

WikiLeaks vows to target banks after 'attacks'

AFP, New York

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Friday said his organization had come under attack from banks, as he vowed to release damaging leaks about them.

"We have been attacked, primarily not by government... although things are heating up now, but by banks, banks from Dubai, banks from Switzerland, banks from the US, banks from the UK, so yes of course we are continuing to release material about banks," he told CNBC television.

In an interview published last month by Forbes magazine, Assange claimed a fresh "megaleak" would target a major US bank "early next year."

Assange said the bank leak would "give a true and representative insight into how banks behave at the executive level in a way that will stimulate investigations and reforms, I presume."

The controversial Australian said that he was ready to unleash tens of thousands of documents that could "take down a bank or two."

The main target is thought to be Bank of America, based on comments last year from Assange.

After releasing thousands of confidential diplomatic cables Assange has been arrested for sexual assault and seen at least one bank account in Switzerland frozen.



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange holds a copy of Britain's Guardian newspaper as he addresses media in the grounds of Ellingham Hall in Norfolk, eastern England, on Friday.

WikiLeaks founder fears US charges

AFP, Bungay

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said it was "increasingly likely" the US would try to extradite him on charges related to leaked cables as he savoured his first day on bail.

Speaking Friday outside Ellingham Hall, a friend's mansion in eastern England, where he must live while on bail, Assange said, he was concerned about potential moves from US authorities.

"The big risk, the risk we have always been concerned about, is towards extradition to the United States. And that seems to be increasingly serious and increasingly likely," the Australian told reporters.

The 39-year-old founder of the whistleblowing website is fighting extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning over allegations that he sexually assaulted two women, which he denies.

But Assange said his lawyers believed a secret

US grand jury investigation had been started into his role in WikiLeaks' release of thousands of leaked US diplomatic cables -- a probe he condemned as "illegal".

Looking relaxed, he said the mansion was a "big improvement" on the London jail where he was held in solitary confinement for nine days before his release on bail Thursday.

Media reports suggest that US prosecutors are trying to build a case against Assange on the grounds that he encouraged a US soldier, Bradley Manning, to steal US cables from a government computer and pass them to WikiLeaks.

Assange said: "I would say that there is a very aggressive investigation, that a lot of face has been lost by some people, and some people have careers to make by pursuing famous cases."

He said WikiLeaks had pledged 50,000 dollars (38,000 euros) towards Manning's legal fund.

But he told ABC television in the US that "I had never heard of the name Bradley Manning before it was published in the press."

Sudan leader diverted funds to Britain

AFP, London

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir siphoned off nine billion dollars (6.79 billion euros) of oil money into British bank accounts, according to US diplomatic cables revealed by WikiLeaks Saturday.

The document quotes the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court as saying that US officials should go public with the allegations about Bashir in order to turn Sudanese public opinion against him.

It said the prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, told US officials that the figure allegedly put away by Bashir was possibly nine billion and "would change Sudanese public opinion from him being a 'crusader' to that of a thief."

Lanka involved in human rights abuses

AFP, New Delhi

Sri Lanka's government was complicit in the activities of paramilitary groups engaged in political killings, kidnappings, extortion and prostitution, a leaked US diplomatic cable suggested Friday.

The 2007 cable, written by the then US ambassador to Sri Lanka, Robert Blake, cited evidence provided by "trusted embassy contacts" that top officials allowed the groups to operate with impunity, and even encouraged them.

LATEST LEAKS

'My parents did not want me to marry Rajiv'

IANS, New Delhi/london



Congress president Sonia Gandhi candidly admitted to the California governor's wife that her parents were against her marriage with Rajiv Gandhi, US embassy cables provided by WikiLeaks reveal.

Sonia also told Maria Shriver, wife of Arnold Schwarzenegger, in August 2006 that she would "write a book someday with the whole story" as to why she did not take up the job of prime minister in 2004.

The cable on Sonia-Shriver meeting, dated August 4, 2006 and marked "confidential", is titled "A garrulous Sonia Gandhi opens up to Maria Shriver", indicating how freely the Indian leader chatted away.

Shriver met Sonia as part of her official visit to India. A reading of the cable indicates the conversation might have been taped by accompanying US embassy officials.

The cable says that Sonia, who is "usually withdrawn and reserved in public ... revealed a rare glimpse of herself" as she spoke about herself, women's issues and compulsions of political life.

