

Disgrace & dishonor: Park denies corruption wrongdoing

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Provisionally impeached by South Korean Parliament in December 2015, South Korea's **President Park Geun-hye's** alleged conduct continues to trigger eruptions from the public. For ten sequential weekends, hundreds of thousands of citizens have packed the central city of Seoul calling for Park's full-scale resignation. Today she declined to testify at her impeachment trial.

Response

Reuters reports, Park said on the matter, "It's completely framed.", "a fabrication and falsehood."

Park and **her attorneys** are opposed to the **impeachment** and are preparing to challenge the proceedings in a court battle. She is charged with using her influential position and government authority to coerce corporations for financial donations in exchange for special treatment; with these payments going to her presidential favorites in the non-profit foundation industry.

These selected institutions are run and managed by her friend, **Choi Soon-sil**.

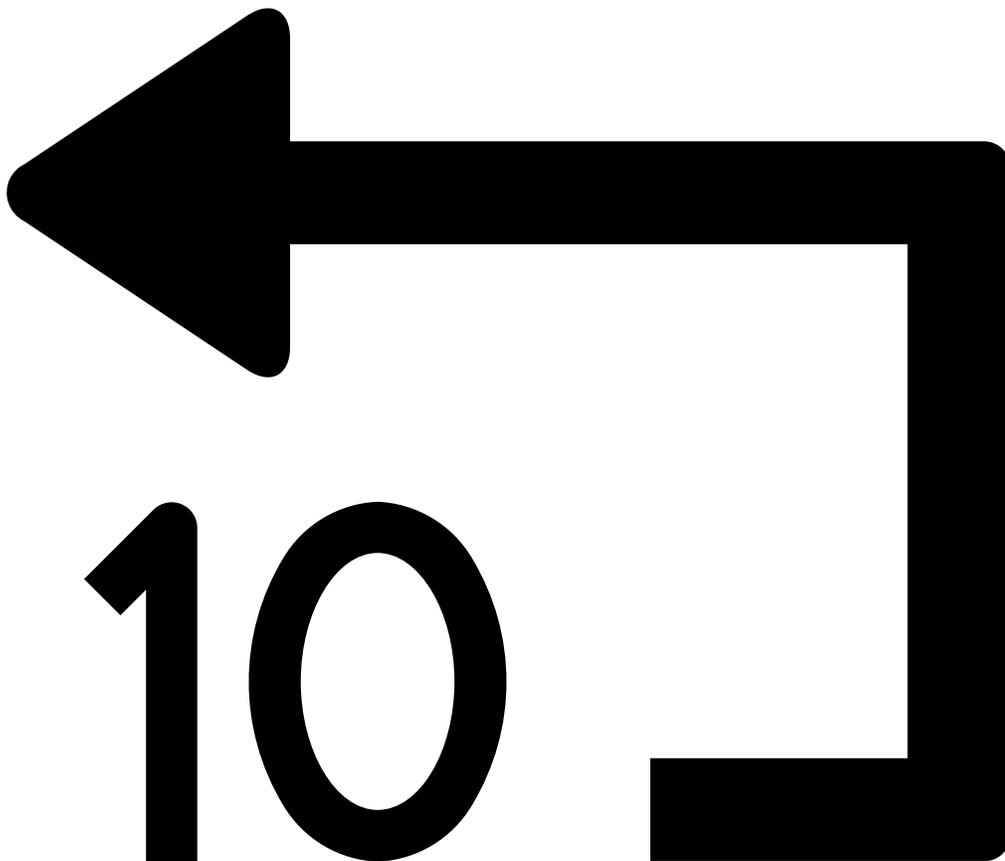
