



European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples

STATEMENT FOR THE OGLALA COMMEMORATIONS / INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH LEONARD PELTIER

Paris, June, 21st, 2020

Dear friends, family and allies of Leonard Peltier,

First, with this statement, **we would like to express our international solidarity with Leonard Peltier on this Commemorations Day in Oglala.**

Although we are across the ocean, we also would like to acknowledge the Lakota elders, youth, women and men of the Pine Ridge Reservation and Leonard Peltier's supporters gathered today on the Jumping Bull property. We also salute the memory of Debra White Plume, Tom Poor Bear and Chief Leonard Crow Dog, all friends of Leonard Peltier, who recently passed away. We also send our prayers for the recovery of Edgar Bear Runner, who played an invaluable role 46 years ago during the Oglala's shootout.

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, some of them for over 40 years, in the case of Leonard Peltier, who has been imprisoned for 45 years, although his conviction lacked the necessary legal prerequisites.

We believe that Leonard Peltier is not, and has never been in prison to pay restitution for a crime. Rather, he has been held in prison for vindictive and political reasons. His incarceration and the Reign of Terror by the FBI on the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation, from 1973 to 1976, have functioned as an overall method to silence and inhibit Indigenous peoples in the U.S. So far, all domestic remedies to bring justice to Peltier and to the Lakota people, who have been victims of the Reign of Terror in the 1970s, have been obstructed by U.S. prosecutors and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

All over the world the Peltier case is seen as an example of how the justice system deals with Indigenous peoples - they have been subjected to an unjust justice. We

should all together be able to heal the transgressions of the past and to find a way to put an end to the injustices historically perpetrated on Indigenous peoples.

Past errors by the U.S. Government against Indigenous Peoples are difficult to redress and much suffering has occurred. Leonard Peltier continues to be incarcerated and remains a symbol for all of us who are fighting for the respect of Indigenous rights. **Truth, justice and reconciliation are needed between Indigenous Peoples and Nation States around the world. Freedom for Leonard Peltier, considered as the « Indigenous Peoples' Nelson Mandela » and an investigation on the « Reign of Terror » on the Pine Ridge Reservation would be important steps in this direction.**

The U.S. Government has called for human rights investigations into other countries but ignored its own human rights violations. For years the United States has advocated for the respect of human rights elsewhere, and **the new Biden Administration can now demonstrate its full commitment by speedily resolving a glaring instance of internal injustice by granting freedom to Leonard Peltier.**

We, the members of the *European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples*, have for decades shown our support for Leonard Peltier by organizing vigils in front of US Embassies and Consulates in Europe, by obtaining two resolutions in favor of his release by the European Parliament, by accompanying the ILPDC to the United Nations, by participating in demonstrations in front of the White House in Washington DC with some of you, and by coming on several occasions to the Oglala Commemorations' events.

We will not rest until Leonard Peltier is released !

In friendship and solidarity,

The European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples

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

Comité de Solidarité avec les Indiens des Amériques (CSIA-NITASSINAN) / Leonard Peltier Support Group (LPSG-France), Paris, France:
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Menschenrechte 3000, Freiburg, Germany:
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