# Julian Assange to Return to Australia After Reaching Plea Deal with U.S. Prosecutors



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, 52, is set to return to Australia after reaching a plea deal with U.S. prosecutors. Assange, who has been in legal battles for 14 years, plans to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defense information. He is scheduled to appear in a federal court in the Mariana Islands on Wednesday.

Assange has been in custody since 2019 in London’s Belmarsh Prison, previously having spent seven years in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London to avoid extradition to the U.S. and Sweden. The U.S. had charged him with multiple counts, including conspiracy to commit computer intrusion and obtaining classified documents related to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In light of the plea agreement, Assange will likely avoid additional prison time. His supporters, including press freedom activists and political figures, have welcomed the development. Assange's wife, Stella, and their children anticipate his return to family life.