



One **Must** Seek Truth

**To Find Truth**

# Learn the Facts

---

- Leonard Peltier is a Native American activist accused in connection with the shooting deaths of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota on June 26, 1975. Government documents show that, without any evidence at all, the FBI decided from the beginning of its investigation to 'lock Peltier into the case'.
- The Jay Treaty, ratified by the U.S. and Canada, provides that American Indians be allowed to cross the U.S.-Canadian border at will. Well after the shootings, as he was accustomed to doing, Mr. Peltier legally crossed the border into Canada. At the request of the U.S. government, he was arrested in British Columbia in February 1976.
- U.S. prosecutors knowingly presented false statements to a Canadian court to extradite Mr. Peltier to the U.S. The statements were signed by a woman who was forced by FBI agents to say she was an eyewitness. The government has long since admitted that the woman was not present during the shootings.
- Meanwhile (in Cedar Rapids, Iowa) the jury in the trial of Leonard's co-defendants found that the Indian activists had a right to be on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and were not engaged in unlawful activity. There was no evidence that they either provoked an assault or were the aggressors in one. In light of the terror on the Pine Ridge Reservation during the previous three years, the history of misconduct on the part of the FBI in cases involving Indian activists, and the reckless behavior of the agents on June 26, 1975, the jury decided that Mr. Peltier's co-defendants were not guilty by reason of self-defense. Had Leonard been tried with his co-defendants, he also would have been acquitted.

## There's More

---

- Unhappy with the outcome of that trial, prosecutors set the stage for Mr. Peltier's conviction. His trial was moved to an area known for its anti-Indian sentiment—Fargo, North Dakota. The trial judge had a reputation for ruling against Indians, and a juror is known to have made racist comments during Mr. Peltier's trial.
- FBI documents prove that the prosecution went so far as to manufacture the so-called murder weapon. A test showed that the gun and the shell casings entered into evidence didn't match, but the FBI hid this fact from the jury.
- The trial judge most often ruled in favor of the prosecution and the Peltier jury never heard the majority of the evidence that had been presented at the Cedar Rapids trial. Robbed of the ability to adequately defend himself, Mr. Peltier was convicted and sentenced to two life terms.
- According to court records, the United States Attorney who prosecuted the case has twice since admitted that no one knows who fired the fatal shots.
- Although the courts have acknowledged evidence of government misconduct—including forcing witnesses to lie and hiding ballistics evidence reflecting his innocence—Mr. Peltier has been denied a new trial.
- The late Nelson Mandela, the late Mother Theresa, 55 Members of Congress and others—including a judge who sat as a member of the Court in two of Mr. Peltier's appeals—have all called for his immediate release.



# Advocate for Freedom

---

- Only President Obama can free Leonard Peltier. It's up to you to let Mr. Obama know that setting Leonard Peltier free is the RIGHT thing to do. Express your support for clemency.
- Write to President Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500.
- Call the White House Comment Line today: 202-456-1111.
- Send an email to President Obama: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>.
- Interact with the White House on social networks. For example, send a tweet to @WhiteHouse.

[www.FreePeltierNow.org](http://www.FreePeltierNow.org)