

South Korea's steps towards impeachment

South Korean lawmakers are pushing ahead with plans to impeach President Park Geun-hye, rejecting her offer to resign amid a growing corruption scandal involving longtime confidante Choi Soon-sil

1 IMPEACHMENT MOTION At least one-third of members in 300-seat **National Assembly** – South Korea's parliament – propose motion, backed by simple majority of lawmakers

2 IMPEACHMENT BILL Needs support of at least 200 members of parliament to pass. Opposition and independent lawmakers have 172 seats, so they would need 28 members of Park's conservative **Saenuri Party** to join them – several have said they will

3 SUSPENSION If bill passes, Park is immediately suspended as president but not removed. Her duties are temporarily transferred to Prime Minister **Hwang Kyo-ahn**

4 REVIEW **Constitutional Court** required to make ruling on parliament's decision within 180 days. If at least six of nine judges back impeachment, Park is officially removed from office and country has 60 days to elect successor. If judges overturn motion, Park immediately returns to power

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PRESIDENT PARK

State prosecutors say Park conspired with **Choi Soon-sil** (right) to extort tens of millions of dollars from South Korean companies, and helped Choi access confidential government documents

Choi is daughter of late religious cult leader **Choi Tae-min**, who was Park's mentor. She became friends with Park after president's father, **Park Chung-hee**, was assassinated in 1979

