

# ACLU sues Trump administration over transgender soldiers ban

BLOOMBERG New York

US PRESIDENT DONALD Trump has been sued again over his plan to ban transgender Americans from serving in the military, setting the stage for another bruising court battle over a directive from the White House.



Thousands of transgender Americans now serve in the armed forces

also hinted at fights over abortion and doctor-assisted suicide.

The ACLU is the same national organisation that helped stall Trump's proposed ban against travellers from several Muslim countries, a narrowed version of which took effect in June pending a US Supreme Court hearing in October.

The Department of Defence concluded in 2016 that there was no basis for the military to exclude transgender men and women from serving openly, subject to the same fitness requirements as other Americans, the ACLU said.

New transgender recruits were due to be permitted to enlist on July 1, it said.

Thousands of transgender Americans now serve in the armed forces, putting themselves in harm's way to protect the rights and freedoms in the US, the ACLU said in the complaint. "Some perform critical roles in intelligence analysis, disaster relief, medical care, and pre-deployment training at bases in the United States," the organisation said. "Others have deployed to combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The plaintiffs in the suit in-

clude petty officer Brock Stone, 34, who has served in the US Navy for 11 years, including a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan, and staff sergeant Kate Cole, 27, who has served in the US Army for almost 10 years, including a year in Afghanistan where she served as a team leader and designated marksman.

Five members of the armed forces earlier this month sued Trump and his top military brass seeking to halt the reversal of the transgender policy put in place by the Obama administration.

The new suit by the ACLU adds significant resources to the fight as the organisation has seen its membership swell since Trump's election. The service members in the earlier case, who are suing anonymously, say they disclosed their gender orientation relying on the existing policy that permits them to serve openly.

Treatment of transgender people has become a flash point as social conservatives lead fights in some states to require students and sometimes adults to use schools and public restrooms corresponding to their gender at birth.

## ● KOREAN CORRUPTION

# Samsung's size could make it tough to keep its leader in jail

### The group dominates South Korean business and social life in a way that can be difficult for outsiders to comprehend

THE NEW YORK TIMES Seoul

THIS IS A partial list of the businesses of Samsung, the South Korean business empire: smartphones, microchips, insurance, gas ovens, hospitals, dishwashers, cargo ships, stocks, microwave ovens, apartment buildings, vacuum cleaners, credit cards, pharmaceuticals, air-conditioners and bidets.

Samsung is South Korea's No. 1 brand and, when all its products are added together, its single biggest export. It dominates South Korean business and social life in a way that can be difficult for outsiders to comprehend. That dominance may make it difficult to keep its top executive in prison.

A South Korean court on Friday shocked the country by sentencing Lee Jae-yong, the third-generation de facto leader of one of the world's largest business empires, to five years in prison after his conviction of bribery, embezzlement and other charges. Lee's attorneys have said they will appeal, and experts predict a fierce legal battle.

Lee is not the first big business figure in South Korea to be convicted, but if he stays in prison it would represent something of a milestone. His father, Samsung's longtime chief, was twice convicted of crimes and twice pardoned by a South Korean president. Other top business South Korean leaders have avoided conviction, negotiated light sentences or been allowed to run their corporate empires from prison.

South Korea's government is now run by a president, Moon Jae-in, and a political party that have criticized the excesses of the country's biggest companies. That has many in South Korea

predicting that Lee, if his conviction is upheld, will serve out his prison term.

But to many South Koreans, Samsung and its many corporate offshoots symbolise the country's rise from war and poverty to become one of the original Asian economic success stories. Should Samsung stumble while Lee is in prison, public pressure could mount to free him.

"Samsung is the No. 1 brand of Korea, one we're proud of," said Cho Wung-ki, a 78-year-old retired businessman, whose son works at a Samsung company that provides engineering services, runs resorts and owns a fashion line.

"That's why I don't believe putting Lee Jae-yong in jail actually helps the country at all." Samsung is among a group of family-run companies called chaebol, "rich clans" in Korean. The 10 largest chaebols generate revenue accounting for over 80% of South Korea's gross domestic product.

