

# Where Do These Aegis Go?



One place the Aegis destroyers made at BIW will go is a tiny fishing and farming village called Gangjeong on Jeju Island, South Korea. The rocky coast along the village shoreline reminds one of Pemaquid Point here in Maine. These rocks will be completely covered with cement to build piers to dock the visiting U.S. warships.

Today Yang Yoon-Mo is in jail for crawling under a construction truck and is on his 50<sup>th</sup> day of hunger strike. He vows to die unless the Navy base construction stops. You can see a video interview with him at <http://vimeo.com/24007992>

Yang has been joined in jail by eight other village leaders for trying to non-violently block construction. Simple farmers and fishermen just trying to protect their way of life. Not such a strange concept.

The Aegis warships are outfitted with so-called “missile defense” systems and are today being used by the Navy to surround China and Russia. A new arms race is on the way. As more Aegis warships are built, more ports of call are needed for them. We think about the jobs created here in this country and forget about the enemies we make overseas when we force people off their land so we can build more bases for the U.S. military empire. The people of Gangjeong are pleading for our support.

Today is my 2<sup>nd</sup> day of an open-ended fast in solidarity with those in jail doing their hunger strike. I will come to BIW each weekday to stand here so that maybe someone in our local community will reflect on what is happening.

Bruce K. Gagnon

[www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)

Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

5/24/11