



TRIBAL ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN INDIAN NATIONS

An intergovernmental association of tribal governments throughout Southern California

October 23, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS:

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF
CAHUILLA INDIANS

AUGUSTINE BAND OF
CAHUILLA INDIANS

CABAZON BAND OF
CAHUILLA INDIANS

CAHUILLA BAND OF
INDIANS

CHEMEHUEVI INDIAN
TRIBE

MORONGO BAND OF
MISSION INDIANS

PECHANGA BAND OF
INDIANS

SAN MANUEL BAND OF
MISSION INDIANS

SANTA ROSA BAND OF
CAHUILLA INDIANS

SANTA YNEZ BAND OF
CHUMASH INDIANS

SOBOBA BAND OF
LUISEÑO INDIANS

TORRES MARTINEZ
DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS

TWENTY-NINE PALMS BAND OF
MISSION INDIANS

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN), an intergovernmental association of federally recognized tribal governments throughout Southern California, we are writing to urge you to grant Executive Clemency to Mr. Leonard Peltier. Mr. Peltier (79) is a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (ND) and is in his 48th year of incarceration under maximum security conditions at the Coleman Federal Penitentiary (FL).

Mr. Peltier was arrested during a time of one of the most significant civil rights fights for American Indian people and he is now the longest-serving Indigenous prisoner in the United States. Our request to you comes at a time when we have reached a tipping point - members of the prosecution involved with Peltier's conviction at every level have stepped forward and requested you grant him clemency. Their requests are universally based on their recognition of the prosecutorial misconduct, constitutional violations, and racism that played a role in Mr. Peltier's case and led to a nearly five-decade long incarceration.

TASIN joins James Reynolds, who was the U.S. Attorney whose office handled the prosecution and appeal of Mr. Peltier's case in 1977, in this call for justice and mercy. Gerald Heaney, the judge who presided over Mr. Peltier's 1986 appeal in the Eighth Circuit, called for his release in 1991 and again in 2000. Also, after decades of silence from the ranks of the FBI, retired FBI Special Agent Coleen Rowley added her significant voice to the call for clemency for Leonard Peltier in a remarkable letter to President Biden. Her letter noted the key role that the "longstanding horribly wrongful oppressive treatment of Indians in the U.S." played in Peltier's case and, critically, the "FBI Family" vendetta behind their opposition to clemency that has kept Peltier behind bars for nearly five decades.

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention specifically noted the anti-Indigenous bias surrounding Peltier's detention, stating simply that he "continues to be detained because he is Native American." We urge you to do what is morally right and grant Mr. Peltier executive clemency. In the interest of justice, it is time for Leonard Peltier to go home.

Sincerely,


CATALINA CHACON
Vice Chairwoman


ROSEMARY MORILLO
Treasurer


STEVEN ESTRADA
Secretary