

Assange lands in Australia a free man

Julian Assange, the **founder** of Wikileaks, returned to Australia after a **plea deal** allowed him to leave a London prison. At Canberra Airport, he had an **emotional reunion** with his wife and father, with his lawyers watching. His wife, Stella, said that Julian needs time to recover and adjust to freedom.

For 14 years, Assange has been in a **legal battle** with the US, **accused** of **leaking** secret documents that **endangered** lives. He did not attend the news **conference** in Canberra, letting his wife and lawyer speak for him. They emphasized the need for family time.

Assange and Stella married in Belmarsh prison in 2022 and have two children. The plea deal had him plead guilty to one charge of **conspiracy**, instead of the original 18 charges. This was related to Wikileaks' 2010 release of a US military video and documents showing civilian deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Assange's lawyer called the deal a threat to journalism, and Stella hopes people see the danger in this case. Assange spent five years in Belmarsh Prison and seven years hiding in Ecuador's London embassy. He also faced rape and sexual assault charges in Sweden, which were dropped in 2019 due to the passage of time. Swedish women's rights groups regret he was never questioned over these allegations.

Vocabulary and Definitions

1. **Founder** - The person who starts a company or organization.
2. **Plea deal** - An agreement in a legal case where the accused person admits to a lesser charge in exchange for a lighter sentence.
3. **Emotional** - Showing strong feelings.
4. **Reunion** - The act of coming together again after being apart.
5. **Legal battle** - A long fight in court over a legal issue.
6. **Accused** - When someone is said to have done something wrong or illegal.
7. **Leaking** - Sharing secret information without permission.

8. **Endangered** - Put someone or something in danger.
9. **Conference** - A formal meeting for discussion.
10. **Conspiracy** - A secret plan to do something illegal.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Julian Assange return to Australia?
2. What did Assange's wife say at the news conference?
3. What was Wikileaks' 2010 release about?

True or False Questions

1. Julian Assange is the founder of Wikileaks.
2. Assange returned to Australia after being released from an American prison.
3. The plea deal had Assange plead guilty to all 18 original charges.
4. Assange and Stella got married in Belmarsh prison in 2022.
5. Swedish women's rights groups were happy that Assange was never questioned over the rape allegations.

Cloze Quiz

Julian Assange, the _____ (1) of Wikileaks, returned to Australia after a plea deal allowed him to leave a London prison. At Canberra Airport, he had an _____ (2) reunion with his wife and father, with his lawyers watching. His wife, Stella, said that Julian needs time to recover and adjust to _____ (3).

For 14 years, Assange has been in a _____ (4) battle with the US, _____ (5) of leaking secret documents that _____ (6) lives. He did not attend the news _____ (7) in Canberra, letting his wife and lawyer speak for him. They emphasized the need for family time.

Assange and Stella married in Belmarsh prison in 2022 and have two children. The plea deal had him plead guilty to one charge of _____ (8), instead of the original 18 charges.

This was related to Wikileaks' 2010 release of a US military video and documents showing civilian deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Assange's lawyer called the deal a threat to _____ (9), and Stella hopes people see the danger in this case. Assange spent five years in Belmarsh Prison and seven years hiding in Ecuador's London embassy. He also faced rape and sexual assault charges in Sweden, which were dropped in 2019 due to the passage of time. Swedish women's rights groups regret he was never questioned over these _____ (10).

Quiz Answers

True or False Questions:

1. Julian Assange is the founder of Wikileaks. (True)
2. Assange returned to Australia after being released from an American prison. (False)
3. The plea deal had Assange plead guilty to all 18 original charges. (False)
4. Assange and Stella got married in Belmarsh prison in 2022. (True)
5. Swedish women's rights groups were happy that Assange was never questioned over the rape allegations. (False)