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HEADLINE: Montesinos confidant to be extradited to Peru "as soon as possible"

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BODY:

A confidant of former Peruvian spy chief Vladimiro Montesinos will be extradited to Peru, at his own request, "as soon as possible," a local judge ruled Friday.

Victor Alberto Venero Garrido, arrested here January 26, is accused of having a hand in money laundering and other schemes in Peru. **Lawyers** for 47-year-old Venero, considered Peru's second most wanted man after Montesinos, asked a federal judge here to send their client back to Peru so that he may be treated for cancer and face the charges against him in his homeland.

"I want to face justice. I have faith in my country's justice," Venero told the press.

Federal Judge John O'Sullivan ruled Friday that Venero should be extradited to Peru as quickly as possible.

He will be sent to Peru "quite possibly next week," one of his **lawyers, Walter Reynoso**, told AFP.

In a statement read by his **lawyers** after the hearing, Venero insisted that he had never given money to Peruvian President Valentin Paniagua or congressional leader Carlos Ferrero, as Peruvian officials have accused him of doing.

Peruvian officials charge that Venero is one of Montesinos's confidants and an important member of the former spy chief's underground organization. He stands accused of arms trafficking, laundering drug money and bribing government officials.

Montesinos fled Peru in October, after he was videotaped bribing a lawmaker. He has also been linked to an arms-for-drugs deal with Colombian rebels and remains a fugitive.

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Terms: **walter w/3 reynoso and attorney or lawyer or counsel** ([Edit Search](#))

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