

# Yoon arrest welcomed in Australia

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/pm/yon-arrest-welcomed-in-australia/104822488>

**Samantha Donovan:** Australians with connections to South Korea have been watching the political drama closely. One of them is Professor Gil-Soo Han from Monash University. He told me he's relieved President Yoon Suk Yeol has been arrested.

**Gil-Soo Han:** Many South Koreans could not sleep and also they had a lot of anxieties and I think this is an indication that the South Korean legal system and the governance is actually working.

**Samantha Donovan:** What do you think is going to happen now in terms of the legal proceedings?

**Gil-Soo Han:** I think Yoon's legal team will continue to influence the media information and also some minorities who may not have been necessarily informed and those supporters for Yoon. That's what he has been doing and that's what he has already started doing and I think it's really not healthy sometimes expecting Donald Trump will come and hand out his support. Donald Trump is interested in doing a business with the right person, not with the person charged with alleged criminal activities.

**Samantha Donovan:** Do you think an election will need to be called now in South Korea?

**Gil-Soo Han:** Well, there will need to follow through the process. So there will be five hearings at the Constitutional Court dealing with the question of whether Yoon is fit to continue his role as president or should be permanently removed. So until that process is done, possibly sometime in February or early March or sometime, so it has to be done well before the end of May, I understand. So once that decision is made by the Constitutional Court, then an election will be called and then the court case dealing with his possible criminal charges will continue even after the Constitutional Court's decision.

**Samantha Donovan:** Do you think this episode will have long-term repercussions for South Korea or does that all depend on the outcome of these legal proceedings?

**Gil-Soo Han:** I think unfortunately some damage has already been done. But I think the way South Korean politicians and also especially people of South Korea, in terms of the way they have been resilient dealing with the Asian economic crisis and also some of the political turmoil in the past, the way they have overcome those difficulties have been remarkable. But I think it will take some time for South Korea to rebuild and regain the trust from outside Korea.

**Samantha Donovan:** Professor Gil-Soo Han from Monash University.