

July 28, 2021

Leonard Peltier Clemency Petition



Art by Leonard Peltier

Handwritten signature of Kevin H. Sharp in black ink.

Kevin H. Sharp
Nashville Managing Partner
Sanford Heisler Sharp, LLP

Former Chief Judge,
U.S. District Court for the Middle
District of Tennessee

Handwritten signature of Robert D. Gifford in black ink.

Robert D. Gifford (Cherokee)
Founder and Attorney GIFFORD LAW, PLLC Former Assistant
U.S. Attorney and Colonel (ret.), U.S. Army Reserve; Chief Tribal
Court Judge for the Kaw Nation, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, and
Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas; Associate Judge for Seminole Nation
of Oklahoma and Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and Justice,
Comanche Nation Supreme Court

NOTABLE QUOTES IN SUPPORT OF MR. PELTIER'S CLEMENCY

"Peltier's [case] was unusually troublesome . . . Forty years is enough."

– **James H. Reynolds**, former U.S. Attorney who supervised Mr. Peltier's post-trial prosecution and appeal

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"Much of the government's behavior at the Pine Ridge Reservation and in its prosecution of Mr. Peltier is to be condemned. The government withheld evidence. It intimidated witnesses. These facts are not disputed."

– *Per Curiam, Judges Seymour, Anderson & Brorby, Peltier v. Booker*, 348 F.3d 888, 896 (10th Cir. 2003).

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"When you stand at the bottom and you look at the naked underbelly of our system, it has got flaws. It's still the best one we've got, but at certain points there has to be a call for clemency and that's where we are."

– **James H. Reynolds**

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"Considering all of the surrounding factors, including the prevailing worldview of the time, the FBI's role in the creation of dangerous conditions on Pine Ridge, the manner in which the case was investigated and prosecuted and the extraordinary length of time already served, in my opinion, Peltier should be released in the interests of justice."

– **James H. Reynolds**

“Leonard Peltier’s conviction and continued incarceration is a testament to a time and a system of justice that no longer has a place in our society.”

– **James Reynolds**

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“[T]he FBI used improper tactics in securing Peltier’s extradition from Canada and in otherwise investigating and trying the Peltier case.”

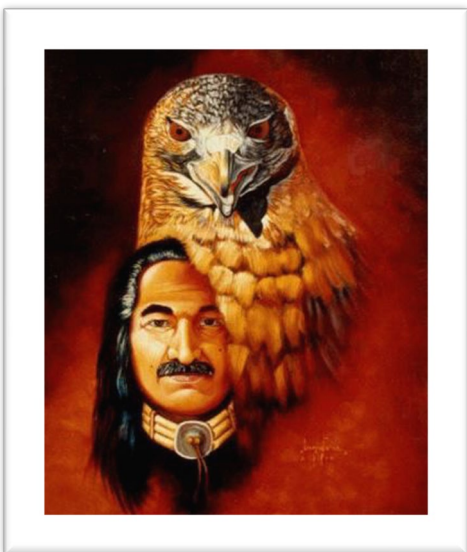
– **Judge Gerald Heaney**, Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals judge in two of Leonard Peltier’s appeals

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“At some point, a healing process must begin. We as a nation must treat Native Americans more fairly. To do so, we must recognize their unique culture and their great contributions to our nation. Favorable action by the President in the Leonard Peltier case would be an important step in this regard.”

– **Judge Gerald Heaney**

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Art by Leonard Peltier

“The use of the affidavits of Myrtle Poor Bear in the extradition proceedings [of Leonard Peltier from Canada to the U.S.] was, to say the least, a clear abuse of the investigative process by the F.B.I.”

– **Judge Donald Ross**, *United States v. Peltier*, 585 F.2d 314, 335 n.18 (8th Cir. 1978).

“With time, and the benefit of hindsight, I have realized that the prosecution and continued incarceration of Mr. Peltier was and is unjust. We were not able to prove that Mr. Peltier personally committed any offense on the Pine Ridge Reservation.”

– **James Reynolds**

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“They started threatening me about my daughter, that’s Marty, and they said that they were going to take her away from me and that I was never going to see her again. And then I started, and they said, you know, you’re going to say this and if you don’t say it, you’re never going to see Marty again.”

– **Myrtle Poor Bear**, forced to sign a false affidavit implicating Leonard Peltier

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“If the government could do it over again, it would respond differently. Through today’s lens, Leonard Peltier was not treated fairly and did not get a fair trial. The very fact that humanitarians and Nobel Prize Laureates around the world have advocated for his release for more than 4 decades, validates that position.”

