# Julian Assange Leaves Belmarsh Prison for Plea Deal Journey to Freedom



Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, has embarked on a journey to freedom following a plea deal with U.S. authorities. Assange, 52, left London's Belmarsh Prison after a 14-year legal battle involving extradition and charges under the U.S. Espionage Act. The plea agreement, signed on June 19, 2024, allows him to avoid further imprisonment in the U.S. by pleading guilty to one charge related to the unlawful obtaining and dissemination of national defense information.

On June 24, Assange boarded a chartered flight from Stansted Airport, UK, arriving in Bangkok before continuing to Saipan, part of the Northern Mariana Islands, where he is scheduled to enter his plea on June 26, 2024. Following his plea, he is expected to return to Australia.

WikiLeaks has launched a crowdfunding campaign to cover the $520,000 cost of the chartered flight and Assange’s health recovery expenses, citing his prolonged detention's impact on his health.

Assange's release has been celebrated by his supporters and various international figures, including Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who stated the case had dragged on too long and emphasized the importance of bringing Assange home. The plea deal marks the end of Assange’s contentious extradition and espionage saga, which highlighted issues of press freedom and governmental transparency.