

**As individual fingers we can easily be broken, but all together we
make a mighty fist. – Sitting Bull**

REGIONAL CLEMENCY FOR LEONARD PELTIER MARCH AND RALLY

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011, TACOMA, WA.

12:00 NOON: MARCH FOR JUSTICE

**Portland Ave. Park (on Portland
Ave. between E. 35th & E.**

**Fairbanks. Take Portland Ave. exit
off I-5 and head east)**

1:00 PM: RALLY FOR JUSTICE U.S.

**Federal Court House, 1717-Pacific
Ave.**



We are trying to build a clemency campaign for Leonard Peltier and this march and rally is our first public step. Leonard has suffered far too long, 35 years in prison, for the crime of standing up for his people and against the abuse of Mother Earth. Leonard is in poor health and needs to be free. Please help us by coping and passing this flier around. Please join us on May 21, 2011 and march with us for freedom for Leonard Peltier.

CAR POOLS: OLYMPIA: There will be a carpool leaving from the parking lot at Harrison and Division at 10:15 am. **SEATTLE:** Meet at the Red Apple parking lot at 23rd and Jackson. Will be leaving at 10:30 am.

WE NEED DONATIONS. We are a grassroots organization with no outside funding. All donations are used to pay for printing and mailing. How widely we are able to reach people depends upon how much money we can raise. Any amount helps. Please make checks out to: The Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee (marked for NW March), and send them to:

TACOMA CHAPTER, LEONARD PELTIER DEFENSE OFFENSE COMMITTEE

P.O.BOX 5464

TACOMA, WA 98415-0464

bayou@blarg.net



For up-dates on the march and on Leonard Peltier please send a request to: bayou@blarg.net
For more information: www.whoisleonardpeltier.info

**REGIONAL MARCH AND RALLY FOR CLEMENCY FOR LEONARD PELTIER
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011, TACOMA, WA.**

This march will kick off our New Northwest Campaign for Clemency for Leonard Peltier. It will take time to build this campaign, and we ask for your help. Leonard has been in prison since 1976 for a crime he did not commit. His health has gotten bad, and he needs all of us now. We need people to pass this statement to their friends, groups, organizations, publications, web sites and Facebook. We need people to post and pass out fliers. We need donations. We need to make this march as large as possible to show others that there is support for Leonard Peltier. Please help us. Please contact us if you can help. For donations: Please make checks payable to the Leonard Peltier Defense/Offense Committee (mark them for NW March) and send them to: Tacoma LPODC, P.O. Box 5464, Tacoma, WA 98415. Thank you

SPEAKERS:

Co-MCs

Matilaja: Yu'Pik/Yakama, Tacoma Chapter LPDOC

Steve Hapy: Tacoma Chapter LPDOC

Drum

Albert Combs: Coastal Salish drum song

Keynote Speaker

Ramona Bennett: Puyallup Tribal Member, Long time Native Activist

Dorothy Ackerman: Lakota Elder

Chauncey Peltier: Son of Leonard Peltier

Deeahop Conway: Tacoma Chapter LPDOC

Peter Bohmer: long-term activist, member of Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, and faculty at the Evergreen State College

Juan Jose Bocanegra: Coordinator/Organizer, The Committee for Immigration Reform and Social Justice (El Comite Pro Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social)

David Duenas: Puyallup

Arthur J. Miller: Northwest Regional Organizer LPDOC

Michael One Road: Portland Chapter LPDOC

CAR POOLS: OLYMPIA: There will be a carpool leaving from the parking lot at Harrison and Division at 10:15 am. **SEATTLE**: Meet at the Red Apple parking lot at 23rd and Jackson. Will be leaving at 10:30 am.

AFTER RALLY MEAL AND GET TOGETHER: At past Tacoma Peltier Marches we have had an after rally meal and get together. We are trying to organize that again for this march. This is very important this time because we want to organize groups in different aspects of the clemency campaign. If you can help with this please let us know, send an e-mail to: bayou@blarg.net and this will be something we will need donations for. Please make checks out to the Leonard Peltier Defense/Offense Committee (ear marked Tacoma march) and send them to: Tacoma Chapter, LPDOC, P.O. Box 5464, Tacoma WA 98415-0464.

