

SAVE JEJU NOW

NO WAR BASE ON THE ISLAND OF PEACE

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A Pivot on the Peace Island by Kathy Kelly

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GANGJEONG VILLAGE STORY



by Kathy Kelly

May 24, 2014

Jeju Island, South Korea – For the past two weeks, I've been in the Republic of Korea (ROK), as a guest of peace activists living in Gangjeong Village on ROK's Jeju Island. Gangjeong is one of the ROK's smallest villages, yet activists here, in their struggle against the construction of a massive naval base, have inspired people around the world.

Since 2007, activists have risked arrests, imprisonment, heavy fines and wildly excessive use of police force to resist the desecration caused as mega-corporations like Samsung and Daelim build a base to accommodate U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines for their missions throughout Asia. The base fits the regional needs of the U.S. for a maritime military outpost that would enable it to continue developing its Asia Pivot strategy, gradually building towards and in the process provoking superpower conflict with China.

"We don't need this base," says Bishop Kang, a Catholic prelate who vigorously supports the opposition. He worries that if the base is completed, Jeju Island will become a focal point for Far Eastern military struggle, and that this would occur amid accelerating military tensions. "The strongest group in the whole world, the military, takes advantage of National Security ideology," he continues. "Many people make money. Many governments are controlled by this militarism. The military generals, in their minds, may think they are doing this to protect their country, but in fact they're controlled by the corporations."

Jeju Islanders cannot ignore or forget that at least 30,000 of their grandparents and great grandparents were slaughtered by a U.S.-supported Korean government intent on crushing a tenacious democracy movement. The height of the assault in 1948 is referred to as the April 3 massacre, although the persecution and murderous suppression lasted many years. The national government now asking sacrifices of them has rarely been their friend.

But for the construction, Gangjeong seems a truly idyllic place to live. Lanes curving through the village are bordered by gardens and attractive small homes. Villagers prize hard work and honesty, in a town with apparently no need to lock up anything, where well-cultivated orange trees fill the eye with beauty and the

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has a long history of advocating for peace and justice, and for the protection of the environment, such as Resolution No. 61,007-N.S. endorsing the Earth Charter in support of its principles and adoption by the United Nations at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (Rio+10); which commits the City of Berkeley to "respect Earth and life in all its diversity...care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love...build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful...and secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations;"[i]and

WHEREAS, In 2005, Jeju Island, off the coast of South Korea, was designated as an Island of Peace [ii]and is UNESCO's only triple honoree: a Global Geological Park,[iii] Biosphere Reserve[iv] and World Heritage Site,[v] and

WHEREAS, residents on Gangjeong Village on Jeju Island, South Korea, have been organizing nonviolent protest[vi] to stop the construction of a massive naval base which will destroy their community, way of life, and rich marine ecosystem which the famous *haenyo* or women sea divers, fishermen and farmers depend on for their livelihoods:[vii] and

[THIS SECTION DELETED]WHEREAS, Jeju is one of many island communities around the Pacific that are now at great risk of militarization and despoliation from the Pentagon's "Pacific Pivot." According to statements by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, US naval resources are rapidly shifting from Europe and the Middle East, to boost the Asia-Pacific region to 60% of the total.[viii] The US military is being condemned by local peoples for toxic dumping in the Philippines, rapes and violence in Okinawa, missile tests in the Marshall Islands, and a drone base being built on the remote Cocos Islands of Australia.[ix]and

WHEREAS, as recently as 1994, the U.S. military operationally controlled the South Korean military in peace as well as wartime, and still maintains wartime control; and the U.S. maintains in South Korea more than 85 active military installations and about 37,500 military personnel, 140 tanks, 170 armored vehicles, advanced fighters, and a range of missiles and fighting helicopters:[x] and ongoing discontent over the U.S. military presence has been caused in part by sovereignty concerns as well as the behavior of U.S. troops towards the population:[xi] and

