

Comment by Deputy Chief of Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office on

Defendant Carlos Ghosn Bichara's Press Conference

January 9, 2020

Defendant Carlos Ghosn fled from Japan by acting in a way that could constitute a crime in itself. His statements during his press conference today failed to justify his acts. Defendant Ghosn has only himself to blame for being arrested and detained for approximately 130 days and for the need to impose conditions on his release on bail that kept him from contacting his wife.

Defendant Ghosn was deemed a high flight-risk, which is obvious from the fact that he actually fled and illegally departed from the country.

His wife was one of the persons involved in the scheme to wire the funds that the defendant obtained from Nissan by breach of his legal duty. Defendant Ghosn reached out through his wife to other people concerned and thereby colluded and tampered with evidence.

Defendant Ghosn's allegations, which one-sidedly criticize the Japanese criminal justice system while completely ignoring his own conduct, wrongfully disparage the Japanese system and are totally unacceptable.

The Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office properly obtained the lead and,

in accordance with Japanese law, legally developed our investigation regarding Defendant Ghosn's criminal acts and initiated prosecution.

Through the investigation, the prosecutors collected sufficient evidence to determine that there was a high probability of obtaining conviction and, therefore, initiated prosecution.

It is unlikely that sufficient evidence could be gathered if the crime did not occur. Defendant Ghosn's allegation that the prosecution was conspired by Nissan and Public Prosecutors Office is categorically false and completely contrary to fact.

Our office has developed our factual and legal arguments and disclosed the supporting evidence to Ghosn's defense counsel in order to guarantee a fair and public trial.

However, by fleeing from Japan defendant Ghosn flagrantly disregarded Japanese law to avoid the consequences of the crimes he committed.

Our office is determined to coordinate with relevant authorities and to take whatever measures we have in our power to bring defendant Ghosn to justice in Japan.