Investigation

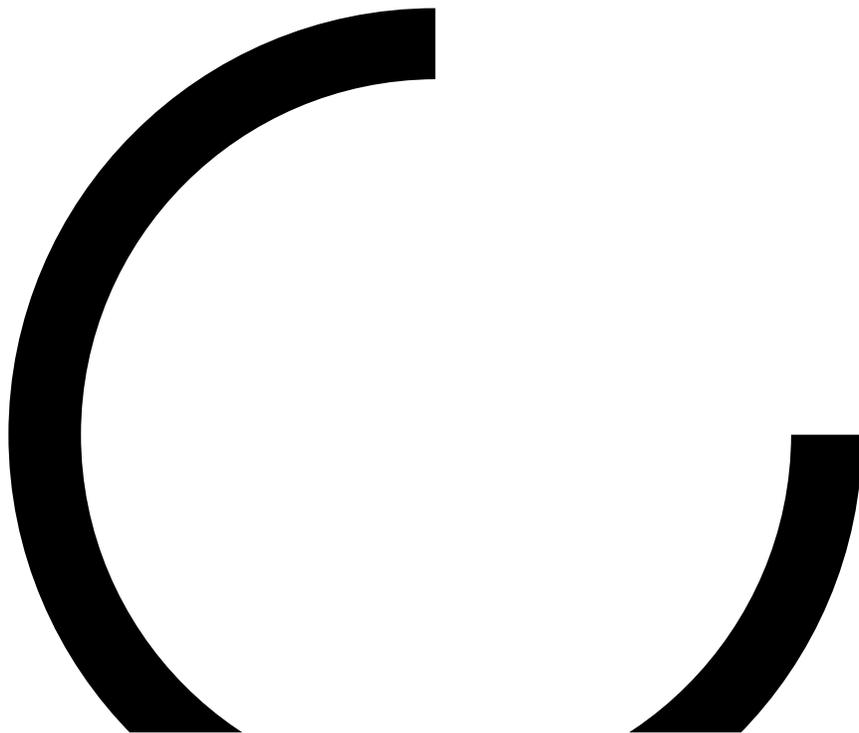
According to Park, **Choi** is "**merely an acquaintance**" and was not given access or authority surrounding affairs of state. Choi is held while on trial. Park has made an apology for being **irresponsible** with regard to appearances and perceptions with Choi; however, maintains there has been no crime or misconduct.

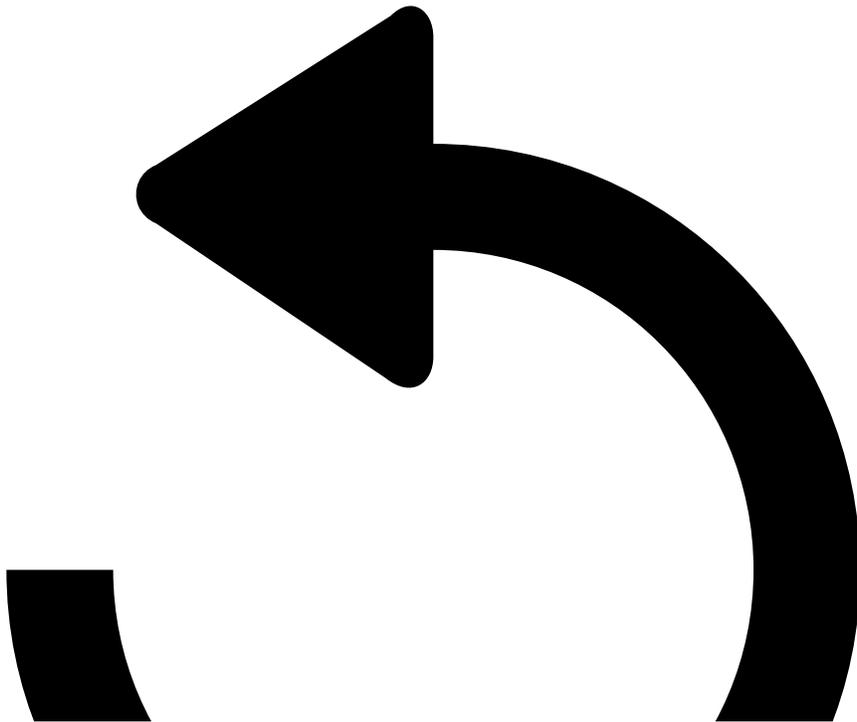
Chief to the **investigation** is that Park asserts she was entrapped and tricked. That she never directed the administration to back the multi-national Samsung corporate associates in a 2015 merger. The merger of **Samsung Group** affiliates Cheil Industries Inc and Samsung C&T Corp is significant due to the **influence peddling** allegations that subsequently led South Korea's parliament to impeach Park.

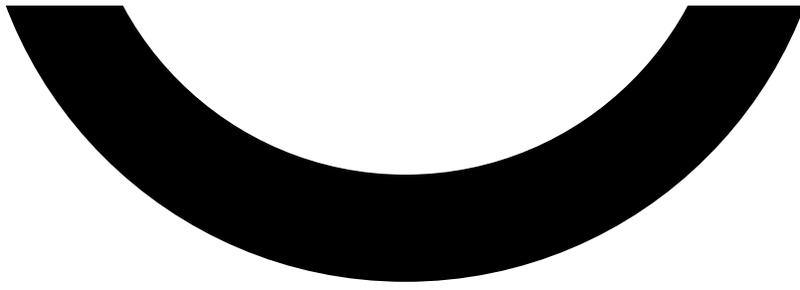
Conflicts

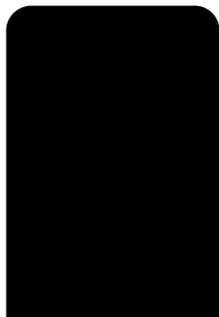
Assertions of **conflicts of interest, conspiracies, and power mongering** thrive and proliferate as the scandal expands, to the detriment of shareholders, investors, and the people.