– **John C. Ryan**, former FBI Special Agent

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“Every ammo-stocking, liberty-loving conservative in South Dakota fearing the Federal government (NSA overreaches, enemy lists, infringements by law enforcement and the like) needs to look past their Indian animosities for a moment and take a long hard look at what happened to Leonard Peltier. Martin Niemöller’s line comes to mind and so I’ll redact it for use here . . . first they came for [Leonard Peltier] and I did not speak out . . . then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me.”

– **South Dakota Rep. Rev. Steve Hickey (R)**

Art by Leonard Peltier

“Leonard Peltier has paid an extremely high price, in a situation with so much doubt, and I think it is time to grant him clemency.”

– **Former Representative Constance A. Morella (R-MD)**

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“. . . Mr. Peltier’s unjust incarceration remains a festering sore that impedes better race relations in America. Surely the time has come to promote healing and a spirit of trust and genuine goodwill towards the Indian peoples of America with an act that serves both compassion and justice.”

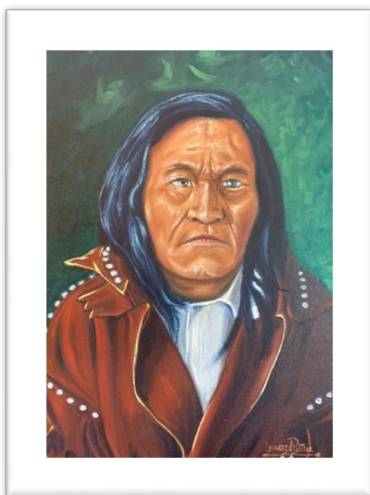
– **Coretta Scott King**, wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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“I am deeply concerned about the incarceration of Mr. Leonard Peltier, whose health is deteriorating. I wish to support the numerous human rights organizations that have called for his release for some twenty-three years now. I appeal to the concerned authorities in the United States to grant Mr. Peltier his immediate and unconditional freedom.”

– **The Holy Dalai Lama**

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Art by Leonard Peltier

“It is time for some compassion to be shown to Mr. Peltier . . . I challenge the authorities to have the courage to release Mr. Peltier. His courage throughout this ordeal has been a shining example of how people can bear unbelievable oppression and remain spiritually intact.”

– **Betty Williams**, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

“He has served more than 46 years on the basis of minimal evidence, a result that I strongly doubt would be upheld in any court today.”

– **James Reynolds**

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“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Leonard Peltier be granted Executive Clemency as a moral right to correct a legal wrong.”

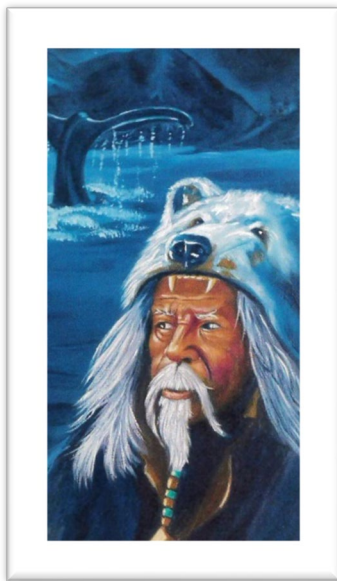
– **National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA**

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“My American and Canadian colleagues have brought to my attention the case of Mr. Leonard Peltier. I write to let you know that I share their concern that there seem to be a number of disturbing aspects about this case.”

– **Robert Cantuar**, former Archbishop of Canterbury

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Art by Leonard Peltier

“[Mr. Peltier’s incarceration] is a blot on the judicial system of this country that ought to be corrected as quickly as possible . . . Right this wrong at last.”

– **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

“As one who proclaims to be a follower of Jesus and supporter of the Episcopal Church’s call to implement the biblical justice imperative of human liberation, I am compelled to request the parole of Leonard Peltier. I believe along with Archbishop Desmond Tutu that keeping Mr. Peltier incarcerated is a blot on our judicial system.”

– **Ann Thompson**, Peace Initiatives Network, The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

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“I believe that a grant of executive clemency would serve the best interests of justice and the best interests of our country. In my opinion, to continue to imprison Mr. Peltier any longer, knowing all that we know now, would serve only to continue the broken relationship between Native Americans and the government.”

– **James Reynolds**



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