Internet link to march flier and poster:

http://www.indybay.org/uploads/2011/04/07/leonard_peltier_rally.pdf

http://www.indybay.org/uploads/2011/04/07/peltier_flier.pdf

Join Tacoma LPDOC on facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/profile.php?id=100002154914197>

The Case Of Leonard Peltier

“I have no doubt whatsoever that the real motivation behind both Wounded Knee II and the Oglala firefright, and much of the turmoil throughout Indian Country since the early 1970s, was—and is—the mining companies’ desire to muffle AIM and all traditional Indian people, who sought—and still seek—to protect the land, water, and air from their thefts and depredations. In this sad and tragic age we live in, to come to the defense of Mother Earth is to be branded a criminal.” --Leonard Peltier, Prison Writings –

In the media and out of the mouths of politicians, you often hear them talk about U.S. interests. These so-called interests are used to justify many things including killing people in wars. It is often the case that these so-called interests are really the interests of the power elite and not the interests of the people of this land. The U.S. interests behind the case of Leonard Peltier is a good example of the interests of the power elite; the interests of the people are not the same interests.

After a conflict between the Lakota people and the U.S. government and corporate interests, a peace treaty, the Fort Laramie Treaty, was signed and the great Lakota reservation was created in the late 19th century. That peace treaty meant nothing to U.S. interests for its terms were violated from almost the moment it was signed. Those interests continued to steal more Lakota land wherever they found gold and other minerals that they wanted. At the same time, they sought to destroy the Lakota way of life. U.S. interests outlawed Lakota religion and massacred the Lakota at Wounded Knee in an act of religious suppression. U.S. interests kidnapped Lakota children and placed them in internment, in schools where they were held for years away from their families while their language and traditions were being beaten out of them. U.S. interests carried out a secret forced program of sterilization of Lakota women. Then, in the 1920s, acting upon the interests of oil and mineral companies, the U.S. forced a 'government' entity upon the Lakota people to be controlled by those corporate and U.S. interests.

In the late 1960s uranium was found in the northwest section of the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation. The U.S. interests wanted that uranium for their weapons of mass destruction and nuclear power plants.

The U.S. interests knew that the Lakota people would not give up any more of their land willingly: they had already refused to take payment for the Black Hills, stolen from them for its gold. U.S. interests then set out to suppress all possible resistance to further theft. That led the resisters to request the help of the American Indian Movement (AIM). Upon a request by Lakota Elders, a stand was taken at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge reservation of the Lakota people.

In the two and a half years after what became known as Wounded Knee II, a 'Reign of Terror' was forced on the resisters to suffer. Whole villages were shot up, people were run off the road, many Native people were wounded, and over 67 of them were murdered. The Lakota people again asked AIM for help and an AIM encampment was set up. Most of the people in that encampment were from Northwest AIM. And Leonard Peltier was one of them.

The AIM people were under considerable oppression and lived there daily in danger from the death squad (they called themselves the Goon Squad). One day two cars came speeding onto the land of their encampment in the same manner that earlier drive-by shootings by the death squad had taken place on Pine Ridge. The AIM members there that day defended themselves from what they saw as another murderous attack. In the firefright that took place two FBI agents and one AIM member died.

Norman Zigrossi, head of the local FBI office at the time, defended the illegal actions, saying, “Indians are a conquered nation and the FBI is merely acting as a colonial police force.” He went on, “When you’re conquered, the people you’re conquered by dictate your future.”

It is clear that the attack upon the AIM encampment was planned to start a conflict to draw away resistance to the illegal signing away of Lakota land that had taken place in Washington,

D.C. at that time. Before the firefight, hundreds of U.S. Government agents were brought on to Pine Ridge reservation; the roads leading to the AIM encampment were blocked before the firefight and local hospitals were given notice to expect casualties.

In the first trial of two AIM members, who had been in the firefight at their encampment, the jury came back with a verdict of not guilty by reason of self-defense.

The U.S. interests then put all their efforts into convicting Leonard Peltier. They fabricated evidence, intimidated witnesses, and illegally changed judges, settling on one who would not allow Leonard's lawyers to present his case of self-defense.

Through appeals, Leonard's lawyers have been able to disprove the case against him to the point that the U.S. Government prosecutors have stated that they don't know what role Leonard played in the firefight-- he was just there that day and thus, by default, aided and abetted in the deaths of the agents. It can be reasoned that since the first two AIM members were found not guilty by reason of self-defense, then Leonard has been in prison all these years for aiding and abetting an act of self-defense!

