

WikiLeaks back in Sweden

Written by Johan Nylander / AFP

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WikiLeaks is back on a Swedish server. But Julian Assange is afraid of going to the Scandinavian country, according to media reports Sunday.

WikiLeaks faced a fresh threat to its survival on Saturday as the online payment service PayPal cut off the account used for donations to the whistle-blowing website. WikiLeaks is already fighting to stay on the Internet. It switched its domain to Switzerland because its original web address was shut down by a US provider, as it continues to release thousands of classified US diplomatic cables.

Now WikiLeaks has been redirected back to a server in Sweden. Denis Simonet, president of the Pirate Party of Switzerland, told the Associated Press that his group moved wikileaks.ch after the main server in France went offline, Swedish Radio said.

In August the whistleblower website placed several new servers with the Swedish Pirate Party, a group which campaigns for more freedom on the Internet. "We welcome the help provided by the Pirate Party," Assange was quoted as saying at the time. "Our organisations share many values and I am looking forward to future ways we can help each other improve the world."

The pursuit of WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange appears to have "political motivations", his lawyer told BBC television on Sunday.

"I'm really rather worried by the political motivations that appear to be behind this," Mark Stephens said during an interview.

His comments came after Swedish prosecutors issued an international arrest warrant for Assange -- the elusive boss of whistleblowing website WikiLeaks -- on sex assault allegations.

Swedish TV4 News reported Sunday Julian Assange wants to be questioned in London by the Swedish authorities. Assange's lawyer says his client is afraid he will be extradited to the United States should he go to Sweden.

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Assange's lawyer Mark Stephens told BBC television on Sunday there was a risk that Swedish authorities could hand Assange over to their counterparts in the United States.

"Certainly in my mind it's very open about that" possibility, Stephens said, adding that he may "certainly" fight the Swedish arrest warrant on that basis.

Julian Assange broke cover on Friday to say in an online chat that he had boosted security after receiving death threats.