# Julian Assange agrees to US plea deal, set to return to Australia after legal battles



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has agreed to a plea deal with the US Justice Department, which will allow him to return to Australia. After more than a decade of legal battles, Assange left Belmarsh Prison and boarded a flight from Stansted Airport on June 24, 2024. He is set to appear in federal court in the Mariana Islands on June 25, where he is expected to plead guilty to charges under the Espionage Act.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has expressed relief, noting the case has dragged on for too long and that there is no benefit to Assange's continued incarceration. Labor MP Julian Hill highlighted Assange’s fragile health and urged against judging the decision to accept the plea deal. The Australian government has provided ongoing consular support throughout Assange’s legal proceedings.

Assange’s wife, Stella Assange, expressed immense gratitude for the public support, celebrating the end of his legal ordeal. The plea deal concludes a lengthy saga involving accusations of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defense information.