

# No Gun Ri

by Tom Kennedy\*

The infamous site where 400 South Koreans were massacred by US troops in

The 1950 American war in Korea.

I was one of a five-member 'Veterans For Peace' delegation sent to South Korea

in support of an effort to prevent the

Eviction of farmers from their land taken from them for

A U.S. base expansion....

We stand in a circle looking down - at the bullet ridden wall - the entrance to the train tunnel

That goes through the village of No Gun Ri - Our hosts include a retired South Korean General.

He wants us to know about this place—what happened?

A small altar of flowers and pictures shows some of the children and mothers who died

Here 60 years ago.

Among our small group of about ten is a humble woman - who cries silently to herself.

She was a nine year old girl - who watched in horror - as all those around her went down

In a hail of bullets from machine guns and planes that strafed the entrance and into

The railroad tunnel - earlier soldiers had told them to go there for safety.

She speaks to us softly and pleadingly so we might understand the impossible.

Her parents and siblings are dying - amid the noise and screaming and impacts of missiles of death.

She gets up and looks at her dead family, but her left eye has fallen out of her head - holding it  
in her hand.

Sixty years later - I go - hold her in my arms - this nine year old girl - as if to apologize - on our  
behalf

The 'Veterans for Peace.'

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*\*Tom is a veteran of the Korean War and a member of Veterans For Peace (US).*