Much of our focus should be on FBI political repression, COINTELPRO, and how they are connected to Leonard's case, for the FBI has been and continues to be used as the U.S. Government's and corporate interests' Political Police Force.

As you read this, Leonard's lawyers struggle to get all the documents that the FBI has withheld in his case. The FBI claims it needs to withhold those documents to protect national security. We need to ask, "Whose national security needs to be protected from the truth?" Given that documents already received by the defense team have exposed the U.S. Government's frame-up of Leonard to the point that the government's lawyers have had to admit that there is no evidence connecting him directly to the deaths of the FBI agents, and have shown that the FBI took illegal, aggressive actions to suppress the right of Native people to organize to air their grievances, there is no doubt that documents still withheld will show further evidence of FBI illegal actions.

Even the courts have recognized the repressive nature of the government actions against AIM and Leonard. Judge Heaney stated, "The United States Government overreacted at Wounded Knee. Instead of carefully considering the legitimate grievances of the Native Americans, the response was essentially a military one, which culminated in the deadly firefight on June 26, 1975." And in 2003 the Tenth Circuit Court found that, "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."

Even with this acknowledgment Leonard has been in prison for over 35 years. Leonard is not in prison based upon the laws of this land for the courts have stated over and over again that the U.S. government has violated those laws in Leonard's case. Leonard Peltier is in prison for one reason and one reason alone, and that is because it is in the interests of the power elite to keep him locked up: because he represents the essence of this land, the wrong upon which the United States was established, a simple truth which has to be recognized before the country can ever be sound. Leonard suffers under the same interests that hung Chief Leschi, the same interests that massacred the Lakota at Wounded Knee, the same interests that are behind many of the wars around the world, the same interests behind the WTO, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the same interests that strips our schools of basic funds, that strip you of your unemployment benefits and overtime pay, and the same interests that we all find ourselves struggling against in our common pursuit of peace and well-being. Justice for Leonard and the end to political repression by the FBI will only come from the organized spirit of solidarity of all people struggling in their true interests.

Illegal actions by the FBI should be the concern of all American people who believe in social justice, because Leonard was not and will not be the only victim of political repression. Among those that were targeted by the FBI's COINTELPRO were: Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights activists and organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Jesse Jackson (note that the FBI also carried out intimidation of Jackson supporters in the south when he ran for U.S. president), Cesar

Chavez and the United Farm Workers (UFW), the National Lawyer's Guild, anti-nuclear weapons campaigns (SANE-Freeze), the National Council of Churches, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), antiwar organizations, the alternative press, student organizations including the National Students Association (TNSA) and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), environmental, anti-racism and feminist organizations, GI organizations, the Industrial Workers of the World, organizations of self-determination for people of color, and Native organizations such as the American Indian Movement (AIM).

The political repression carried out by the FBI has never ended. It was seen this year with the FBI's intimidation of antiwar protesters who planned to protest at the national conventions of the two major political parties. Though the FBI claimed it needed more power, money and agents to deal with the threat of terrorism after 9-11, the agency still had the time, money, and forces to harass people who questioned the war in Iraq.

The same drive to acquire enormous profits that keep this country in Iraq over the opposition of its own people is also what has led to the U.S. Government's suppression of traditional indigenous people, AIM and in its frame-up of Leonard Peltier. And as to making connections, the infliction of war on Iraq has been justified by using false documents, lies about weapons of mass destruction and sham connections to terrorists. That is the same tactic the U.S. Government used in its suppression of AIM and in its frame-up of Leonard Peltier. The government used the war in Iraq in the interest of bringing global U.S. company's huge profits, and on the Pine Ridge reservation that same government carried out its repression in the interest of U.S. energy corporations.

We call on you as sisters and brothers to join us at our REGIONAL CLEMENCY FOR LEONARD PELTIER MARCH AND RALLY in Tacoma, as we send the message: We will not give up! We will not surrender! We will continue to stand for justice for Leonard Peltier, and for justice for all that he represents, for as long as it takes to set him free! Our strength is building and time is on our side; the sweep of justice is moving throughout the world and we are a part of that great wave of truth and justice. Please join with us on May 21, 2011, for a tremendous show of solidarity, a march and rally in Unified Solidarity for Justice for Leonard Peltier. All of us working together will free Leonard Peltier.

