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THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - One of the most popular politicians in the Netherlands said Friday his country's democracy is under threat and called for rejecting immigration from non-western nations in the wake of the killing of a Dutch filmmaker, allegedly by a Muslim radical.

"We are a Dutch democratic society. We have our own norms and values," Geert Wilders told The Associated Press in an interview Friday. "If you chose radical Islam, you can leave, and if you don't leave voluntarily, then we will send you away. This is the only message possible."

In his first interview to the foreign media since the slaying of filmmaker Theo van Gogh on Nov. 2, Wilders said his own life has been repeatedly threatened and he has begun living under state protection, and had to stay away from his own home.

Wilders split with the free-market coalition partner Liberal party two months ago because it backed the candidacy of Turkey - a predominantly Muslim country - to the European Union.

He formed his own conservative party, the Wilders Group, which has one seat in the 150-member parliament. But a recent poll suggested his anti-immigrant message was reverberating through the Dutch electorate, and he would win 24 seats if elections were held today - up from 19 seats before van Gogh's murder.