# Julian Assange released from Belmarsh Prison and set to plead guilty in Saipan court



Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, has been released from Belmarsh Prison in London and boarded a flight, according to a video posted by WikiLeaks. This development follows a plea deal with US authorities. Assange is scheduled to appear in federal court in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, on Wednesday to plead guilty to a charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified US national defense documents.

The 52-year-old Australian will be sentenced at the hearing and is expected to return to Australia. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has been credited with relentlessly pursuing a resolution to Assange's case. Assange has spent the past 15 years in various forms of confinement, including seven years in the Ecuadorian embassy in London and over five years in Belmarsh Prison.

Australian politicians have cautiously welcomed the news, emphasizing that Assange’s health is fragile. The Australian government has provided consular assistance and reiterated that his prolonged incarceration serves no beneficial purpose. US prosecutors have noted that the plea deal is being coordinated in light of Assange's opposition to traveling to the continental US, ensuring a single-day proceeding in the Pacific island.

Assange's release marks a significant moment in his lengthy legal saga, originating from his publication of hundreds of thousands of leaked documents on WikiLeaks related to the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.