

Leonard Peltier Defence Committee's Indigenous Human Right week 2016
in Washington D.C.

Day 5

Thursday, 8th of December 2016

Program overview

Monday-Saturday, December 5-10 – White House Vigil

Join us daily for a vigil at the White House for Executive Clemency for Leonard Peltier, peak hours from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Visiting Senators by selected Peltier Activists

At 1:00 p.m.

After I had finished my usual actual work by answering my mails and talking with my colleagues, I printed and cut out the following:

Highly interesting documentaries about this case: On YOUTUBE
Warrior, the life of Leonard Peltier or Netflix R. Redford "Incident at Oglala"
View list of prominent supporters:
<http://users.skynet.be/kola/vips.html>
Please, sign the Online petition there or at whoisleonardpeltier.com or amnesty international

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I should have better checked what exactly I was writing...but more about that later.
I cut about 250 of it in order to hand out. Because how do you want to convince the people, who lead busy lives, in 1 min. to sign a petition??

I decided, these movies can do it. And it showed that a lot of people in deed were very interested in watching them.

Soon after I came this morning to the White House at about 11:30 a.m. (I first had to answer my mails and direct my other actual work), all the people except the core banner holders left to meet the Senators.

First we considered to come along with the banner. But for some reason we decided again to stay in the La Fayette Park.

Being insecure which really the best spot to demonstrate is, all of a sudden a red-tailed hawk swooped down and flew very closely over us and Leonard Peltier's banner. I personally have seen that and was in wonder, since never ever I experienced a wild bird of prey to come so close to people.





It landed quite sturdy in the next tree and looked down at us. Also Leonard Seabolt, Yvonne Swan and Chante Westerman saw it and said right away this is considered to be a good sign. This made me soo happy. I have asked him again what he feels and if we should relocate and he went into himself and answered, he has the feeling the Hawk says this spot is good. So we stayed. And who knows, maybe we convinced an important person or Brack Obama looked out of his window. One day later, I heard of Floyd Red Crow Waterman's daughter, that the hawk had even resettled on a branch closer to us and was looking at us. Her mother has made an impressing picture of him, when the bird flew away. Maybe she will send it to me.



In the La Fayette Parc, the wild nonconformist Copernicus showed up, who has dropped out of Art school to do his things. Like he is now showing tough, out of jail guys, how to do high score welding. It was quite cold, but the young man in his leather shorts, talked with us in order to learn more about Leonard Peltier. After I looked for about an hour always at his huge oil pastel pens (which happened to be in a transparent case, it occurred to me to ask this man for help. And he said YES and went to work.

What I would have changed with the banner if I had another try, is the following. One picture of LP as a young man and one as an old one AND I should have added the time in prison. But as you can see here, that has been taken care of.



Copernicus agreed to spend time holding the banner until Obama releases Peltier, or until the 20th of January, when Obama goes out of office. Nolan Hack will stay until the 20th of January and takes over the coordination of banner holders. I am soo pleased about this.



Funny enough, Copernicus had also brought wooden signs, which he also used to get messages over. He was like a star in the cold greyness of the park.

I started to tell the people, This man (LP) is the Nelson Mandela of the U.S.A. But I got the feeling; many people did not know who Nelson Mandela was. Since there are a lot of government, secret service, FBI and other officials walking by, we actually never know, with whom we speak. But I did not care anyways.

Once I got the answer; “NO he isn’t, he is a murderer”. But the guy run so fast, and didn’t give me a chance to respond to him. Also Ali experienced hostility and tried to calm agents down by saying we just want this sick and old man out of prison and use our right to ask for compassionate clemency. He also did this, because he is not too firm with Peltier’s case. The officer he had spoken to said to Ali; “Why did this man run away to Canada, if he was innocent?” Well I would have given him an answer!!!! By the way, apparently, if you would ask a person if he/she is working for the FBI, they have to state if that is true or not.

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We stayed in the La Fayette Park, just opposite Obama’s house until it was dark. Sometime in the late afternoon a man called Dave joint in and held up some sign. We find these days extremely strenuous. We walk and stand a lot. Mostly I eat no lunch, for I do not feel hungry. But my feet feel at times, as if each of them weighs 700kg. It was quite cold and I could have used a second pair of socks and despite of our gloves the hands are cold, holding the banner poles, or not.

Nolan and Copernicus.

If I had not made the banner and had come with my friend Ali, the protest would have consisted solely of Nolan and Seabolt and those two signs Nolan is holding in the picture above. Actually I've expected to see other booths by Amnesty International and Human right groups and so forth....., but nothing! Nobody else even knew about this proposed Indigenous Human Right Week.

When I have told Delaney and Peter that I just can't find the highlights of the week on the whoisleonardpeltier.info site, they told me that they would print out the program for me, but I never received it.

Mainly present were mostly for a short time Peter Clark and Delany, 2 women from California and Jean Roach.

By the way, Filippo allowed us to leave the banner behind his tent. So it is between the tent and Andrew Jacksons fence. Also we left the dolly with him. This made things so much easier. Because at times we had to wait until the rush hour was over, since the sign with the poles was just too long and we could not manipulate it in the Metro wagon, when too many people were in there. Also we had to walk about 20 Min from our Hotel to the next Metro station. And even though we had the dolly and we have learned how to handle it easily, it had its weight and was a hassle. This way now everybody interested can go to Filippo's with a friend, get it out and hold it in front of the White House. The man really is an institution there.

The "41 YEARS" writing had not dried while we were displaying it as Copernicus had promised, in vain of all the wind, so we carefully put paper o the writing.

Today I got a message of Peter Clark, whose brother just had a stroke a week ago and 2 days ago a second one, saying:

"I'm sorry we have left you alone so much of the time is been hectic but these congressional meetings are time consuming."

End

