

Peru's Ex-President Gets 6 Years for Illicit Search

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CARACAS, Venezuela — The Supreme Court of [Peru](#) sentenced former President [Alberto K. Fujimori](#) on Tuesday to six years in prison for ordering an illegal search as his government was collapsing in 2000, the first prison sentence for Mr. Fujimori as he stands trial on various other charges, including murder and forced disappearance.

Alberto K. Fujimori, in court for sentencing Tuesday in Lima, Peru, also is charged with murder and forced disappearance.

The conviction stunned Peru, which Mr. Fujimori ruled from 1990 until 2000, when he fled into exile in Japan amid corruption scandals. Sitting quietly in a courtroom in Lima, Peru's capital, Mr. Fujimori, 69, listened to the sentencing by Supreme Court Judge Pedro Guillermo Urbina, before saying he would appeal.

Mr. Fujimori had acknowledged ordering in 2000 the search without court order of the apartment of the wife of [Vladimiro Montesinos](#), his former intelligence chief. Mr. Fujimori's lawyers sought a sentence of four years, because such relatively short terms are often suspended in Peru, but Judge Urbina turned down their request. He also fined Mr. Fujimori \$135,000.

The illegal search, conducted as Mr. Fujimori's government was engulfed in scandal, was among the relatively minor charges against him, including bribery and wiretapping.

A separate trial on human rights charges began this week in which he is accused of murder and forced disappearance. He could be sentenced to 30 years if found guilty of those crimes.

The human rights trial is expected to shed light on the Colina Group, a secretive death squad that operated in Peru in the early years of Mr. Fujimori's presidency. The trial is expected to last well into next year.

As proceedings in that trial began Monday in Lima, Mr. Fujimori, 69, exploded in defiance before three Supreme Court judges.

"I received a country almost in collapse, exhausted by hyperinflation, international financial isolation and widespread terrorism," he shouted.

"My government rescued the human rights of 25 million Peruvians with no exceptions," he said. "If any detestable acts were committed, I condemn them, but they were not done on my orders. I reject the charges totally."

Doctors halted the trial temporarily when they determined that he had what they called a "crisis of hypertension."

The recent extradition of Mr. Fujimori from Chile, where he had lived since leaving Japan in 2005, has forced many Peruvians to reflect on the methods his government used to vanquish two leftist insurgencies, [Shining Path](#) and the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

“Humble people feel this is unjust,” said Carmen Lozano, a former lawmaker who supports Mr. Fujimori, referring to the sentencing. A large part of the population still supports Mr. Fujimori, crediting him with rescuing Peru from the brink of economic and political collapse.