environmental groups such as US Center for Biological Diversity (CBD)

CBD's Peter Galvin-US military should not be allowed trash this biologically very impt region and he sees a strong convergence of environmental, human rights and sovereignty issues at play

Lawsuit-"Basic respect demands that the US make every effort not to harm another country's cultural heritage.

Japan's remilitarisation to accommodate US-Asian Pivot

- Militarization of other Ryukyu Islands-all four Islands of Miyakojima, Ishigaki, Amami-Oshima and Yonaguni (southernmost and less than 100km from Taiwan, more importantly less than 100 miles from highly contested Senkaku/Diayou Islands)-will comprise a 'giant maritime Great wall' containing much of China's eastern seaboard.
- Yonaguni- Japanese SDF were deployed for first time in 2012-Radar Base Station under construction.
- Amami-Oshima- 'a place so teeming with diversity that it has been nominated for UNESCO World Heritage status' – cf. Koohan Paik's account-being destroyed to make way for a missile base
- Dud Hendrick's words in 'Ghosts of Jeju' –"is there any place so remote, so beautiful, and so sacred as to be inviolable by the US military? And when you think about it, there is no such place."

Lawsuit filed by Navy against the village for losses due to construction delays

- Another blatant act of oppression against the village and veiled as a warning to other communities who rise up and resist state violence and repression-basically wanting to be seen as merciless in the way it deals with dissent in an effort to deter other social movements.
- original compensation case brought by Samsung C&T against the Navy (for breaking the terms of the contract - as they've argued) was settled by the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board, 'the right to indemnity'
- if we want to imply that there isn't a legal right for this, then we could use "claim for reimbursement"

- **no. of persons arrested to date**

- There is no exact numbers of people who have been arrested. But you can say the numbers of arrests (not numbers of people) have been around 700.
- There have been around 30 people who have been imprisoned. But numbers become doubled when you add people who chose prison in refusal to paying fines. The total numbers of people who have been jailed could be around 60 when you include the latter.
- But the total amount of time? It really needs counting...
- - total amount in fines handed down to those protesting the naval base construction
- It is told around 400,000 USD so far
- - breakdown of charges by category (e,g, obstruction of business, etc)
- Mostly obstruction of business, But some got obstruction of justice, special obstruction of justice, insult etc.

- **no. of persons deported** / - no. of people denied entry (related to their involvement in protesting the base)

- At least 24 people from 2011 to 2014. Among them, 15 are from Okinawa/ Japan. 2 or 3 of those were deported twice. Otherwise, the 24 people includes Benjamin Monnet(injunction order, March 14, 2015) and Angie Zelter (Exit order, March 15, 2012).