In The Spirit Of Crazy Horse
Tacoma Chapter, Leonard Peltier Defense/Offense Committee
Susan Morales, Steve Hapy, Arthur J. Miller

For more information from the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee

www.whoisleonardpeltier.info

“The government, under the pretext of security and progress, liberated us from our land, resources, culture, dignity and future. They violated every treaty they ever made with us. I use the word “liberated” loosely and sarcastically, in the same vein that I view their use of the words “collateral damage” when they kill innocent men, women and children.” Leonard Peltier

“The only thing I am guilty of is trying to help my people. For this it is very possible I will spend the rest of my life in prison.” Leonard Peltier

**LEONARD PELTIER DEFENSE OFFENSE COMMITTEE
NORTHWEST REGIONAL ORGANIZER'S OFFICE
P.O. BOX 5464 TACOMA, WA 98415-0464 bayou@blarg.net**

NORTHWEST LEONARD PELTIER CLEMENCY CAMPAIGN

What is 'Executive Clemency' you may well ask. Executive Clemency may take several forms, including pardon, commutation of sentence, remission of fine or restitution, and reprieve. The President's clemency power extends only to federal criminal offenses. The Pardon Attorney prepares the recommendation of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for the President for final disposition of each application.

Clemency as regards the Peltier case refers to the commutation of his sentence, not a pardon. A president can decrease the amount of time Leonard Peltier must serve prior to release or immediately release Leonard Peltier for time already served. A pardon can only be awarded once a released prisoner has been free and hasn't re-offended for a period of five years.

NEW CLEMENCY CAMPAIGN

We are organizing a new clemency campaign for Leonard. Last time we did this, when Clinton was in office, we believe that Leonard was almost granted clemency if not for the campaign against him. Clinton did not side with either side and just did not rule on the matter. This time we hope to create overwhelming support for Leonard. To do this we need your help. We are organizing groups to work on different aspects of the clemency campaign.

1. **Media.** Getting information out to all kinds of media as much as possible and to answer attacks on Leonard in the media by massive letters, e-mail and faxes. 2. **Publications.** To create good informational publications. 3. **Events.** From small educationals to marches. No event is too small or too large. 4. A **Clemency Delegation.** This would be made up of the right type of people to meet with politicians, unions, churches and so on. 5. **Resources.** Things that can be used for the campaign. 6. **Outreach.** Reaching out to others to build strong support. If you want to help by being on one or more of these committees please send us an e-mail to: bayou@blarg.net.

You can also help by getting organizations, unions and churches, to pass resolutions supporting clemency (please send copy of the resolution to us). You can get people to sign the petition with this mailing and make copies to give to others. And you can send messages to President Barack Obama at:

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC, 20500

Phone Numbers: Comments - 202-456-1111; 202-456-1112; Switchboard – 202-456-1414; Fax – 202-456-2461 E-Mail: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

You will find a good sample letter at: <http://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/java/clemency.htm>

President Barack Obama

Petition for a Grant of Executive Clemency to Leonard Peltier

Leonard Peltier, an innocent man, was convicted for the 1975 shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. U.S. prosecutors have repeatedly admitted that they did not and cannot prove Peltier's guilt, and the appellate courts have cited numerous instances of investigative and prosecutorial misconduct in this case. As late as November 2003, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals acknowledged that "...Much of the government's behavior at the Pine Ridge Reservation and its prosecution of Mr. Peltier is to be condemned. The government withheld evidence. It intimidated witnesses. These facts are not disputed."

The courts claim they lack the power to right this wrong but, as our President, you can. In this case, your concern should be for equal treatment. From the time of Peltier's conviction until the mid-1990s, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the average length of imprisonment served for homicide in the United States ranged from 94 to 99.8 months. Even if you were to take Peltier's two consecutive life sentences into account at the higher end of this range, it is clear that Peltier should have been released a very long time ago. His continued imprisonment after over 30 years appears to be nothing less than revenge for a crime Mr. Peltier did not commit. Personalized and politically motivated vengeance of this kind cannot be tolerated. The concepts of justice and good government require that you act to correct this wrong.

