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“WITH JULIAN AND JULIAN”

IN A case of Julian backing Julian, the Melbourne barrister and human rights campaigner **Julian Burnside** has denounced the federal government's treatment of **Julian Assange**. "Governments are formed to protect us - government of the people, by the people, for the people," he said. "They should not deceive us or betray us. When we are in trouble, they should help us. When the US tagged Assange a terrorist, instead of helping him the Australian government abandoned him." Burnside was speaking to The Diary before *Breaking Australia's Silence - WikiLeaks and Freedom*, a forum held last night at Sydney Town Hall. "Wikileaks exposed embarrassing truths about the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan," Burnside said. "Only by exposing their misconduct can we hope to keep governments honest." Also at the forum was **John Pilger**, who called on Australia's broadcasters, journalists, writers and academics to speak out about campaigns by the Australian and US governments against Assange. Pilger says Assange is "likely to end up in a hell hole" like **Bradley Manning**, the 23-year-old soldier who has been locked up since May. Also there was the independent MP **Andrew Wilkie**, who presumably has plans to develop his own WilkieLeaks website. "No, he doesn't," said his spokeswoman. Pity.