

VIDEO: Jerry Brown calls Leland Yee case 'tragedy' for democratic process

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SAUSALITO — Gov. **Jerry Brown** on Monday called the **Leland Yee** corruption case a "tragedy" for the state Senate and "our democratic process," and he reiterated his call for Yee and two other senators accused of crimes to resign.

The Democratic governor, speaking to reporters at an environmental conference here, said "there's nothing that seems normal or understandable" about the case.

Yee was charged in federal court last week with corruption and conspiring to illegally import weapons.

"I just think that this is a tragedy for the Senate, for politics in general, for our democratic process, and the quicker we can move forward and have these cases resolved, the better it will be for everybody."

Brown said he had not read [the extensive FBI affidavit](#) outlining the charges against Yee, D-San Francisco.

Brown's remarks came after California lawmakers on Friday suspended three state senators accused in separate cases of crimes including corruption, perjury and conspiracy to traffic weapons. Brown issued a prepared statement Friday calling for the resignation of the Yee and two others senators, **Ron Calderon** of Montebello and **Rod Wright** of Baldwin Hills.

Calderon was indicted last month on 24 counts of corruption for allegedly taking bribes, while Wright was found guilty of eight felonies in January for lying about living in the district he ran for in 2008.

Calderon has pleaded not guilty. Yee has not yet entered a plea.

PHOTO: Gov. Jerry Brown talks to members of the press after speaking at a rally for crime victims in Sacramento on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. The Sacramento Bee/Hector Amezcua

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