



International Indian Treaty Council
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios

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The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Greetings,

We are writing you today with an urgent request: grant our colleague and relative, Leonard Peltier, executive clemency. The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), along with many other human rights organizations, Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations, including the National Congress of American Indians, are calling for Mr. Peltier's release. Mr. Peltier is Anishinaabe, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, and an Indigenous Human Rights Defender.

The IITC affirms the widely held view that Mr. Peltier's conviction was an egregious miscarriage of justice and, among other things, a violation of his due process rights. He was sentenced in 1977 to two consecutive life terms in connection with the June 26, 1975, shooting and deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on the Pine Ridge Reservation, SD, after a trial which has been widely criticized over the blatant FBI and U.S. General Attorney misconduct. The incident occurred during a time of considerable violence and extreme tension on Pine Ridge, and members of the America Indian Movement such as Mr. Peltier were targeted for persecution by federal law enforcement. We are certain that had he gone to trial with his co-defendants, who were acquitted on grounds of self-defense; had he been allowed to present all of the evidence in his defense, including instances of FBI intimidation of witnesses and suborned perjury; had a racist juror exposed during trial not been allowed to remain on the panel; and had critical ballistics evidence reflecting his innocence not been withheld from defense counsel and the jury, Leonard Peltier would be a free man today.

As a signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the United States of America must undertake to prohibit and eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, including Indigenous Peoples, to equality before the law. Prohibitions against discrimination are also contained in the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Working for the Rights and Recognition of Indigenous Peoples
Trabajando por el reconocimiento y los derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas

In paragraph 91 of the report on his official country visit to the United States issued on August 30, 2012, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Professor James Anaya, made a similar recommendation:

Other measures of reconciliation should include efforts to identify and heal particular sources of open wounds. And hence, for example, promised reparations should be provided to the descendants of the Sands Creek massacre, and new or renewed consideration should be given to clemency for Leonard Peltier.

Leonard Peltier is now 76 years old, a great-grandfather in poor health and at risk for premature death due to his harsh living environment. He has fulfilled his federal sentencing guideline requirements but has been repeatedly denied parole.

We have seen and felt the commitment the Biden Administration has shown to Indian Country and Indigenous communities. We need to see that same commitment to repair the relationship between the U.S. and Indigenous peoples of this land in Mr. Peltier's case. This is an open wound for us all and the Biden Administration is likely the last presidential administration that can remedy this situation. We request that you do remedy this wound that reverberates in Indian Country and grant executive clemency to Leonard Peltier.

Respectfully,



Ron Lameman, President
International Indian Treaty Council



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International Indian Treaty Council



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International Indian Treaty Council

Please contact Summer Blaze Aubrey via email, summer@treatycouncil.org, or via cell phone, (509) 823-6951 with questions, concerns, etc.