Peltier has served his time. Even by the government's own definition, he has already been imprisoned for a lifetime. In that time, he has missed the simplest things of ordinary life—having dinner with friends, taking walks in the woods, gardening, children's laughter, dogs barking, the feel of rain on his face, the sound of birds singing... winter and summer and spring and fall. He has missed seeing his children and grandchildren grow up. They suffer, too. Mr. Peltier is now a great-grandfather. How many more generations must suffer this tragedy?

After careful consideration of the facts in Mr. Peltier's case, we have concluded that Leonard Peltier does not represent a risk to the public. First, Mr. Peltier has no prior convictions and has advocated for non-violence throughout his prison term. Furthermore, Mr. Peltier has been a model prisoner. He has received excellent evaluations from his work supervisors on a regular basis. He continues to mentor young Native prisoners, encouraging them to lead clean and sober lives. He has used his time productively, disciplining himself to be a talented painter and an expressive writer. Although Mr. Peltier maintains that he did not kill the agents, he has openly expressed remorse and sadness over their deaths.

Most admirably, Mr. Peltier contributes regular support to those in need. He donates his paintings to charities including battered women's shelters, half way houses, alcohol and drug treatment programs, and Native American scholarship funds. He also coordinates an annual gift drive for the children of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation—a successful program that, in 2006, expanded to include other reservations throughout the country.

Leonard Peltier is widely recognized in the human rights community for his good deeds and in turn has won several human rights awards including the North Star Frederick Douglas Award; Federation of Labour (Ontario, Canada) Humanist of the Year Award; Human Rights Commission of Spain International Human Rights Prize; and 2004 Silver Arrow Award for Lifetime Achievement. In 2004, 2006 and again in 2007, Mr. Peltier also was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Leonard Peltier is over 60 years old and his health is deteriorating. He has suffered a stroke which left him partially blind in one eye. For many years, Peltier had a seriously debilitating jaw condition which left him unable to chew properly and caused consistent pain and headaches. Today, Mr. Peltier continues to suffer from diabetes, high blood pressure, and a heart condition. He risks blindness, kidney failure, stroke, and certainly premature death given his diet, living conditions, and health care.

We, the undersigned, say enough is enough, Mr. President. Do the right thing. Grant Executive Clemency to Leonard Peltier right away.

Thank you for giving fair consideration to Leonard Peltier.

Sign	Print Name	Address	City, State	E-mail/Phone
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Please return to: Tacoma Chapter, LPDOC, P.O. Box 5464, Tacoma, WA 98415-0464

LEONARD PELTIER MEDICAL ALERT

Native American activist Leonard Peltier, who maintains his innocence, was wrongfully convicted in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1977. Imprisoned for 35 years—currently at the federal prison in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania—Peltier has been designated a political prisoner by Amnesty International. Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, 55 Members of Congress and others—including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Peltier's appeals—have all called for his immediate release. Widely recognized for his humanitarian works and a six-time Nobel Prize nominee, Peltier also is an accomplished author and painter.

Sister Betty Solano says Peltier began exhibiting symptoms commonly attributed to prostate cancer over a year ago. His age (he is 66 years old) and family history are risk factors for the disease. Pressured by Peltier's attorneys, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) ran standard blood tests in June. Peltier received the results last week, over four months later. A physician only now says a biopsy is needed to make a diagnosis. Prostate cancer affects 1 in 6 men in the United States. Medical experts agree that the cure rate for prostate cancer is high, but only if detected early. Even if Peltier doesn't have cancer, the symptoms indicate a serious medical condition and one that could lead to serious complications if left untreated. Sample letter:

Harley G. Lappin, Director
U.S. Bureau of Prisons
320 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Mr. Lappin:

It has come to my attention that Leonard Peltier #89637-132, an inmate at the U.S. Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, is in dire need of medical attention.

I believe that Mr. Peltier's medical needs are urgent. He needs to be seen by proper medical staff. Therefore, I respectfully request that Leonard Peltier be transferred to FCI-Oxford in Wisconsin or FMC-Rochester in Minnesota. Either of these facilities can adequately accommodate Mr. Peltier's medical needs.

Thank you in advance for transferring Leonard Peltier and immediately addressing his medical needs!

Tacoma Chapter, LPDOC
P.O. Box 5464
Tacoma, WA 98415-0464