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Growing International Criticism of US Moves Against WikiLeaks

By Jason Ditz

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The Obama Administration is hard at work attempting to "acquire" Julian Assange from either the British or Swedish government. They're not really sure what they can charge him with, but they'll think of something, probably.

But concerns about the prospect that Assange is about to "disappear" into some US black hole for his role in the publication of information severely embarrassing to the US government is finally starting to rise not just among human rights groups, but in official circles as well.

"It's just astonishing what is happening," noted the UN's top Human Rights official Navi Pillay, adding that the US moves against them are "potentially violating WikiLeaks's right to freedom of expression."

Brazilian President Lula expressed "solidarity" with Assange, and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin condemned his detention as "undemocratic." US officials have condemned Assange as a terrorist on the basis of his publications, and top US presidential hopefuls have expressed support for assassinating him.