

# Free Leonard Peltier!

Call the White House and demand justice: 202-456-1111

President Clinton has publicly confirmed that Leonard's clemency petition has reached his office, and that it will be decided in the very near future. Congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard the last many years for Leonard. You have brought this case right up to Clinton's desk. But now we must work harder than ever for the next few weeks. According to the Washington Times, the FBI Agents Association, which represents more than three-quarters of the bureau's 11,000 active agents, is conducting a counter campaign. We also know that the Society of Former FBI Agents is doing the same. We cannot let them obstruct justice for Leonard Peltier again!

We are asking people to call every single day to the White House, starting now, until Clinton grants clemency.

President Bill Clinton  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington DC 20500

*Sample Letter!*

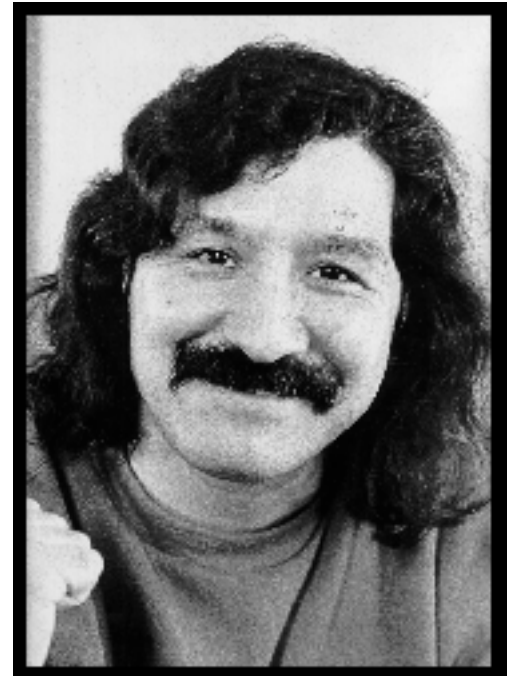
I am writing to express my very strong support for a grant of executive clemency for Mr. Leonard Peltier, a Native American leader who has been unjustly incarcerated for twenty-four years. I am deeply disturbed by the facts of this case, and as a citizen of this country, I must demand that this tragedy be resolved by Mr. Peltier's immediate and unconditional release.

To begin with I note that Mr. Peltier has never received a fair trial. The FBI intentionally used a false affidavit to obtain his extradition from Canada, then heavily coerced and terrorized the three adolescent witnesses into altering their testimonies. Worse yet, the FBI intentionally concealed the ballistics test reflecting Mr. Peltier's innocence from the defense. There were numerous other similar abuses as well. In addition, Mr. Peltier has been denied a new trial under an over strict reading of a technical legal standard. The possibility of Mr. Peltier's innocence was expressly left open. Even the Judge who denied the new trial has written to firmly support clemency for Mr. Peltier.

Meanwhile Mr. Peltier is in failing health and he is long overdue for parole. He has a remarkable record of human rights achievements from behind bars, including the sponsorship of a Native American scholarship fund, the adoption of children in Central America, the support of battered women and substance abuse programs, and the sponsorship of an annual Christmas toys and clothing drive for the children of Pine Ridge Reservation. Yet he has been repeatedly denied parole, de facto because he will not confess to a crime he did not commit.

Lastly, I note that this highly controversial conviction is deeply rooted in one of the most grim chapters in recent American civil rights history, specifically the Pine Ridge Reign of Terror, 1973-1976. This period of violent repression took the lives of 64 AIM members and supporters, and left scores more battered and terrorized. The role of the FBI during this timeframe is highly disturbing. For good reason Mr. Peltier's ongoing unjust incarceration has become a symbol of the ongoing government repression of all Native peoples. The time has come for the United States government to take active steps towards a national reconciliation and healing with its Native American citizens. The proper starting point is an immediate grant of clemency for Mr. Peltier.

Sincerely,



*Leonard Peltier is a Political Prisoner*

*"Amnesty International considers Leonard Peltier to be a political prisoner whose avenues of redress have long been exhausted.... Amnesty International recognizes that a retrial is no longer a feasible option and believes that Leonard Peltier should be immediately and unconditionally released."*

*-- Amnesty International, April 6, 1999*

*Leonard Peltier is a 54 years old Anishinabe-Lakota from the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota who has spent the last 24 years of his life in prison despite the fact that the government has admitted that they do not know who is responsible for the crime he was convicted of. Leonard Peltier was strongly involved in the spiritual and traditional programs of the American Indian Movement. He worked as a community counselor on job issues, alcohol problems and working for better city housing.*