"Her comments and demeanor put the lie to cocktail party suggestions that she courts Manmohan Singh's job," the cable said.

The cable says: "Gandhi [Sonia] revealed that her own parents objected to her marriage to Rajiv Gandhi and she 'resented their position' and went ahead and married him anyway."

Rajiv Gandhi became prime minister in 1984 and was assassinated in 1991.

The cable said Sonia was reluctant to provide details regarding her decision to turn down the prime minister's post after the 2004 victory of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA).

"I am often asked about this, but tell people that I will write a book someday with the whole story," she told Shriver.

Rahul warned US of Hindu extremist threat

AFP, New Delhi

Rahul Gandhi, widely seen as an Indian prime minister-in-waiting, believes Hindu extremists may be a greater threat to his country than Islamist militants, a leaked US diplomatic cable said Friday.

Gandhi, scion of India's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, told US Ambassador Timothy Roemer last year that there was "some support" among Indian Muslims for militant groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba -- blamed for the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

US fears theft of bioweapons from India labs

AP, New Delhi

US officials fear lax security at Indian laboratories could make the facilities targets for terrorists seeking biological weapons to launch attacks across the globe, according to comments in a leaked US diplomatic cable made public Friday.

The cable was part of a trove of documents sent from the US Embassy in New Delhi that was obtained by the website WikiLeaks and published Friday by the British newspaper The Guardian.

The cables also deal with accusations of Indian torture in Kashmir, India's complaints about Pakistan's handling of the Mumbai terror attacks, and the concerns of Rahul Gandhi -- seen as India's prime-minister-in-waiting -- that Hindu extremists posed a greater danger to India than Islamist militants.

VACANCY NOTICE



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a post of Programme Analyst (1 position, SB-4 level) in Service Contract modality.

The duration of the service contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than **Tuesday, 28 December, 2010**.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Social Development Foundation

Flood Restoration and Recovery Assistance Program
House # 4, Road 21, Sector # 4, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR SERVICES (FIRM)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance
2	Agency	Non-Profit Institution
3	Name of Procuring Entity	Social Development Foundation (SDF)
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm (Performance- Based)
7	EOI Ref. No.	PD/Flood/SDF/PS- 12 (1) 2010/
8	Date (dd/mn/yyyy)	14/12/2010
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Sub-Method	Consultant's Qualifications (CQ)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of funds	Development Budget (Grant)
11	Development Partner (if applicable)	IDA
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/Program Code (if applicable)	Not used at present
13	Project/Program Name (if applicable)	Flood Restoration and Recovery Assistance Program
14	EOI Closing Date and time	05/01/2011 (2:30 PM)
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
15	Brief Description of the Assignment & Scope of Services:	i)The major objective of the assignment is to design, drawing and estimation of office building of Gram Samiti, Multipurpose community resource center (Flood or Cyclone shelter) and flood shelters cum training center at union and district level. ii)The design consultant will prepare type design; drawing and estimation of office building of Gram Samiti and Multipurpose community resource center (Flood or Cyclone shelter) and flood shelters cum training center at union and district level. iii)The design consulting firm will prepare the standard design for different categories and types of infrastructure, i.e., at least 2-3 design options should be provided for each type so that the community can take the final decision before implementation.
16	Experience, Resources & Qualifications Required	1. The consultant (firm) should have excellent Design expertise with at least 10 years experience in relevant field. 2. The designer for the assignment should have the following professional profile a) The designer should have a Graduation degree in civil engineering. The designer should have excellent Design skills and at least 8 years experience in relevant field. b) The Architect for the assignment should have the following professional profile: i) The Architect should have a master's degree in Architect. The Architect should have excellent Design skills and at least 8 years experience in relevant field.
17	Other Details	a) The Consultant Firm shall be selected in accordance with PPA/2006 and PPR/2008. b) Expression of Interests (EOI) in two sets [One original + One duplicate] shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the under signed.
18	Association with foreign firms is	Encouraged
19	Ref. No.	Location
	Indicative Start Date (Month/Year)	Indicative Completion Date (Monthly/Year)
20	S4.0 (F)	Different Flood affected Village, Union, Thana & Districts in Bangladesh
	January, 2011	April, 2011
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
21	Name of the Official Inviting EOI	MD. Golam Faruque
22	Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	Project Director
23	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	House # 04, Road # 21, Sector # 04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230.
24	Contact Details of the Official Inviting EOI	02 8959368, Ext.- 207, faruque@sdfbd.org
The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or rejects all EOI's		
(Md.Golam Faruque) Project Director, Flood Project Flood Restoration and Recovery Assistance Program Social Development Foundation (SDF)		

