



ACTION BRIEF

FREE LEONARD PELTIER

CAMPAIGNS & CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT

President Biden should grant clemency

I was the U.S. Attorney whose office handled the prosecution and appeal of Leonard Peltier's case...I write today from a position rare for a former prosecutor: to beseech you to commute the sentence of a man who I helped put behind bars."

-Former U.S. Attorney James H. Reynolds to President Biden.

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Leonard Peltier, a Native American activist, has been imprisoned for nearly 50 years in the USA for a crime he maintains he did not commit. FBI agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams were killed in a gunfight on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1975. We have the deepest sympathy for their relatives. However, we have examined Leonard Peltier's case extensively over many years, sent observers to his trial in 1977, and remain seriously concerned about the fairness of the proceedings leading to his conviction, and believe that political factors may have influenced the way in which the case was prosecuted. Tribal Nations, Nobel Peace Laureates, former FBI agents, and even the former U.S. Attorney whose office handled the prosecution have called for his release. Now 78 years old, he suffers from several chronic health ailments that could be fatal. We urge President Biden to grant Leonard Peltier clemency on humanitarian grounds and release him.

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TAKE ACTION APRIL-OCTOBER 2023

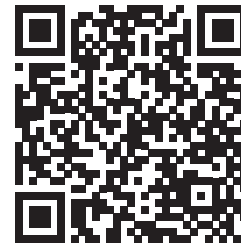
1) Sign and share the digital petition to President Biden: Scan the QR code to the right or visit amnestyusa.org/peltier. Please also share the petition on your social media accounts, including Twitter (tag @POTUS), Facebook, and TikTok.

2) Summer Postcard Action: Send a postcard from your summer vacation or from your own town to President Biden, urging him to grant Leonard Peltier clemency. Address: President Joseph Biden, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20500. Please let us know if you send a card or take any of the other actions below so that we can keep a tally of the actions taken and use that total number in our campaigning: email campaigns@aiusa.org.

3) Birthday Card Action: Send a birthday card to Leonard Peltier before his birthday on September 12th care of President Biden at the White House urging clemency (address above). Please let us know if you send a card: campaigns@aiusa.org.

4) Email and call your two federal Senators and your Representative: Urge them to call on President Biden to grant Leonard Peltier clemency. Look them up at congress.gov and contact us with any questions.

5) Send a text to President Biden's comment line at (302) 404-0880 urging clemency for Leonard Peltier. Contact us if you did this or to brainstorm additional creative and effective actions you can take: campaigns@aiusa.org.



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BACKGROUND ON LEONARD PELTIER'S CASE

Leonard Peltier, an Anishinaabe-Lakota Native American, was a member of the American Indian Movement (AIM), which promotes Native American rights. In 1975, during a confrontation involving AIM members on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation, FBI agents Ronald Williams and Jack Coler were shot dead. AIM member Joseph Stuntz was also killed. Leonard Peltier was convicted in 1977 and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences related to the murder of agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams. Leonard Peltier has always denied killing them.

Amnesty International does not take a position on whether Leonard Peltier is innocent or guilty. Amnesty International's position is that, given the totality of the circumstances, including the serious concerns about the fairness of the trial

and legal process leading to Leonard Peltier's conviction, his time served, and serious health concerns, that the interests of justice are best served by clemency and his release.

Concerns about the fairness of the legal process include the FBI's intimidation of witnesses and coercion of their testimony, refusal to allow certain witnesses to testify on behalf of Leonard Peltier, the suppression of evidence which may have assisted in Leonard Peltier's defense, and bias against Native Americans

which may have influenced the trial, among other issues.

Even the U.S. Attorney, James H. Reynolds, whose office handled the prosecution and appeal of Leonard Peltier's case now calls for his release. In a letter to President Biden, he wrote, "With time and the benefit of hindsight, I have realized that the prosecution and continued incarceration of Mr Peltier was and is unjust...I urge you to commute Leonard Peltier's sentence and grant him executive clemency."

CONTACT US

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