

Bo Hi Pak's Former Bookkeeper Convicted of Tax Crimes

December 17, 2012

Sophia Kim, also known as Sookyeong Kim Sebold, a former resident of McLean, was convicted of embezzling more than \$800,000 from the Korean Cultural and Freedom Foundation (KCFF) and failing to report the income on her tax returns.

Neil H. MacBride, United States attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Tax Division Kathryn Keneally; Rick A. Raven, special agent in charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation's Washington, D.C., Field Office, made the announcement.

Sebold was convicted of one count of filing a false 2005 tax return, which carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison, and one count of tax evasion for the year 2005, which carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for March 1, 2013, before United States District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema.

Evidence at trial established that Sebold worked for the KCFF, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting cultural exchange through the sponsorship of the Universal Ballet Company (UBC) and other performing art events. UBC was founded by the Unification Church International (UCI) and Reverend Sun Myung Moon, and KCFF was funded primarily by UCI.

The evidence at trial proved that in 2005, Sebold embezzled more than \$400,000 from KCFF's bank accounts for her own benefit and used these funds for day trading, gambling and other personal expenses. She did not report these funds on her 2005 individual income tax return, resulting in her failure to pay more than \$130,000 in taxes. In addition, the evidence at trial established that Sebold had also embezzled funds from KCFF in 2002, 2003, and 2004, for a total of more than \$800,000 in unreported income.