



National Congress of American Indians | 1516 P St NW, Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 466-7767 | www.ncai.org

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #LV-24-022

Title: Calling Upon the President of the United States to Grant Executive Clemency to Leonard Peltier

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier was sentenced to two consecutive life terms for his alleged role in the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and

WHEREAS, appellate courts have repeatedly acknowledged evidence of U.S. government misconduct—including knowingly presenting false statements to a Canadian court to extradite Mr. Peltier to the United States, forcing witnesses to lie at trial, and hiding ballistics evidence reflecting Mr. Peltier's innocence from the jury; and

WHEREAS, according to official court records, the United States prosecutor in the Peltier case has twice admitted that no one knows who fired the fatal shots; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2021, James H. Reynolds, the U.S. Attorney whose office handled the prosecution and appeal of Leonard Peltier’s case, wrote the President of the United States urging him to commute the sentence of the man he helped put behind bars “in the interest of justice”; and

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Mark Macarro
Pechanga Band of Indians

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Brian Weeden
Mashpee Wampanoag

RECORDING SECRETARY
Nickolaus D. Lewis
Lummi Nation

TREASURER
David Woerz
Chickasaw Nation

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
Brian Ridley
Native Village of Eagle

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
Joe Deere
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Ryman LeBeau
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

MIDWEST
Leonard Fineday
*Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
Leech Lake Band*

NORTHEAST
Lance Gumbs
Shinnecock Indian Nation

NORTHWEST
Leonard Forsman
Suquamish Tribe

PACIFIC
Leo Sisco
*Santa Rosa Rancheria
Tachi Yokut Nation*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Jennifer Finley
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

SOUTHEAST
Reggie Tupponce
Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Reggie Wassana
*Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of
Oklahoma*

SOUTHWEST
Raymond Aguilar
Pueblo of Santo Domingo

WESTERN
Randi Lone Eagle
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Larry Wright, Jr.
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska



National Congress of American Indians | 1516 P St NW, Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 466-7767 | www.ncai.org

WHEREAS, former prosecuting U.S. Attorney James H. Reynolds calls the continued incarceration of Mr. Peltier “unjust” and asserts that the government’s case “likely would not be upheld by courts today,” and that “a grant of executive clemency would serve the best interest of justice and the best interests of our country”; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier has maintained his innocence, yet expressed remorse for the loss of life for the federal agents and the young American Indian man killed on June 25, 1975; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier’s unjust imprisonment has been recognized by national and international human rights organizations, luminaries and dignitaries, nearly 100 former and current Members of the U.S. Congress and others—including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Peltier’s appeals—who have all called for his immediate release; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier is eighty years old, has served nearly 50 years in federal prison and, suffers from diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and other underlying conditions threatening his health; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier has fulfilled his federal sentencing guideline requirements and maintained a clean prison record for over 25 years, yet in March 2024, the Department of Justice denied his application for compassionate release and in June 2024, the U.S. Parole Commission denied his application for parole; and

WHEREAS, the continued imprisonment of Leonard Peltier is a symbol for all Tribal Nations of the historical injustices against American Indians and NCAI previously has adopted resolutions, still standing, requesting Executive Clemency for Leonard Peltier in 1999 and updated in 2011 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI acknowledges that the authority to grant clemency belongs only to the President of the United States (under Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls upon the President of the United States to grant Executive Clemency to Leonard Peltier on constitutional and overriding human rights and compassionate grounds; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.



National Congress of American Indians | 1516 P St NW, Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 466-7767 | www.ncai.org

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2024 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held October 27-November 1, 2024, in Las Vegas, NV, with a quorum present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Macarro", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Macarro, President

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard Fineday", written over a horizontal line.

Leonard Fineday, Acting Recording Secretary