

URGENT UPDATE: JOIN US IN THE CALL FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY TO

#FreeLeonardPeltier

The U.S. Parole Commission held a parole hearing for Leonard Peltier on June 10, 2024. On July 2, 2024, the Commission denied his request for parole. Leonard Peltier's next parole hearing will be in 15 years, when he will be 94 years old.

*"I am not intending to give up. And I'm hoping none of you give up."
- Leonard Peltier, following the parole denial.*

Together with a broad coalition of organizations representing millions of supporters across the country, we're asking President Biden to recognize that **enough is enough and finally grant Leonard Peltier his freedom through executive clemency.**

This toolkit was made in collaboration with the Native Organizers Alliance





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OVERVIEW

Leonard Peltier, 79, a Native American activist in the American Indian Movement and citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (ND), is in his 49th year of incarceration. He is serving two life sentences for his alleged role in the deaths of two FBI agents during a 1975 shootout on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Imprisoned at the age of 31, Leonard Peltier is now elderly, battling chronic health conditions, and his conviction is turning into a de facto death sentence.

Principally charged with the murders, Peltier's co-defendants were found not guilty on grounds of self-defense. In Leonard's case, exculpatory ballistics evidence was withheld, testimony coerced by the FBI was recanted, and a recognition of the violation of his Sixth Amendment right to an impartial jury has fueled the global support for his release. Over the years, the level of clear misconduct has prompted the very officials who put him behind bars to step forward and join the cry for justice for Leonard Peltier.

In December of 2022, Former FBI Special Agent and former Minneapolis Division Counsel, Coleen Rowley, wrote to President Biden asking to release Leonard Peltier. James Reynolds, the former federal prosecutor who oversaw Leonard Peltier's post-trial sentencing and appeals also wrote to Biden asking for clemency, saying:

"I have realized that the prosecution and continued incarceration of Leonard Peltier was and is unjust. We were not able to prove that Leonard Peltier personally committed any offense on the Pine Ridge Reservation."

For decades, Leonard Peltier's wrongful imprisonment has been recognized as the product of a flawed prosecution, trial, and conviction by national and international human rights organizations such as the United Nations, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch. They are joined by the National Congress of American Indians, American Civil Liberties Union, the Democratic National Committee, the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators, and a global list of human rights leaders (such as Nelson Mandela, Coretta Scott King, and the Dalai Lama.)

The prosecutorial misconduct and constitutional violations inflicted are a symbol of the mistreatment of American Indians in the U.S. justice system. Leonard should be free and his story must be told. We must take action now to #FreeLeonardPeltier.



TAKE ACTION NOW to **#FreeLeonardPeltier**

CONTACT THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION EMAIL

Use this link to generate and submit an email to U.S President Joe Biden

CALL

(202)456-1111

SAMPLE SCRIPT FOR TELEPHONE CALL:

Hello, my name is _____, and I am calling you today in support of executive clemency for Leonard Peltier, Inmate #89637-132. Almost 80 years old, Leonard suffers from many health issues and uses a walker to move about within the walls of the maximum-security federal penitentiary at Coleman 1.

The prosecutorial misconduct and constitutional violations that took place in the handling of Peltier's case are well-known. Those involved in his prosecution have increasingly stepped forward in affirmation of what they witnessed and in support of Leonard Peltier's release.

His incarceration is now at the stage where it is both cruel and unusual punishment. I urge you to please grant Leonard Peltier executive clemency.

Thank you for your time.



TAKE ACTION NOW to #FreeLeonardPeltier

WRITE LEONARD PELTIER A LETTER **always address letters this way*

Leonard Peltier - #89637-132
USP COLEMAN 1
U.S. PENITENTIARY
P.O. BOX 1033
Coleman, FL 33521

Reminders for sending mail to Leonard from Amnesty International:

- PLEASE ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT, EVEN IF UNSOLICITED, MAIL CAN RESULT IN SANCTIONS AGAINST LEONARD.
- General correspondence is opened and inspected by staff for both contraband and content that "might threaten the security or good order of the institution."
- All letters must have a return address written or printed (no labels!) on the envelope. Please also put a return address on the letter itself, as prisoners are almost never given the envelopes. All letters must be on white paper with black pen or black font, please write large or use 16+ font.
- Black pen, white paper only NO white-out, stickers, tape, colored ink or glitter.
- Written correspondence and drawings may be in pencil, standard ink pen, typewritten, or computer generated. No felt pens, markers, crayon, or colored pencil, etc.
- Do not send postage stamps or self-addressed stamped envelopes. Leonard must purchase stamps and stationery from the prison commissary.
- Please also do not send gifts of any kind as they will be rejected. Leonard also cannot receive oversized packages (generally anything 9×12 or under is okay) or ones weighing over one pound.
- All personal artwork must be in black and white.
- Most facilities do not allow torn pages from books, magazines, or newspapers. However, you may send photocopies of such items.
- You may arrange for new hard or paperback books to be sent to Leonard. He may receive only several books at a time, and they must be received directly from a retailer or publisher
- If unapproved by the prison, letters are often returned to sender. Sometimes letters don't reach Leonard, nor are they returned.



