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Biden Administration Hoping to Woo Left-Wing Voters by Releasing Assange - Expert

/ ASSANGE / PLEA / BIDEN / ELECTION /

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik), Kirill Krasilnikov - The Biden administration could be trying to win favor with leftist voters ahead of the presidential election by releasing WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, US political analyst Keith Preston told Sputnik on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, WikiLeaks said that Assange had been released from his UK prison and was returning home to Australia. Court documents revealed that he was expected to plead guilty to US espionage charges as part of a plea deal with federal prosecutors. The trial will be held on Wednesday on Saipan island at the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, a self-governing commonwealth of the United States.

"Because support for Assange is a popular cause for sectors of the US Left, it is also possible the Biden administration is hoping to strengthen left-wing support for its reelection by releasing Assange," Preston said.

The expert suggested that the United States wanted to keep

Assange in prison to undermine his activist work.

"Now that potential extradition to the USA was drawing closer, it is likely the US State Department and Department of Justice did not want to go through the process of holding a public trial of Assange in a US court out of fear of what information might be revealed in the process," he said.

Assange, an Australian citizen, was transferred to London's high-security Belmarsh prison in April 2019 on bail breach charges. The United States wanted him extradited for trial under the Espionage Act for obtaining and disclosing classified information that shed light on war crimes and human rights violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.