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Email from Senator Sanders

1 message

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders <Senator@sanders.senate.gov>

Wed, Jun 8, 2022 at 3:02 PM

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for contacting me in support of Leonard Peltier's release from prison. I continue to support efforts to free him.

As you know, Leonard Peltier has spent over 40 years of his life in prison despite the fact that the government has admitted they do not know who is responsible for the crime he was convicted of – the shooting of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation in June 1975. An active member of the American Indian Movement, Peltier went to Pine Ridge in 1975 to assist fellow Native Americans who sought to retain their land, language, culture, and spirituality in the face of a violent campaign led by a conservative Tribal chairman to assimilate them. Sixty of those resisting assimilation were murdered, and over 300 were severely beaten under this campaign.

Of the three people who went to trial for the murder, two were found innocent and Peltier was sentenced to serve two consecutive life sentences. In the face of previously withheld information, however, the prosecution later admitted that they could not prove who shot the agents nor Leonard Peltier's involvement in the murders. Despite national and international campaigns to free Peltier, he remains incarcerated, where he continues to advocate for the rights of native peoples.

For this reason, I have and will continue to strongly support petitions for Leonard Peltier's release.

Thank you again for contacting me, and please feel free to stay in touch about this or any other subject of interest to you. For up-to-date information on what I am working on, please

