

WikiLeaks shuts due to lack of funds, hopes to be back soon

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WikiLeaks.org announced it was suspending operations in a message on its homepage that included an appeal to the public for donations.

"To concentrate on raising the funds necessary to keep us alive into 2010, we have reluctantly suspended all other operations, but will be back soon," it said.

WikiLeaks, which relies on public contributions for much of its funding,

said it had raised "just over 130,000 dollars for this year but cannot meaningfully continue operations until costs are covered."

It said its costs are 200,000 dollars a year and 600,000 dollars a year if staff are paid.

WikiLeaks, run by Sunshine Press, describes itself as a "non-profit organization funded by human rights campaigners, investigative journalists, technologists and the general public."

The WikiLeaks' website says the organization was founded by "Chinese dissidents, mathematicians and startup company technologists, from the US, Taiwan, Europe, Australia and South Africa."

It claims to have published more than one million documents from dissident communities and anonymous sources around the world about government and corporate corruption, human rights violations and other subjects.

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