# Julian Assange Released from Belmarsh Prison, Expected to Plead Guilty to Espionage Act Charge



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been released from Belmarsh Prison in London after reaching a plea deal with the U.S. government. He boarded a flight from Stansted Airport on Monday, June 24, 2024, to Saipan, part of the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. territory in the Western Pacific. Assange is expected to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge for conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified U.S. national defense information, related to the publication of documents concerning the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

Following his court appearance and sentencing, Assange, who has spent the past five years in Belmarsh and seven years prior in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, will return to Australia to reunite with his family. His case has drawn mixed reactions, with some praising his release as a victory for press freedom while others criticized the plea deal as a compromise to national security. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese expressed relief over the conclusion of the prolonged legal battle and has been lobbying for Assange’s return to Australia.