

Disgraced former South Korean president gets 24 years in prison on corruption charges

Notes & Cues:	<p><b>Article:</b></p> <p>Former South Korean president Park Geun-hye was Friday sentenced to 24 years in prison — effectively for the rest of the 66-year-old’s life — after being found guilty of charges including bribery, coercion and abuse of power.</p> <p>The heavy sentence completed the sensational fall from grace for a political princess who became South Korea’s first female leader, but then went on to become its first president to be impeached when she was ejected from office a year ago.</p> <p>In a first for South Korea, the sentencing was broadcast live on television. But Park, who continues to strongly deny any wrongdoing, has refused to attend Friday’s sentencing.</p> <p>”We must hold her accountable to stop such an unfortunate case from dragging the country into turmoil again, ” said Kim Se-yoon, the lead judge in the case.</p> <p>For many South Koreans, the case starkly illustrated widespread feelings that the system is stacked against them and that only the rich and well-connected can get ahead.</p> <p>After the sentencing, South Korea’s presidential Blue House issued a poetic statement, ”Each person would have had different feelings about former President Park. However, a bleak and dry wind blew across all of us today. This is a heartbreaking incident for one person’s life as well as for the country as a whole.”</p>
Summary:	