



**ONE-YEAR LAYOVER.** Cho Hyun-ah, center, who was head of cabin service at Korean Air and the oldest child of Korean Air chairman Cho Yang-ho, speaks to the media in this December 12, 2014 file photo. The inflight tantrum dubbed "nut rage" has culminated in a one-year prison sentence for Korean Air heiress Cho. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man, File)

## Court sentences Korean Air nut rage exec to one year in prison

By Youkyung Lee  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The inflight tantrum dubbed "nut rage" has culminated in a one-year prison sentence for Korean Air heiress Cho Hyun-ah, a humiliating rebuke that only partially quelled public outrage at the excesses of South Korea's business elite.

Cho, the daughter of Korean Air's chairman, achieved worldwide notoriety after she ordered the chief flight attendant off a December 5 flight, forcing it to return to the gate at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

Head of cabin service for the company at the time of the incident, Cho was angered she had been offered macadamia nuts in a bag instead of on a dish. A heated and physical confrontation with members of the crew in first class ensued.

A Seoul court said Cho, 40, was guilty of forcing a flight to change its route, obstructing the flight's captain in the performance of his duties, forcing a crew member off a plane, and assaulting a crew member. It found her not guilty of interfering with a transport ministry investigation into the incident. Cho pleaded not guilty and prosecutors had called for three years in prison.

Cho, in custody since December 30, wiped away tears with a tissue as a letter expressing her remorse was read to the court by head judge Oh Seong-woo.

It included details about how Cho, one of the richest women in South Korea who regularly flew first class, was adjusting to the basic conditions in prison and reflecting on her life. "I know my faults and I'm very sorry," Cho said in her letter.

Cho's high-and-mighty behavior, soon called nut rage, caused an uproar in South Korea. The incident was a lightning rod for anger in a country where the economy is dominated by family-run conglomerates known as *chaebol* that often act above the law. The sentencing did not entirely douse that outrage: One year in prison is a "bit short," said Jo Young-sang, 24.

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### Photographer says passport taken due to Syria trip

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Middle East is imperative, and pledged "all possible non-military support to moderate Islamic nations."

Sugimoto said the passport confiscation was an abuse of government power and that he feared similar steps might be taken against other journalists.

"Losing my passport means a loss of my work as a freelance photographer. I feel my entire life is being denied," he said, adding that it would set a "bad precedent" for interference in the work of journalists.

In Japan, where conformity often takes precedence over individuality and individuals are expected to act in line with national interests, Sugimoto's case created little public outcry.

# China seizes toilet paper bearing image of Hong Kong leader

By Didi Tang  
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Authorities in southern China have seized about 8,000 rolls of toilet paper and another 20,000 packages of tissues containing unflattering images of Hong Kong's pro-Beijing chief executive, according to an official of the small political party that placed the order.

The items were to be sold at a market in Hong Kong during upcoming Lunar New Year celebrations, said Lo Kin-hei, a vice chairman of the Hong Kong Democratic Party.

The seizure came after Hong Kong was shaken by a massive pro-democracy movement in which demonstrators demanded greater electoral freedom than Beijing is willing to grant. During the demonstrations, protesters expressed anger at chief executive Leung Chun-ying, calling him a puppet of Beijing and asking him to step down.

No reason was given for the seizure of the \$12,900 worth of goods in the city of Shenzhen, outside of Hong Kong, Lo said.

"I guess (the Chinese authorities) don't like people mocking government officials, especially high-ranking government officials, after the movement. They have become more cautious about criticisms about them," he said.

The party's 4,000 rolls of toilet paper with Leung's image sold out at last year's seasonal market, and it decided to get more this year from a factory in Shenzhen, Lo said.

The images of Leung on the novelty products are cartoonish and unflattering. One has him bearing two fangs, and another has the word "lying" on his forehead. The sickle-and-hammer symbol of the Communist Party of China also appears on some products.

The order was placed under the name of a friend to obscure the party as the true buyer, and all communications were done through the friend instead of the party, Lo said.

## Kikkoman bottle symbolizes soy sauce in much of world

TOKYO (AP) — It's a simple glass bottle with a red top that has become a symbol of soy sauce in Japan and much of the world.

More than half a century after its creation, the Kikkoman soy sauce bottle remains a familiar and comforting shape on restaurant and dining room tables in many countries.

Sumi Murayama, 71, has purchased soy sauce in the bottles since she opened a Japanese restaurant in Tokyo 40 years ago.

"The best part of the bottle is its smart red cap, which doesn't drip," she said. "Its simplicity perfectly fits



AP Photo/Shizuo Kamabayashi

a downtown restaurant like this."

The bottle's designer, Kenji Ekuan, died February 8 of a heart condition at age 85. The monk-turned-indus-



**WIPING AWAY CRITICISM.** Hong Kong Democratic Party vice chairman Lo Kin-hei poses with rolls of toilet paper and packages of tissue paper printed with unflattering images of Hong Kong's pro-Beijing chief executive Leung Chun-ying, at his office in Hong Kong. Lo said Chinese authorities seized about 8,000 rolls of toilet paper and another 20,000 packages of tissues just ahead of Lunar New Year celebrations at which the rolls would have been sold. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

Citing the need to protect the manufacturer, Lo declined to reveal the factory's name and said he had no information on the whereabouts of the factory owner. "We are worried about what has happened to him," Lo said.

Recent calls to Shenzhen police rang unanswered, and there was no official report about any seizure of toilet paper.

Lo said he found the act worrisome because it indicates further tightening by Chinese authorities on freedom of speech, which is guaranteed in Hong Kong's constitution.

"Many productions in Hong Kong rely on the mainland. This kind of tightening means in the future it will be more difficult to make products in the mainland," Lo said. "It's [alarming] for Hong Kong people that they keep suppressing freedom in Hong Kong. We will become the mainland if this kind of mocking will be not allowed in Hong Kong."

trial designer had said he wanted to design a small soy sauce bottle that could be used conveniently for both cooking and serving because of childhood memories of his mother pouring sauce from a heavy half-gallon bottle into a tabletop dispenser. Ekuan also designed a Yamaha motorcycle, high-speed trains, audio equipment, and company logos.

Kikkoman, the world's largest soy sauce brewer, said the bottle helped bring its brand out of the kitchen into restaurants and dining rooms. It says it has sold 400 million bottles around the world since its creation in 1961.

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