



[Carlos Ghosn Flees from Japan to Lebanon](#)

Former Nissan CEO and auto titan Carlos Ghosn has fled to Lebanon to escape what he called a “rigged” justice system in Japan. Ghosn had been awaiting trial in Japan on charges of financial wrongdoing, including underreporting his income. Under the terms of his bail, he had been confined to his home in Tokyo under strict surveillance with little to no communication with his family and limited access to the use of the internet. Ghosn spent the holidays with his lawyers arguing with prosecutors over trial details after a Japanese court denied his request to spend a day with his wife. The case could be tried in stages, potentially making it drag on for years, leading Ghosn to assume that the Japanese intended to force him to confess or to hold him indefinitely.

Reuters and the Financial Times reported that Ghosn was smuggled out of Tokyo earlier this week by a private security company. Flight tracker Flightradar24 showed a private jet flying from Osaka, Japan, to Istanbul and then another continuing to Lebanon at the time Ghosn is said to have arrived in Beirut. In a brief statement on Thursday, Ghosn denied reports of his family’s involvement and did not go into detail on his escape.

Lebanon had received a “red notice” from Interpol on Thursday, confirming Ghosn is wanted by police. The notice has yet to be referred to the Lebanese judiciary, a Lebanese judicial source told Reuters. Lebanon has no extradition agreement with Japan. In past cases where Lebanon has received “red notices” for Lebanese citizens, the suspects were not detained but their passports had been confiscated and bail had been set, the judicial source said.

Turkish police have detained four pilots of a private airline, a company manager, and two ground staff, according to a statement from the Governor’s Office in Istanbul.

Ghosn is said to have been greeted by Lebanese President Michel Aoun on Monday after flying into Beirut. The meeting between Aoun and Ghosn has not been made public and a media adviser to the President’s Office denied the meeting ever happened. Ghosn could not be reached for comment on the meeting and has been silent other than the written statement issued shortly after his arrival saying he had “escaped injustice and political persecution.”

Ghosn has repeatedly denied the charges against him. In his statement, he said he would “no longer be held hostage by a rigged Japanese justice system where guilt is presumed, discrimination is rampant, and basic human rights are denied.” Preparations are being made for a news conference in Beirut next week. Ghosn and his attorneys are expected to raise the idea of facing a trial in Lebanon instead of Japan.