



European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples

Mr.
Michael Carvajal
Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First Street NW
Washington, DC 20534
United States of America

Munich, April, 21st, 2020

Re: Leonard Peltier USP Coleman/Florida #89637-132

Dear Mr. Carvajal,

The European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples is an association of various human rights organizations from France, Switzerland, Austria and Germany. In addition to the central issues of human rights and self-determination rights of Indigenous Peoples, the individual member organizations are also involved in the case of Leonard Peltier, who has been imprisoned for almost 44 years, although his conviction lacked the necessary legal prerequisites.

It is with great concern that we, as the European Alliance, observe that Mr. Peltier, again, has been affected by the April 1st, 2020, lockdown in the Coleman Federal Correction Complex in Florida. Even more, we are deeply worried about his situation during the COVID-19-crisis that especially exposes elderly prisoners with health conditions to a lethal risk. Mr. Peltier is 75 years old, and he has been ill for many years, suffering from many serious health impairments. From your time as Captain at the USP Leavenworth you know that Leonard Peltier is not a threat to the public, the only one at risk is Mr. Peltier himself being imprisoned with over 7,000 inmates. Incarcerated people are at especially high risk of infection due to the conditions of close confinement.

In November 2019, we addressed your predecessor, Kathleen Hawk Sawyer, to ask for Mr. Peltier's transfer to his family at Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation, where he has the support of his family as well as the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band. Unfortunately, our appeal has been denied. Now, taking into account that the first inmates and staff of USP Coleman Correction Center have been tested positive with Covid-19, we repeat this request with great urgency.

On March 26, 2020, Attorney General Barr directed you to „prioritize the use of your various statutory authorities to grant home confinement for inmates seeking transfer in connection with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.“ Especially inmates who have health risk profiles (over 60 or who have underlying health conditions).

The CARES Act, signed into law by President Trump on March 27, also has provisions for granting home confinement in order to reduce the number of inmates who might need medical treatment.

In your own memorandum of April, 21st, 2020, you point out your responsibility to ensure the safety, security and health of all inmates. You promise to take all measures in implementing BOP's „Covid-19 Response Plan“. One of the measures is the reduction of inmates in the correction facilities which are not sufficiently equipped or prepared to ensure adequate medical treatment to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. In your memorandum you stress that you „are working hard to apply the authorities granted to us to increase the use of home confinement“. At the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation Mr. Peltier will receive better medical treatment than in the USP Coleman.

As the Department of Justice is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, it is the right moment to show that justice will apply to all in the United States of America. Transferring Mr. Peltier to his family would be a decision of reason and humanity.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours,

Monika Seiller
Aktion Indianer & Menschenrechte e.V.

on behalf of the European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples

Aktionsgruppe Indianer & Menschenrechte (AGIM), Munich, Germany
www.aktionsgruppe.de

Arbeitskreis Indianer Nordamerikas (AKIN), Vienna, Austria
www.arbeitskreis-indianer.at

Comité de Solidarité avec les Indiens des Amériques (CSIA-NITASSINAN), Paris, France:
www.csia-nitassinan.org

Internationales Komitee für die Indigenen Amerikas Schweiz, Zürich, Switzerland:
www.incomindios.ch

Menschenrechte 3000, Freiburg, Germany:
www.menschenrechte3000.de

Tokata-LPSG, Seligenstadt, Germany
www.leonardpeltier.de

Verein zur Unterstützung nordamerikanischer Indianer (ASNAI), Berlin, Germany:
www.asnai.de

Cc:

J.A. Keller
Southeast Regional Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
3800 Camp Crk Pk SW, Building 2000Atlanta, GA 30331

Mr. Michel Forst
Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders
c/o Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights
Palais Wilson
United Nations Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

ILPDC contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info

Amnesty International
5, Pennsylvania Plaza,
New York, NY 10001
United States of America
report@aiusa.org