

05-21-2023

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland

U.S. Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington DC 20530

RE: Leonard Peltier

Dear Attorney General Garland,

I am writing to you as suggested by a former FBI Special Agent, asking you to release Leonard Peltier.

I am confident that you know the facts of Mr. Peltier's case. He has been imprisoned for over forty-seven years for Aiding and Abetting two men who were found not guilty by reason of self-defense.

Despite seven Nobel Peace Award nominations and points low enough to qualify for a camp, Mr. Peltier is still held as a high-risk offender in a high security institution that has been locked down the better part of three years.

Mr. Peltier's imprisonment greatly distresses millions of people. Among them are his prosecutor, former State Attorney James Reynolds, Ramsey Clark, former Attorney General, several FBI Special Agents who were either present while Mr. Peltier was being tried or were engaged with his prosecution, and a multitude of United States legislators.

The fluidity of our justice system, Mr. Peltier's case in particular, should trouble anyone who either truly respects justice, or wants the United States to appear as a nation who respects justice and the rule of law. Other nations are seeing us for who we are – a nation of corruption. Those in power are free to bend or break the law as they wish or

weaponize the law against those not in power. We have a dual system of justice that has become blatantly apparent to those paying attention.

The United Nations recently issued a seventeen-page statement spelling out, in detail, the repeated and ongoing violation of Mr. Peltier's right to liberty. His case is the very definition of arbitrary detention:

"Arbitrary arrest and arbitrary detention are the arrest or detention of an individual in a case in which there is no likelihood or evidence that they committed a crime against legal statute, or in which there has been no proper due process of law or order."

The United Nations means well, but they have no teeth. Our presidents will not grant Mr. Peltier clemency because the FBI has made it clear that they want Leonard Peltier to die in prison, and in the United States, not even the leader of our nation will risk the displeasure of the FBI.

In the 1970s Pine Ridge Reservation was under attack by their own Tribal police, armed and funded by the FBI and our government. It is illegal to hire mercenaries to use against United States citizens. FOIA documents revealed that units of the BIA's Indian police were trained in paramilitary tactics by the United States government. The community at Pine Ridge had the highest murder rate, per capita, in the United States. Pine Ridge residents asked the FBI for help – FBI presence had multiplied from three agents to over sixty. The FBI informed community residents that the "FBI was not there in a protective capacity."

FOIA documents show that two months before the shoot-out: "The FBI is ordered by the President/Attorney General to deploy FBI Special Agents in a paramilitary law enforcement situation in the event of a major confrontation in Indian country."

Over uranium mining rights. The United States won that battle. Pine Ridge now has open radioactive mine pits. Life expectancy is forty-eight years old. Cervical cancer alone is five hundred times the national average.

Four people lost their lives on that day in 1975. The agents who entered the reservation in plain clothes and plain cars, one wearing moccasins, guns drawn, according to testimony. Joe Stuntz, who stayed behind to draw fire so the men could get the children out. Leonard Peltier, who dies every night in solitary confinement and wakes up in the same coffin.

Guards have beaten Leonard almost to death. He has spent over nine years in solitary confinement. A guard who spent twenty years with Leonard Peltier, Bruce Smith, came forward and said, "Leonard Peltier is not a threat. He never has been a threat. The FBI calls the shots at the Bureau of Prisons in a clear abuse of power."

Former Special Agent Coleen Rowley said, "Retribution seems to have emerged as the primary if not sole reason for continuing what looks from the outside to have become an emotion-driven 'FBI Family' vendetta."

Coleman 1 is locked down again. Indefinitely. We just went through a thirty-day period in which we did not know if Leonard Peltier was dead or alive. Lengthy lockdowns are defined as torture and are illegal, both internationally and domestically.

The Bureau of Prisons told me that their policy supersedes the Constitution. *Nothing* is supposed to supersede the Constitution.

Here we run into the extreme fluidity of our Department of Justice. Corruption amongst BOP staff is legendary, up to the highest levels. There is no oversight. There is no accountability.

The case of Leonard Peltier lies at the very heart of government corruption, as well as Indigenous Genocide.

A multitude of United States citizens were murdered by their own Tribal police, trained, armed, and funded by the FBI. Those murders still go uninvestigated, as well as the murder of Joe Stuntz.

The forty-eight-year long attempted murder of Leonard Peltier by our own government must end. Now.

For the benefit of all Americans who are allegedly protected by the Constitution of the United States Leonard Peltier should be set free.

Under the auspices of the Constitution of the United States Leonard Peltier was unjustifiably tried and convicted and is still unjustifiably imprisoned.

Anytime one citizen is unjustifiably imprisoned it endangers the freedom of all citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Cc:

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