CAMERA WAR HEIGHTENS IN GANGJEONG

By Emily Wang

"Camera War" is not new at all here in Gangjeong. The police and construction companies violently violate peace activists and villagers with lots of camera and video everywhere. They constantly use these cameras to collect information in order to criminalize the peaceful inhabitants of Gangjeong, to fine them or put them in jail. However, after the presidential elections went in favor of pro-base candidate Park Geun-Hye, the police in Gangjeong have taken even more aggressive action with the new mood of the police under a new political atmosphere.

In the weeks following the election, the mood in Gangjeong was dark. Although residents she says she is willing to listen to the opinion of the general public. Hopefully she can make it into a “2nd Hawai’i” and as her position on Jeju as wishing peace on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

New Year’s Eve Celebration Lifts Spirits

In the weeks following the election, the mood in Gangjeong was dark. Although the new president seemed to forecast another 5 years of hard struggle and this naturally left many Gangjeong people depressed.

For this reason, a jirisan and communal New Year’s Eve could not have come at a more joyous and communal New Year’s Eve could not have come at a more unexpected time.

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By Choi Sung-Ku

A new Gangjeong support group, “Gangjeong Friends”, has launched. The inaugural meeting was held on December 22nd in the Gangjeong Village Center. Gangjeong Friends will encourage the peace movement by doing activities in support of and raising funds for Gangjeong villagers and activists. Gangjeong Friends is a life and peace movement against the Jeju Naval Base which seeks to build a peaceful world in which everyone is respected.

The United States already aiming to curf and contain China, has declared the “Asian Pivot” policy and has begun concentrating 60% of its naval forces into the Pacific region, stationing warships and bases, including the Min- sik Defense system. Japan, using the conflict of the Senkaku Islands (Diaoyu Islands in Chinese) as its excuse is also stepping up its nerve-wrecking regression of the Constitution of Peace, pushing for more aggressive military arms buildup. The Jeju Naval base is being built in the center of several East Asian conflicts, heightening the danger that South Korea could be pulled into the US/Japan conflict.

This is one reason why Park needs to totally examine the base construction from the viewpoint of peace on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

The reality is that even the smallest procedural justice is being violated through the naval base construction which is far from the “citizens’ unity” that Park has emphasized. The National Assembly approved the 2003 billion won 2013 Jeju naval base budget but attached three additional conditions which must be executed and reported to the National Assembly within 70 days. First, the base should be proven not to be the National Assembly and have continued forcing the construction even up until this very moment.

"A WA" winning award, the superbly properly installed of all plastics, vital to containing pollutants created by marine construction, are a real pain proved and looking for any hint. Thank you, AJC. of course.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Consider making a donation to support international networked police efforts. Visit www.gangjeong.org/links where you can learn more about the important role of police action on the front lines of the struggle. And you can become a “Friend of the Gangjeong Village”.

2. Write to me if you are interested in supporting the Gangjeong Village. Write to me if you are interested in supporting the Gangjeong Village. And you can become a “Friend of the Gangjeong Village”.

3. They update the police with the “Diaspora Alert” as an example. Follow @theseatappease on Twitter. Also be sure to watch and follow the police’s Facebook page.

4. Check the video of the police pressing on the town hall in Jeju when they lost control. Interview with Goh Kil-Chun and 16 others were selected to be the Gangjeong Friends. The candidate of the ruling conservative Saenuri Party, Park Geun-Hye, was declared the winner of the ROK-US-Japan trilateral military alliance, desired by the US and Japan.

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“JEJU’S FUTURE” CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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The Bottom of the Barrel: Local Fishermen from Jeju Island to the Gaza Strip

By T.J., an international activist who has spent time in both Gangjeong and the Gaza Strip, among other struggles for peace and justice.

The fishermen of Jeju Island have more in common with the fishermen of the Gaza Strip each day...Fishermen from Jeju and the Gaza Strip share stories of fishing and the challenges they face in their work. They are both crucial to their communities, both depending on the ocean for their livelihoods.

A sickenng view from Maetburi on the east side of Gureombi and the construction. Dredging barges have scraped rock. The nerve wracking sound that emanates from large equipment is a constant drone that can be heard throughout the village, and sometimes it is the thunder-like sound of loaders, excavators, backhoes and dozers loading and moving tons of rock. And sometimes it is the blood-curdling sound of metal scraping rock. The noise from 24-hour construction is one more indignity being leveled against the people of Gangjeong. It has been well documented that incessant noise and sleep deprivation are effective tools used on prisoners in the so called "war on terror." One cannot help but wonder what the long term effect the incessant noise from 24-hour construction will have on this small and vulnerable village of gentle, peaceful people.