[THIS SECTION DELETED]WHEREAS, the militarization of Jeju will worsen tensions between the People's Republic of China and other nations in Northeast Asia, and will put this Island of Peace at great risk as a pawn in a big-power struggle.--The peace and security of Jeju is literally being traded away for geo-strategic and military gains--According to the Hankyoreh daily newspaper,[xii] Pentagon leaders are pushing for a tripartite (U.S., South Korea, and Japan) missile defense system, a system based on interception of long-range inter-continental ballistic missiles, and therefore of more use against China than North Korea.[xiii] The planned base at Jeju will be home to warships using the US Navy's Aegis Combat System, which uses powerful computers and radar to guide weapons to destroy enemy targets. China has already described Aegis as a dangerous provocation.[xiv] Former U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings describe the Jeju base proposal as part of "the U.S. policy of encirclement of Russia and China;"[xv] and

WHEREAS, evidence has mounted that the Jeju base will be the site of U.S. warships: a Republic of Korea (ROK) naval document from 2009 on the plan for the Jeju base set the depth of the submarine dock at 12 meters, far more than the 9.3 meters required for South Korean submarines, enough to accommodate U.S. nuclear-powered SSN-776 submarines; and South Korean legislator Kim Kwang-jin responded, "If it is built this way, we can't even guarantee that it will be a South Korean military base, let alone a civil harbor;"[xvi] and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kang Dongkyun of Gangjeong Village, Jeju Island has appealed directly to the People of Berkeley and to the City Council of Berkeley, saying on June 1, 2013:

"The US government is trying to put its power in different places like Jeju Island, Hawaii, Guam and other places. I think that not only people in the City of Berkeley, but people in general in the United States are not aware of that fact....I want to work with the people of the City of Berkeley and not only the people of Berkeley....to create peace;"[xvii]

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the Council of the City of Berkeley calls on Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senators Feinstein and Boxer to urge the US military to cease supporting the military base now being built on Jeju Island, a base which will gravely harm the fragile ecology, damage the livelihood of the people of Jeju, and make this Island of Peace a pawn of the great powers and a magnet for military conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley direct the City Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Barbara Boxer, President Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry, and U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, and Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye.

BACKGROUND:

Gangjeong Village Mayor Kang Dong-Kyun from Jeju Island, who was beaten by South Korean police on May 10, 2013 while protesting the proposed naval base, spoke at the June 1 Moana Nui 2013 teach-in at the King Middle School in Berkeley, California.

1. Official statement of appeal from Jeju.

<http://savejejunow.org/appeal/>

We appeal to peace advocates worldwide to give Gangjeong residents and its peace activists international support and solidarity to stop the Jeju naval base construction. Please spread the news of these problems related to the Jeju naval base construction with your networks and show us your support and solidarity.

The Joongduk coast of Gangjeong Village in Jeju Island is now suffering. In 2006, Jeju Island was designated as an Island of Peace for the purpose of consoling the deep sorrow of the April 3rd Massacre. However, despite the fact that the sea of the Gangjeong village is a UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserve for the vast soft coral forests and its coasts an Absolute Preservation Area, the village is now being threatened by the naval base construction.

Insisting that the naval base is vital for national security, the Korean government and the Navy are enforcing the construction. However, the Ocean Navy expansion plan—upon which the base construction was justified—has been discarded in revisions to the national defense bill regarding strategies to counteract recent security threats. This leaves no justification for this new base.

In addition, the original argument from the government when the National Assembly budget bill was passed was to construct a Joint Civil Military site to be used for tourism as well as military purposes. However, through the ROK National Assembly and Jeju Island Council investigations on government affairs in 2012, that story has been revealed as thoroughly deceptive. In fact these reports disclosed that the base design is tailored to U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier and U.S. nuclear submarines. Yet the Korean government continues to deceive the public through sugar-coated lies promising economic development and eco-friendly harbor-building. It should be emphasized that only 5% of the construction budget is allocated from civilian sources. The remaining 95% is allocated from the ROK Ministry of National Defense.