HOW TO HOST A LETTER-WRITING EVENT

While we are able to send communications to decision-makers through email or social media, handwritten letters are still an effective way to send a message about an important issue or concern. Hosting a gathering or event around letter-writing is an opportunity to bring community together and take collective action.

- **Identify an issue and key decision makers** (those who have the power to make change). In this case our issue is: #FreeLeonardPeltier and President Joe Biden is in a position to ensure that happens.
- **In person or virtual event?** Select where you would like to host this event - this could be in person at someone's home, a backyard, a community center, a library, etc. or even virtually on Zoom or Jitsi.
- **Invite those you think would be interested** via email, social media, text message, etc. Be sure to send information about the issue, who you are writing to, where the event is taking place, childcare options, accessibility and COVID protocols, and anything else you think would not only encourage others to join, would make them feel comfortable to participate.
- **Gather supplies, information, and templates** to support participants in writing their letters. Printouts with decision-maker's names and mailing information, talking points or example letters, paper, pens, envelopes, and stamps are some items to consider.
- **It's time to write!** You can start by sharing an overview of the event or even showing a brief video. Encourage participants to share what they know and what they would like to add to the overall asks of the decision-makers. Offer participants the templates, talking points, or examples as well as other materials. Everyone's individual stories and experiences with the issue or topic are important and should be integrated into the letter along with the shared ask.
- **Follow up** with participants after the event to share campaign updates and continue building together.

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#FreeLeonardPeltier ART FOR EVENTS AND ACTIONS

DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE #FREELEONARDPELTIER ART

Art is a great way to bring people together in preparation for an event or action. Within this toolkit we have included #FreeLeonardPeltier art designed by NDN Collective's Creative Resistance Team that can be downloaded, printed, or even used as a template for making a large banner.

For more tips on how to create art, check out the Indigenous People's Power Project's Creative Resistance Training guide.

Text FREELEONARDNOW to 50302



JOIN THE #FREELEONARDPELTIER CAMPAIGN ON SOCIAL MEDIA: JOIN THOUSANDS OF SUPPORTERS CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF LEONARD PELTIER.

SAMPLE MESSAGING FOR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS:

#FreeLeonardNow #FreeLeonardPeltier #BringLeonardHome #PrayerforPeltier

Below is an example of language that can be used when posting your content about your #FreeLeonardPeltier letter-writing event or Day of Prayer for Leonard Peltier vigil:

- 1.** The countdown to show our support for Leonard Peltier's freedom starts now and we need you to join us in taking action! Visit: freeleonard-peltier.com/act-now for more information on how you can support our relative's release.

Leonard Peltier is in his 49th year of incarceration and is the longest-serving Indigenous political prisoner in United States history. He suffers from several debilitating and serious health conditions and uses a walker to move about the maximum-security federal penitentiary at Coleman I. Our call for his release is a plea for healing and reconciliation as much as it is a call for justice.

How YOU can support:

- Write a letter in support of Leonard's release and email it to President Biden.
- Host a letter-writing event.
- Download our graphics [here](#) and share our #FreeLeonardPeltier content across your networks
- Print or create your own art for your events and tag @ndncollective

Sample messaging, artwork, and graphics are available on freeleonard-peltier.com. It's all hands on deck to bring Leonard home!

- 2.** Urge President Biden to #FreeLeonardPeltier NOW.
The countdown to free our relative starts NOW! Join me in taking action to #FreeLeonardPeltier by visiting: freeleonard-peltier.com/act-now
- 3.** It's all hands on deck to free our relative, Leonard Peltier. At 79 years old, he suffers from many health issues and uses a walker to move about within the walls of the maximum-security federal penitentiary at Coleman. It's going to take all of us to make sure our relative gets to return to his ancestral homelands. Take action by hosting a prayer or a letter-writing campaign with hundreds across Turtle Island in support of Leonard's release: freeleonard-peltier.com/act-now



RESOURCES

ARTICLES

"The Red Nation", Nick Estes with Nick Tilsen. 2024. Apple Podcasts.

"Leonard Peltier: 'I hope I make it to June 10,'" ICT News + Rapid City Journal. April 30th, 2024.

Native News Online. Youtube. May 2024. (Levi Rickert interviews former federal judge Kevin Sharp about Leonard Peltier's parole hearing on Monday, June 10.)

Leonard Peltier's 46 Years in Prison: "What Else Do You Want?" - Indian Country Today.

"Free Leonard Peltier," Nick Estes for Jacobin Magazine. March 4th, 2023.

"FBI's opposition to releasing Leonard Peltier driven by vendetta, says ex-agent," Nina Lakhani for the Guardian. January 18th, 2023.

BLOGS

"KEEP FIGHTING": LEONARD PELTIER MESSAGE TO SUPPORTERS ON 48 YEARS SINCE ARREST," NDN Collective. February 6th, 2024.

"I AM STILL HERE": LEONARD PELTIER'S LETTER TO SUPPORTERS," NDN Collective. September 12th, 2023.

"A STAIN OF INJUSTICE": HUNDREDS GATHER, 35 ARRESTED IN FRONT OF WHITE HOUSE CALLING FOR RELEASE OF LEONARD PELTIER," NDN Collective. September 16th, 2023.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

National Congress of American Indians Resolution. September 8th 2023.

Amnesty International - USA Call To Action. May 2024.

www.freeleonard-peltier.com