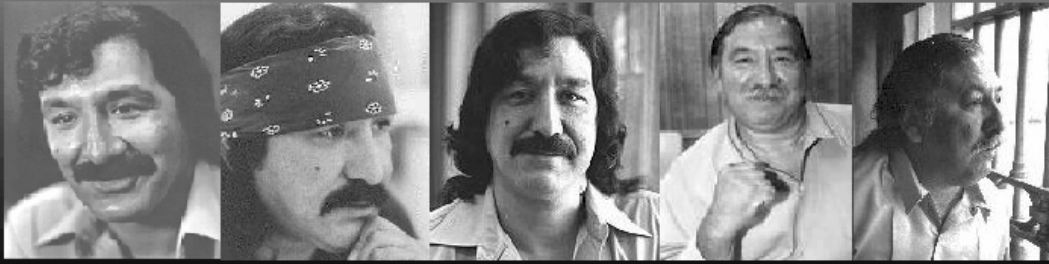


FREE PELTIER



Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee

- An INNOCENT man, American Indian Leonard Peltier was wrongfully convicted in 1977 by the United States government. He has served over 33 years in prison despite proof of his innocence.
- In the early 1970s, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) supported the corrupt Sioux Tribal Chairman Dick Wilson (on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota) by providing arms and information to Wilson's vigilantes. Anyone who opposed Wilson or who sought to advance Indigenous rights was targeted for abuse or worse. During a three-year period, reservation residents were terrorized. Hundreds of people were seriously injured and over 60 people were murdered.
- The American Indian Movement (AIM) is committed to uniting all Native Peoples in an effort to uplift their communities and promote cultural pride and sovereignty. In 1975, frightened Pine Ridge residents who lived in a "war zone" called upon AIM for protection. Leonard Peltier was one of the AIM members who answered the call.
- On June 26, 1975, FBI agents drove onto private property (where AIM members were known to be camped), allegedly in pursuit of a man accused of stealing a pair of boots. For unknown reasons, a shoot out began. When the skirmish ended, the two FBI agents were dead. A young Native American named Joe Stuntz also lay dead, shot through the head by a sniper bullet.
- In a case developed by the FBI, Leonard Peltier was targeted for prosecution along with two other men (solely because they were AIM members and despite the presence of 40 other persons during the incident). Fearing he would not receive a fair trial, Peltier went to Canada. He was arrested on February 6, 1976. Using false affidavits developed by the FBI, the U.S. government convinced the Canadian courts to extradite Peltier to the U.S.
- At trial, Leonard Peltier was not permitted to adequately defend himself. His actions being no different than those of his co-defendants—who were tried separately and found not guilty by reason of SELF-DEFENSE—Leonard Peltier was nevertheless convicted and sentenced to two life terms. The U.S. government had succeeded in preventing critical evidence from being heard by the jury, presenting false evidence, and otherwise manipulating the trial to cause the conviction and Peltier's imprisonment.
- The U.S. courts have acknowledged that Mr. Peltier was convicted on the basis of fabricated and suppressed evidence, as well as coerced testimony, but have not granted Leonard a new trial.
- Attorney General Eric Holder can conduct an Executive Review of the Peltier case and provide a remedy. In fact, he has said that in the face of official misconduct, it's his job to do the right thing. Recognizing that Peltier has been imprisoned for decades for a crime he did NOT commit, supporters from around the world—governments, celebrities, luminaries, civil and human rights organizations, and average people just like YOU—have called for an Executive Review. Join these supporters in demanding equal justice for Leonard Peltier.

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