
Wikileaks Reveals NSA Spying on Netanyahu, Berlusconi and Ban Ki-moon

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The documents released by the organization created by Julian Assange show that the NSA eavesdropped on a meeting between Ban and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who already knew that she had been followed by the U.S.'s intelligence services on other occasions.

Wikileaks also reported that the NSA had spied on a conversation between Netanyahu and Berlusconi, a meeting between key European Union and Japanese officials, and a private meeting between Berlusconi, Merkel and former French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

In documents obtained by WikiLeaks, Merkel and Ban talk about how to fight climate change, Netanyahu asks Berlusconi for help in dealing with the U.S. administration led by President Barack Obama, and Sarkozy alerts the former Italian prime minister about dangers of the banking system in his country.

"It will be interesting to see the UN's reaction, because if the secretary general can be targeted without consequence, then everyone from world leader to street sweeper is at risk," Assange said.

WikiLeaks rose to fame between July and October 2010 by publishing secret documents from the war in Afghanistan (2001) and the second Iraq war (2003), based on leaks from U.S. soldier Chelsea Manning, formerly known as Bradley Manning.

Assange has been taking refuge in the London's Ecuadorian Embassy since June 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning over allegations, which he denies, that he committed rape in 2010.

He claims the accusation is a ploy that would lead to his extradition to the U.S., where a criminal investigation into WikiLeaks is still open. A UN panel found this month that his stay in the embassy amounts to arbitrary detention.

