

BlackBerry maker vows privacy safeguard amid probe

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The Canadian firm reacted to news that a Pakistani commission was seeking records for a probe into an unsigned memo purported to ask for Washington's help to rein in Pakistan's military.

The highly controversial memo was allegedly an attempt by a close aide of President Asif Ali Zardari to enlist the US military's help to head off



a military coup in May in Pakistan.

It was made public in October by Pakistani-American businessman Mansoor Ijaz.

On Monday, the commission directed Pakistan government officials to obtain the BlackBerry "record of conversation" between Ijaz and a former envoy to the US accused of crafting the memo, Husain Haqqani.

Haqqani resigned over the affair and the Supreme Court has stopped him from leaving Pakistan. He has denied any involvement in the scandal.

Canada-based RIM, which makes the BlackBerry, said, "Like others in our industry, from time to time, we may receive requests from <u>legal</u> <u>authorities</u> for lawful access assistance."

The company statement added: "We are guided by appropriate legal processes and publicly disclosed lawful access principles in this regard as we balance any such requests against our priority of maintaining the privacy rights of our users."

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