

# Freedom!

## Political Prisoners in the U.S.?

The women and men pictured on this flyer, like American Indian Movement activist and indigenous leader Leonard Peltier and Puerto Rican political prisoners like Oscar Lopez-Rivera, are currently incarcerated in federal prisons in the United States because of their political beliefs. As a consequence of their political work and/or organizational affiliations (for example, three of them are former members of the Black Panther Party) they were given criminal charges, arrested, tried in criminal courts, and sent to prison. While trying them as criminals, the government maintained files on them referencing their political activities, designed to insure they remain in prison.

These prisoners have initiated the **Release 2000 Campaign** to win their freedom. President Clinton is currently reviewing clemency petitions for these prisoners.

Please join us in demanding justice for these activists. They have already served longer sentences than they would have in any other industrialized nation. Some of their sentences would even be barred under the new federal sentencing guidelines. They are people who have suffered enough, and who have valuable contributions to make to their communities and to society upon their release.

In the 1960s and 1970s, our country was divided by civil strife. In some instances, these prisoners' actions were in response to illegal government counterintelligence initiatives during those years, such as **COINTELPRO**. FBI agents indicted for counterintelligence excesses were pardoned by President Reagan, yet these prisoners have already served between fifteen and thirty years and are likely to remain in prison unless President Clinton grants them clemency.

The Release 2000 Campaign

(see reverse for sample letter)



**Silvia Baraldini**



**Hanif Shabazz Bey**



**Veronza Bowers**



**Marilyn Buck**



**Bill Dunne**



**Linda Evans**



**Larry Ciddings**



**Jaan Karl Laaman**



**Ray Luc Levasseur**



**Tom Manning**



**Jalil Abdul Muntaqim**



**Sekou Odinga**



**Dr. Mutulu Shakur**



**Susan Rosenberg**

fully supports the petition filed for Leonard Peltier in 1993 which Clinton has promised to consider before he leaves office. It adds individual petitions for other federally held prisoners.

The Puerto Rican political prisoners (Oscar Lopez-Rivera, Antonio Camacho Negrón, Juan Segarra Palmer, Carlos Alberto Torres and Dr. José Solís Jordán) support the Release 2000 Campaign.

***This current clemency campaign is just one small step in the struggle to free all political prisoners!***

Please address your letters to:

**President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C., 20500 USA**

Please send copies to:

**Attorney Tarif Warren  
580 Washington Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C., 20500 USA

December 2000

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing to express my support for the clemency petition filed by the Release 2000 Campaign on behalf of fifteen imprisoned women and men serving exceptionally long sentences in consequence of actions motivated by their political convictions.

In the spirit of a new millenium and a new century, and in celebration of your commitment to healing the wounds of racism and war, I urge you to add these clemencies to those you have already granted, securing a legacy as a proponent of human rights without fear or favor. Your recent trip to Vietnam has aided the process of healing the wounds of the war between that country and the United States. But we also need to hela the wounds which that conflict created here at home.

I ask you to grant the clemency petition in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, comparable to the process undertaken in South Africa to overcome the divisions of apartheid. In the 1960s and 1970s, our country also was divided by civil strife. In some instances, these prisoners' actions were in response to illegal government counterintelligence initiatives during those years; FBI agents indicted for counterintelligence excesses were pardoned by President Reagan, yet these prisoners have already served between fifteen and thirty years.

I ask you to grant the clemency petition in the interest of justice. These prisoners have already served longer sentences than they would have in any other industrialized nation; some of these sentences would be barred under the new federal sentencing guidelines; for some, their sentences were exacerbated or parole denied because of their political motivation.

Finally, I hope that you will grant this clemency petition out of humane concerns. These are people who acted out of political conviction, who are aging in prison, who have suffered from a distance the loss of their friends and families. They are people who have suffered enough, and who have valuable contributions to make to their communities and to society upon their release.

Please consider my support as you weigh this clemency petition.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Tarif Warren, Esq.  
580 Washington Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11238