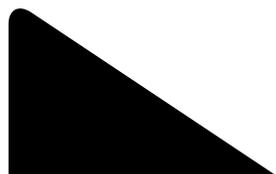
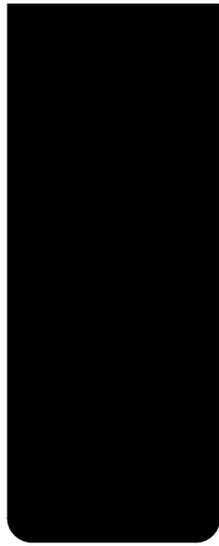
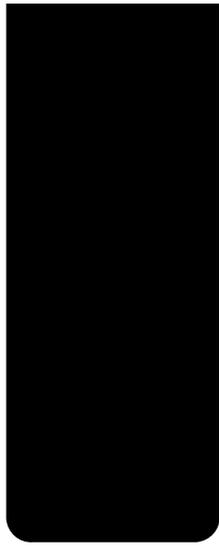


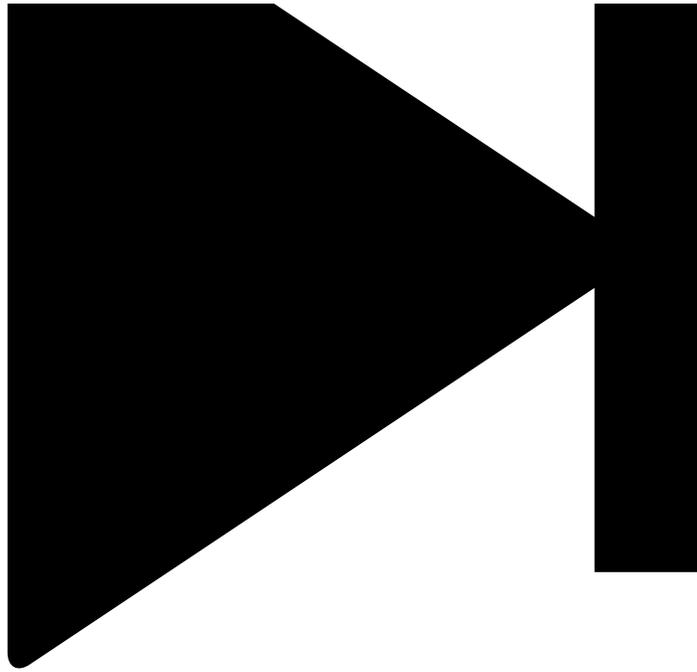




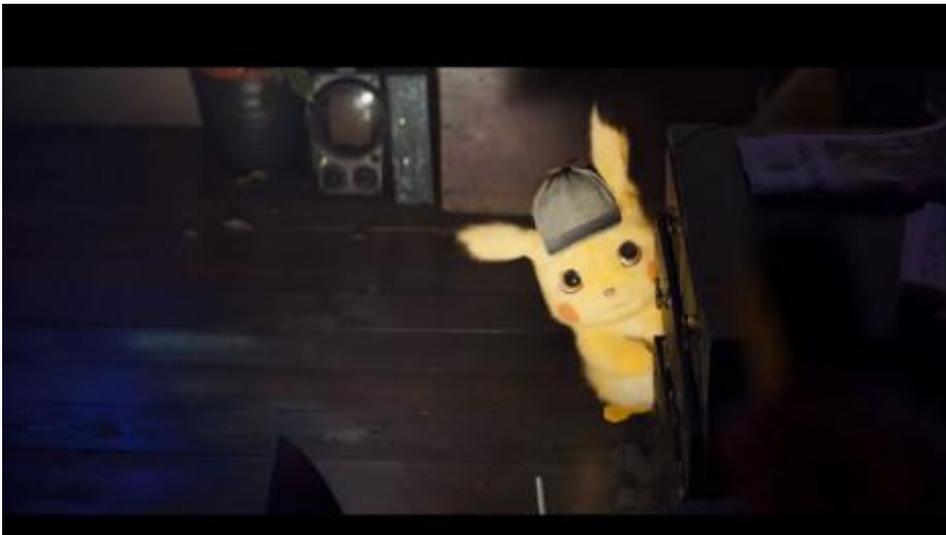








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Failure to initiate an outside, independent, unbiased review board prior to the positive merger vote is only one of the problems. South Korea's national pension fund was a major shareholder that profited from the merger. According to Reuters, "The National Pension Service had 545 trillion won (\$451.78 billion) under management at the end of September."

Supporters of the merger voice that this was "a just policy decision" in the **best interests of the nation** and backed by brokerage firms.

Trial

Park has been offered another chance to testify at Thursday's hearing. **South Korean Constitutional Court** judges will decide within 180 days to support impeachment or restore Park Geun-hye as **president**.