They are among the companies that South Korea's pre-democratic military rulers partnered with to build a global exporting powerhouse after the Korean War - a partnership that South Korean school textbooks credit with helping the country's rise.

Those partnerships also bred corruption. Six leaders of those 10 giants have been convicted of white-collar crimes, yet many were pardoned or their sentences were commuted. "It's high time to think hard about whether the chaebol system is the right one for Korea," said Yoo Kyung Park, director at APG Asset Management, the investment manager of the Dutch pension fund that holds stakes in Samsung companies.

She added, "In the 21st century,



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tury, you can't have one person calling the shots. That is too dangerous."

The sentence could put greater pressure on front-line Samsung executives like Kwon Oh-hyun, head of the company's huge and profitable semiconductor business. Samsung portrays Lee, the vice chairman of Samsung Electronics and its acting leader since his father slipped into a coma three years ago, as the company's strategic visionary, though experts say the businesses are generally run by technocrats.

But even behind bars, Lee could still hold effective control over the Samsung empire. Other South Korean companies have been run by powerful family members behind bars, and Lee will most likely have significant access to top Samsung executives while in prison.

"If they need to pursue M&As and make crucial investments, they will do it," said Lee Seung-woo, a senior analyst at Eugene Investment & Securities in Seoul, referring to mergers and acquisitions. "They would have a road map and fundamentally the course would not be altered."

Part of that power comes from the sheer breadth of the Samsung business. Beyond its famous smartphone and television brands, it makes heavy equipment like cargo ships and even manages some of the country's most respected hospitals.

Samsung sponsors some of South Korea's highest-achieving athletes, and many children of the elite seek employment there.

Samsung was also among the first major businesses to offer name-brand apartments. Samsung built scores of apartment complexes around the country under brand names that included Raemian, which means "may the future be beautiful and comfortable."

The complexes, which became popular in a country where American-style single-family houses are unusual, offered a brand and reputation that suggested a strong resale value.

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NOTICE TO THE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS Sub.: Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to the Investor Education and Protection Fund. Details regarding the transfer process.

## LEGACY ISSUES

# First lady appears to borrow from Michelle Obama's playbook



Melania Trump



Michelle Obama

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Washington, August 28

BARE ARMS AND a belted waist, a White House vegetable garden and parents in the residence: Melania Trump is borrowing pages from Michelle Obama's playbook.

From public policy to high fashion to family ties, Mrs Trump is keeping alive parts of the former first lady's legacy even as President Donald Trump's administration alters other aspects.

Mrs Obama made it acceptable for first ladies to shun the confining, jewel-toned suits that her predecessors wore like uniforms, and her successor is embracing that same free-wheeling fashion sense.

During President Trump's first overseas trip late in May, the current first lady stepped off of Air Force One in Saudi Arabia wearing a long-sleeved, black jumpsuit accented with a wide, gold belt.

A former model, Mrs Trump has worn a number of sleeveless and belted outfits since, almost always paired with towering heels.

She has kept Mrs Obama's vegetable garden, and shown interest in women's empowerment, military families and chil-

dren's issues. Mrs Obama championed all as first lady. But where Mrs Obama frequently hosted public events in the garden to encourage healthy eating, Mrs Trump has yet to hold an activity there.

Next month, Mrs Trump will lead the US delegation to the Invictus Games, an Olympics-style competition for wounded military personnel. The Obama White House helped promote the games after Britain's Prince Harry created them in 2014.

On the family front, the first lady's parents Viktor and Amalija Knavs spent time at the White House after their daughter officially moved in in June. They spent Father's Day weekend with the Trumps at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland.

The Knavs live in New York and aren't expected to join their daughter in the White House. Mrs Obama's mother, Marian Robinson, lived in the White House during the eight years that Barack Obama was president to help care for her grandchildren.

"She really did admire Michelle Obama very much," Myra Gutin, a Rider University professor and author of 'The President's Partner: The First Lady in the Twentieth Century', said of Mrs Trump.