CIA chief 'outraged' by personal email hack

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Director of Central Intelligence Agency John Brennan, pictured on December 11, 2014, had a private AOL email account hacked

CIA chief John Brennan said Tuesday he was "outraged" that hackers broke into his personal email account, and faulted the media for its coverage of the incident.

WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy group, began releasing documents from Brennan's private AOL account last week, days after a teenage hacker was reported to have claimed he had gained access to the account.

"I was certainly concerned about what people might try to do with that information," he told a conference on national security in Washington, criticizing the media for "giving air to what is criminal activity."

The documents released so far have included a contact list, policy recommendations on Afghanistan and Pakistan, and his family's addresses and phone numbers.

Although an embarrassment, the document dump has not exposed national security secrets, and Brennan appears to have stopped using the account in 2008 when he rejoined the government after a period in private life.

"I was certainly outraged by it," Brennan said of the hack, adding that he also was troubled by the way some of the media handled it.

"Because of some things that were put out, the implication of the reporting was that I was doing something wrong or inappropriate or in violation of my security responsibility, which was not certainly the case," he said.

He accused the media of an "ever-present thirst for trying to make something sexier and also of blowing it up more than it is."

"Giving air to what is criminal activity and propagating information I think was inappropriate," he said.

Government officials, he said, "also have family and friends, bills to pay, things to do in our daily life."

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