To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Peace and Justice Commission
Submitted by: George Lippman, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission
Subject: Support the Residents of the Jeju Islands off the Coast of Korea to Stop Construction of the Jeju Naval Base

RECOMMENDATION
Adopt a Resolution 1) supporting the residents of the Jeju Islands off the coast of Korea to stop construction of the Jeju Naval Base; 2) sending a letter to President Lee Myung Bak; and 3) calling on the congressional delegation to write and co-sponsor a bill restricting U.S. funds from use in the construction of a military base on Jeju Island.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION
None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS
At its regular meeting on June 4, 2012, the Peace and Justice Commission adopted the following recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution a) supporting the residents of the Jeju Islands off the coast of Korea to stop construction of the Jeju Naval Base; b) send a letter to President Lee Myung Bak; and c) call on the congressional delegation to write and co-sponsor a bill restricting U.S. funds from use in the construction of a military base on Jeju Island.

M/S/C: (Bohn/Haney)
Ayes: Armendariz, Bohn, El-Qoulaq (temporary appointee), Haney (temporary appointee), Kenin, Lippman, Meola, Sochet
Noes: None.
Abstain: Siegel (*Basis for abstention: “Not our business to tell the South Korean government and military how to defend itself against North Korea and China.”*)
Absent: Gozal (*left meeting*), Maran (*left meeting*), Mundu (excused), Nicely (excused), Rabkin (unexcused), Rueda (unexcused)
RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION
The Peace and Justice Commission, consistent with its mandate to promote peace and justice, locally, nationally and internationally, recommends that the Council support this Resolution to support the residents of the Jeju Islands off the coast of Korea to stop construction of the Jeju Naval Base.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED
None.

CITY MANAGER
The City Manager takes no position on the Commission’s recommendations or the contents of its Report.

CONTACT PERSON
Diana Bohn, Commissioner, Peace and Justice Commission, 510-525-5497
Eric Brenman, Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission, 510-981-5114

Attachments:
1. Resolution
2. Proposed Letter (with footnotes)
RESOLUTION NO. –N.S.

SUPPORT OF THE RESIDENTS OF JEJU ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF KOREA TO STOP THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE JEJU NAVAL BASE

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 368.070); and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has a long history of advocating for peace and justice, and for the protection of the environment; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Jeju Island, off the coast of Korea, was designated as an Island of Peace1 and has been appointed as a Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Site, and Global Geological Park by UNESCO2; and

WHEREAS, residents on Gangjeong Village on Jeju Island, South Korea, have been organizing nonviolent protest3 to stop the construction of a massive naval base which will destroy their community, way of life, and rich marine ecosystem which women sea divers, fisherman and farmers depend on for their livelihoods4.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley direct the City Clerk to send a letter to the President of the Republic of Korea, Lee Myung Bak, urging him to stop construction of the naval base on Jeju Island5.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley calls on Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senators Feinstein and Boxer to write and co-sponsor a bill restricting U.S. funds from use in the construction of a military base on Jeju Island.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley directs the City Clerk to send a copy of this Resolution and a copy of the letter sent to President Lee Myung Bak, to Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Barbara Boxer, President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

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5 Letter to President of the Republic of Korea was adapted from a petition written by Christine Ahn, Executive Director of the Korea Policy Institute: <http://signon.org/sign/save-jeju-island-no-naval>
Proposed Letter from Berkeley City Council:

President Lee Myung Bak
Cheong Wa Dae
1 Cheongwadae-ro, Jongno-gu
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Dear President Lee:

As concerned members of the international community, we urge you to stop construction of the naval base on Jeju Island, which Gangjeong residents have vehemently opposed by protesting daily and risking their lives and personal freedom. Since plans for the naval base were announced five years ago, Jeju residents have used every possible democratic means to block its construction. Yet their protests have fallen on deaf ears in your government.

We share the residents’ outrage that the South Korean government is willing to sacrifice the safety of the island residents in order to build this base. Jeju residents refute the claim that this naval base will improve the Korean peoples’ security; they are certain it will further destabilize the Asia-Pacific region and make the island a prime target for military action. The Jeju peoples’ resistance to the militarization of their island stems from the April 3, 1948 massacre, when up to 80,000 civilians were slaughtered by ROK troops during a democratic uprising. In 2006, the late President Roh Moo Hyun officially apologized for the massacre by designating Jeju the “Island of Peace.” This naval base violates your government's commitment to the people of Jeju and their desire for peace.

Citizens of other countries have visited Gangjeong and are in steady communication with its residents. We are deeply concerned about the health and safety of several peace activists, including Professor Yang Yoon Mo and Sung Hee Choi, who were on 60-day hunger strikes after being arrested in the course of nonviolent protest. The elderly Professor Yang is now hospitalized. We are alarmed that another activist, Brother Song, was recently beaten unconscious when he tried to prevent a construction.

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vessel from pouring concrete onto the coral reefs\textsuperscript{11}. By permitting the use of violence against nonviolent peace activists, you undermine your government’s reputation and give the world cause to question the commitment to South Korea’s hard-won democracy.

Famed for its extraordinary beauty and pristine environment, Jeju is home to three designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites and one of 28 finalists for the New 7 Wonders of Nature\textsuperscript{12}. It perplexes us that, despite First Lady Kim Yoon-ok’s efforts for the "Jeju, for New 7 Wonders Campaign," your government is jeopardizing Jeju’s chances by allowing the construction of this naval base. By dredging the Jeju coastline to accommodate U.S. Aegis destroyer warships\textsuperscript{13}, the South Korean Navy and Samsung Corporation are already threatening the island’s soft coral habitat and rich marine life.

Not only is Jeju’s Joongduk coastline where dolphins migrate from Alaska in the summer, its waters are famed because of the hundreds of Korean women, “haenyeo”, who dive for seafood and kelp, key staples of the Korean diet\textsuperscript{14}. The naval base will destroy the waters that haenyeo and fishermen depend upon for survival. It has already displaced Gangjeong citrus growers whose lands have been confiscated, greenhouses demolished, and fruit trees uprooted. Gangjeong villagers are not deceived by the ROK Navy’s claims that the base would have minimal impact on the environment. They know that the base imperils their community, their livelihoods, and Jeju’s natural ecology. We stand with the residents of Jeju in their nonviolent protest to protect not only Jeju’s rich marine ecosystems and their way of life, but also peace in this increasingly fragile and militarized region in the world. We request that you act immediately to stop construction of the naval base on Jeju.

Sincerely,

The City Council of the City of Berkeley, California


