

H.E. Woo Keun-Min
Governor
The Government of Jeju-do
312-1, Yeon-dong, Jeju-si, Jeju-do
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Brussels, 14 March 2012

Dear Governor Woo,

We write to you in the name of Pax Christi International which is a non-governmental Catholic peace movement working on a global scale on a wide variety of issues in the fields of human rights, human security, disarmament and demilitarisation, just world order and religion and violent conflict.

We have been closely following developments in Jeju Island following a call for solidarity last year when the local police arrested several people who were peacefully protesting against the construction of a naval base.

Pax Christi International received the news that you have requested a “temporary suspension of the Jeju naval base construction” in a press conference held at the provincial government office earlier this week. We are informed that you are also seeking “a fair and objective verification process, including a general assembly of Gangjeong residents on a policy of civilian or military-dual purpose port”. This is great news for the people of Gangjeong and we wish to laud your courage and effort to listen to your people.

Your request for a temporary suspension of the construction should help stop the drilling and blasting onto Gureombi Rock which we heard erupted with underground water and would probably contaminate drinking water for 70% of the Island people, including Seogwipo City. We are informed that the underground water in the Gureombi Rock is connected to the Gangjeong Stream, the biggest and cleanest source of water in Jeju Island.

As you know, environmental and human rights concerns over the naval base construction in Jeju Island have been repeatedly raised to the authorities and continues to draw worldwide attention because of its foreseen irreversible impacts. Your request affirms our belief in the Korean government’s commitment to the human rights of the Korean people. Indeed, as governor, you could and should influence this decision to stop the drilling and blasting, and eventually the construction.

Pax Christi International is one with you in insisting on the proper process; we suggest that you conduct a proper Environmental Impact Assessment (verification) before proceeding with any construction, and not allow yourself to be rushed into a decision without proper understanding nor investigation of the matter. More importantly, we hope that you will

continue to stand for your people and the island's ecology in the face of much pressure to build a naval base that threatens lives, livelihood, destruction of natural beauty, and peace.

Representation and advocacy are integral to Pax Christi International's work. Pax Christi International is recognised and has representation status at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna, UNESCO in Paris, the African Union in Addis Ababa and the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.

Yours sincerely,

Greet Vanaerschot
Acting Secretary General
2012-0089-en-ap-HS