By maintaining military alliances with Japan, Australia, South Korea, and India, and through joint military exercises with the Philippines, Vietnam, and Taiwan, the U.S. is attempting to build up its defense line against China. If the Jeju naval base is constructed, the U.S., which possesses the right to station there according to the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Agreement, will surely use this base to stand up against China. In that case, Jeju Island, an Island of Peace, will become a center of military conflict between the U.S. and China, jeopardizing South Korea's national security.

Government and military authorities, however, are turning a blind eye to the voices of Gangjeong residents and civil peace activists, as well as to the demands to suspend the construction coming from the opposition parties and the investigation committee of the National Assembly. The Navy has even used violence against a protesting civilian. On July 11, the national government recommended that the city government barricade a farm road on the Joongduk coast, which is the last remaining piece of state-owned land under the jurisdiction of Seogwipo city within the site of the naval base construction. This action was a response to the demand from the Ministry of National Defense to discourage any attempts to stage a protest against the naval base construction. However, such efforts by the government to enforce the construction only bring about stronger resistance and conflicts from Gangjeong residents and peace activists. The construction must be stopped before any unfortunate accidents take place.

We appeal to the government and military authorities

The argument for the base construction by the government and the Navy is no longer valid. Moreover, the means and procedures used to promote the construction have been so violent and deceptive that they are only causing more resistance and resentment. Unilaterally pushing ahead with the construction, in the name of the national project, is obviously not a wise way. We call upon the government and military authorities to withdraw their plan to close the farm road and to completely reexamine the Jeju naval base construction project.

We appeal to Woo Keun-Min, Jeju governor

Governor Woo, you were aware of the negative consequences that could result from the naval base construction and you were right. We urge you to give up the futile illusion about the development profit and to listen to the desperate voices of the residents. We further request you to use your authority to cancel the removal of the "absolute preservation area" designation of Joongduk coast. If you do so, history would remember you as a person who protects the peace of Jeju and the Korean peninsula.

We appeal to the national assembly

As an entity representing citizens, the national assembly has a duty to listen to and respond to citizens' voices. We appeal to the opposition parties to be more active in nullifying the Jeju naval base construction project. The Grand National Party, as the current ruling party, should seriously examine whether the base is really needed and whether national budget should be spent on inflating military forces and feeding construction capital.

We appeal to citizens

Gangjeong citizens have been fighting alone for over four long years. In the meantime, the village community has been torn apart, leaving indelible scars. Citizens are also engulfed with fears due to various lawsuits from the government and construction companies, as well as fines up to tens of millions of won. They are suffering from the fact that the Goorungbi boulder, which represents their dreams and memories, might be covered with cement block.

Please express your solidarity and give them your consolation. And if you can, please visit Gangjeong Village. Then you might be able to understand more clearly why the construction must be stopped. In addition, please use your wisdom and energy to do whatever you can in your position to prevent the Jeju naval base construction.

We appeal to peace advocates worldwide

International support, advocacy, and solidarity to stop the Jeju naval base construction give Gangjeong residents and peace activists strength and courage. Please spread the news of these problems related to the Jeju naval base construction with your networks and show us your support and solidarity.

We will try our best to prevent the Jeju naval base construction, which endangers the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia, and which is destroying the lives of Gangjeong residents and the natural environment, a gift from heaven. We firmly believe that this struggle is our responsibility to Jeju Island, where the sorrow of the April 3rd massacre is deeply embedded, that this is an expression of our conscience regarding the suffering Gangjeong residents, and that it is the demand of the times to protect and ensure peace for our children. We sincerely appeal to everybody who stands alongside us to protect Gangjeong Village and Jeju Island.

For more information visit the [Korea Peace Network](http://peacekorea.org/zbxe/Eng_main), http://peacekorea.org/zbxe/Eng_main

2. Excerpt from the Earth Charter:

<http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/pages/Read-the-Charter.html>

I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.

- a. Recognize that all beings are interdependent and every form of life has value regardless of its worth to human beings.
- b. Affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.