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF SLEEP

By C.D.

Some needs are just not negotiable. Sleep is one of them. Unfortunately, sleep has become a bit of a luxury here in Gangjeong since construction of the naval base began. U.S./Korean naval base has become a 24-hour operation for construction. The noise has become a 24-hour nuisance for villagers. For the past few months it has become impossible to count on a good night’s sleep due to the nonstop sound of large equipment. Christmas Eve was no exception. Lying awake, trying to fall asleep, I could not help but reflect at the thought of how outrageously rude it was for the people who were being kept awake some of the very taxpayers whose hard earned dollars were funding the show of disrespect.

Depending on where on the base site construction is taking place, and what the work happens to be on any given night, the noise is never the same. Sometimes it is a constant drone that can be heard throughout the village, and sometimes it is the thunder-like sound of loaders, excavators, backhoes and dozers loading and moving tons of rock. And sometimes it is the blood-curdling sound of metal scraping rock. The noise from 24-hour construction is one more indignity being leveled against the people of Gangjeong. It has been well documented that incessant noise and sleep deprivation are effective tools used on prisoners in the so called “war on terror.”

On top of other reports of electoral irregularities, mistakes, and possible fraud, there is room for concern that such a pattern of disregard for democracy by the government may be an indicator of what lies ahead for the next five years.

Villagers Face Voting Troubles

During the presidential election on December 19, 2012, Gangjeong mayor Kang Dong-hyun was blocked from voting because of his protests. Meanwhile, village woman, Kim Mi-Ryong, who was imprisoned shortly last year, was not able to vote because her name was mysteriously not registered anymore. Later it turned out to be a mistake but the people in charge was rude and simply neglected her case.

These troubling incidents show that more and more villagers are being “legally” robbed of their voting rights because of the many legal trials they are facing. Is it not already obvious that the villagers are forced to stand in court repeatedly for this struggle, while being labeled as “parasites” and “commies,” simply for wanting to live in and enjoy their precious hometown?

Two Base Construction Workers Dead within a Month

Following a worker’s death in Hwasoeng port on Nov. 28, 2012, another worker, Mr. Kim Hoon, has died of unknown causes in the same port on Dec. 29. Samsung C&T is making 8,800 ton reais for the Jeju naval base construction, in Hwasoeng port. Mysteriously, Mr. Kim’s death was not reported by media until Jan. 2.

Mountains of Trials, Mountains of Fines

By Kang Duk-sook

Recently, quite a few of the countless ongoing trials of Gangjeong villagers and activists were concluded. First, on December 4, 2012, Mr. Park Jong-hoon was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment suspended to 1 year probation for two separate trials, with each group receiving approximately $3,500 fines per person or 6 months imprisonment suspended to 1 year probation each. The sentencing of two others was delayed.

The accused are now preparing appeals.

On December 21, Park, became the first international to stand in court with the charge of, “Obstruction of Business”. The prosecution asked for 6 months imprisonment. The verdict was scheduled to be read on January 9 but was delayed to February 8. The truth of the case is that he was only sitting 8 minutes with the Cathol Promail held daily in front of the main gate of the construction site, as he was taking a break from taking video, around 11:00 a.m. on July 23, 2012.

In another trial held on the same day, Rev. Kim Hong-Soul was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment followed by two years probation and approximately $190 fine. Rev. Kim was on trial for four cases including attempting to enter Gureombi Rock with a group of protestors and receiving a fine. On March 9, 2012, he was charged with damaging the temporary construction walls, surrounding the site. He is preparing his appeal.

On January 7, the following sentences were handed out: 11 people who blocked the main construction gate with a van were sentenced on April 29, all given fines of approximately $400 each. Finally on the same day, another group of people, including Fr. Mun Jeong-Hyeon, villager Kang Boo-Un, and activitist Yun-Ae got married in Yangpyeong outside of Min-ye Young-han (left) was released from prison on bail after 63 days on Dec. 26. Kim Bok-choel (right) was released from prison after 206 days on Jan. 3. They are both currently on trial for attempting to enter Gureombi Rock with a group of protestors and receive a fine. On March 9, 2012, he was charged with damaging the temporary construction walls, surrounding the site. The aforementioned 3 were given sentences of 4 months imprisonment suspended to 1 year probation while the others were fined of approximately $200 per person.

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PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Please write letters of support to:

Mr. Kim Bok-Chul
Mr. Park Seung-Ho
Mr. Lee Yong-Chan

Jeju Prison, 161, Oe-2-dong, Jeju City, Jeju, Korea