Social Development Foundation

House # 4, Road 21, Sector # 4, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR SERVICES (FIRM)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance
2	Agency	Non-Profit Organization
3	Name of Procuring Entity	Social Development Foundation (SDF)
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm
7	EOI Ref. No.	1. General Procurement Notice (GPN), appeared in the Development Business, issued On - line publication, Dated - May 04, 2010. 2. SDF / Procurement / S 1.1 (L-NJ) / (4757-BD) / 2010
8	Date (dd/mn/yyyy)	15/12/2010
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Sub-Method	Quality Based Selection (QBS)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of funds	Development Budget (Credit)
11	Development Partner (if applicable)	IDA
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/ Program Code (if applicable)	IDA Credit no. 4757-BD
13	Project/Program Name (if applicable)	Empowerment & Livelihood Improvement "Nuton Jibon" Project
14	EOI Closing Date and time	05/01/2011 (By 4.00 PM) Expressions of Interest must be delivered (through e-mail and/or paper copies) to the address mentioned below. The firm must mark the EOI for the assignment i.e. "EOI for Baseline Study".
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
15	Brief Description of the Assignment	The Social Development Foundation (SDF) intends to hire a firm for conducting Baseline Survey in its project areas. The survey is the first of several data collection exercises to be conducted in over 3,000 sample households in project districts, including Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Naogaon, Mymensingh, Sherpur and Barisal. The scope of work for the consultancy (Baseline Survey) will include: (a) Designing a set of questionnaires (household, village etc) and other data collection instruments to capture indicators and socio-economic variables; (b) To implement a baseline survey on sampled households and villages according to arrangements that would be discussed and agreed with SDF; (c) To enter all baseline data and hand it over to SDF with appropriate documentation and (d) To provide a baseline study report .
16	Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	1. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the assignment. The consultant firm should be experienced and reputed in the field, having considerable experience in rigorous baseline & impact studies particularly with development organizations. The firms having social development experience and research back ground will be given preference. Interested firms should submit the following information in sufficient detail including brochures, description of experience in similar assignments, summaries of firms' technical and managerial capacity, availability of appropriate skills among key staffs with short biographies, availability of resources and snapshots of relevant transactional experience etc. 2. The EOIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following: • Registration of firm (at least 7 years); • Availability of key professionals (CVs with signature & date); • Availability of resources including support services; • Experience of the firm(s) in similar task ; • Evidence of the organization's bank account; • Copies of recently completed two reports on baseline survey, especially related to rural and social development. 3. Interested firm (s) must provide focused information demonstrating that they are qualified to perform the services. Short listed firms may be asked to make a presentation of their work at the SDF office on an appointed date.
17	Other Details	a) The Consultant Firm shall be selected in accordance with - World Bank Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants (issued August 2004 and revised October 2006 and May 2010) and Public Procurement Rules 2008. b) Expression of Interests (EOI) in two sets [One original + One duplicate] shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the under signed. c) The consulting firm(s) may associate to enhance their qualifications, but should mention whether the Association is in the form of either "Joint-Venture" or "Sub-Consultancy". In the case of an association, all members of such 'association' should have real and well defined inputs to the assignment and it is preferable to limit the total number of firms including their associates to maximum of two .
18	Association with foreign firms is	Encouraged
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
19	Ref. No.	Location
	Indicative Start Date (Month/Year)	Indicative Completion Date (Monthly/Year)
20	S 1.1 (L-NJ)	Different Districts in Bangladesh
	March, 2011	August, 2011
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
21	Name of the Official Inviting EOI	Md. Nurul Islam Sardar
22	Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	Managing Director
23	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Social Development Foundation House # 04, Road # 21, Sector # 04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230.
24	Contact Details of the Official Inviting EOI	Email: md@sdfbd.org, Web site : www.sdfbd.org
The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or rejects all EOI's		
- Incomplete or partial EOIs will be rejected. - The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the EOI, or annul the EOI process at any stage without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever, and without incurring any liability to the affected applicant(s).		
Managing Director Social Development Foundation (SDF)		