2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.

- a. Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources comes the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.
- b. Affirm that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good.

3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.

- a. Ensure that communities at all levels guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and provide everyone an opportunity to realize his or her full potential.
- b. Promote social and economic justice, enabling all to achieve a secure and meaningful livelihood that is ecologically responsible.

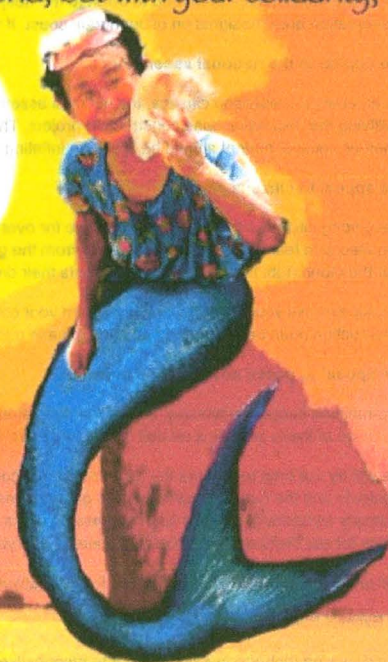
4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

- a. Recognize that the freedom of action of each generation is qualified by the needs of future generations.

DECOLONIZE JEJU

The Haenyeo, or Korean female free-divers, of Jeju Island deep-sea-dive for abalone, urchin and octopus. Collectives of Haenyeo, the majority of whom are grandmothers in their seventies, are a crucial part of the island's matriarchal society that has thrived off the coast of South Korea for generations, providing food for their families and community.

Currently, the Haenyeo and other residents of Jeju are threatened by the construction of a naval base in Gangjeong Village that will not only host the Korean military, but also U.S. naval warships and destroyers. The Haenyeo of Jeju have historically engaged in anti-colonial struggle to combat Japanese and U.S. imperial forces and continue to resist empire. Like many women who fight colonial rule, the Haenyeo have an intimate understanding of how naval bases destroy local economies, rip apart communities and use gendered violence as a tool of social control. The United States government assumes that they can hide what happens in Jeju from the rest of the world, but with your solidarity, they won't be able to.



SOLIDARITY WITH JEJU MORE MERMAIDS, LESS MILITARY!

For more information or to aid in Jeju's decolonial struggle visit
facebook.com/savejeju or savejejunow.org

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**PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION REQUEST
Wednesday Council Meeting 9:30 AM**

Council Meeting Date: 6-4-14

Today's Date 4-17-14

AUDITOR 04/17/14 AM 8:35

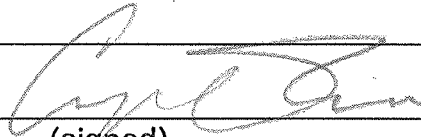
Name CRYSTAL ELINSKI

Address POB 8973

Telephone 821-7573 Email _____

Reason for the request:

this time last year... security
fault priorities + problems at City Hall


(signed)

- Give your request to the Council Clerk's office by Thursday at 5:00 pm to sign up for the following Wednesday Meeting. Holiday deadline schedule is Wednesday at 5:00 pm. (See contact information below.)
- You will be placed on the Wednesday Agenda as a "Communication." Communications are the first item on the Agenda and are taken promptly at 9:30 a.m. A total of five Communications may be scheduled. Individuals must schedule their own Communication.
- You will have 3 minutes to speak and may also submit written testimony before or at the meeting. Communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our citizens, but do not allow an opportunity for dialogue.

Thank you for being an active participant in your City government.

Contact Information:

Karla Moore-Love, City Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4086 Fax (503) 823-4571
email: Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov

Sue Parsons, Council Clerk Assistant
1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4085 Fax (503) 823-4571
email: Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov

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Request of Crystal Elinski to address Council regarding this time last year:
security, faulty priorities and problems at City Hall (Communication)

JUN 04 2014

PLACED ON FILE

Filed MAY 30 2014

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Susan Parsons*

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		