

Fujimori will run in Japanese parliamentary race

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LIMA --

(AP) -- Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has accepted an offer to run in Japan's parliamentary elections next month, a member of his political party in Peru confirmed Wednesday.

Congressman Carlos Raffo of Fujimori's Alliance for the Future party said the former president made his decision after "deep analysis and reflection."

Fujimori, who is under house arrest in Chile, also has Japanese citizenship. The 68-year-old former leader is currently awaiting a Chilean judge's extradition ruling.

He is wanted in Peru on charges including bribery, misuse of government funds and sanctioning death squad killings during his decade-long rule that ended in 2000.

"It's a surprise," Raffo told journalists at Lima's congressional building on Tuesday. "It's an honor that a world power like Japan extended an invitation to our leader Alberto Fujimori."

Hours earlier, the Japanese broadcaster NTV reported that Fujimori had accepted a small party's nomination to run for Japan's parliament.

In November 2005, Fujimori flew to Chile from Japan -- where he fled after his regime crumbled in a massive corruption scandal in late 2000 -- as part of a bid to launch a political comeback in neighboring Peru.