**Osg1 2012-08-19 ASSANGE**

**TOF**

**Remember Julian Assange? Founder of Wikileaks? Who released all those documents about the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq? He’s now holed up at the Ecuadorian embassy in London. Where yesterday he stood in the balcony and scolded the United States:**

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**“The United States must pledge before the world … secret crimes of the powerful.”**

**More after this from Charlie:**

**((SPOT))**

**Julian Assange, former hacker turned free speech activist, made headlines in 2010 when he released hundreds of thousands of secret US documents. He wasn’t charged for that – US law is murky on that point. Army Private Bradley Manning – who allegedly fed him the stolen files – is the one facing charges.**

**But shortly after the documents came out Assange WAS charged in Sweden with assaulting two women. He went to London and fought extradition, saying any relationship with the women was consensual, and that this is all attempt to silence him, and eventually send him to the US where he says he’ll get the death penalty.**

**That’s why when his appeals ran out he sought and was granted asylum by Ecuador. Except to get there, he’d have to leave its embassy in London – and British police are ready to arrest him if he does. In fact, some in the British government think the police may have the right to go in and drag him out.**

**So he may have figured he’d better step to the balcony and speak while he can:**

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**He offered no apology – except this:**

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**That seems optimistic.**

**TOF**