



## **OFFICIAL LEONARD PELTIER AD HOC COMMITTEE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver, Colorado, United States

On April 12, 2024, Jenipher Jones Esq., a lead attorney for Leonard Peltier's post-conviction legal efforts, filed a *Request for Communications* with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and the United Nations Special Procedures group, asking for communications to the United States regarding the denial of urgently needed medical care and an immediate investigation of the abuses and human rights violations habitually taking place in the nation's prisons.

Mr. Peltier, nearly 80 years old, has now been incarcerated in federal prison for 48 years related to a crime he didn't commit. He is an elder with serious medical issues, including a heart condition, kidney disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, degenerative joint disease, painful injuries to his jaw, and recent vision loss. Each of these conditions requires immediate and ongoing medical care. However, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is not properly addressing Leonard's medical issues. Leonard needs to see an eye specialist without further delay and receive medical treatment for his other ailments.

Furthermore, medical professionals have already determined that USP Coleman I, a maximum-security prison on persistent extremely restrictive lockdowns, where Leonard is currently incarcerated, cannot adequately meet his medical needs. This neglect puts him at serious risk of harm and amounts to a sentence of Death by Incarceration (DBI).

Attorney Jones states, "The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has already expressed that Mr. Peltier's incarceration by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons constitutes an arbitrary detention under relevant international provisions. We hope that the Special Procedures declare similar violations of international law with respect to Leonard's medical care and conditions of confinement. The denial

of medical care to prisoners not only violates the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the domestic disability provisions, but also the Convention Against Torture and the Mandela Rules on the treatment of prisoners.”

Mr. Peltier’s attorney Moira Meltzer-Cohen states, “Like many older people, Mr. Peltier suffers from multiple serious and chronic medical conditions that have become mutually exacerbating. For Mr. Peltier, however, these health risks are further compounded by the prison environment, which exposes him to conditions ranging from unreliable access to cleaning supplies to serious violence, while also severely limiting his access to medical care.”

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Leonard Peltier is an elder Native American human rights activist, artist, author, citizen of the Anishinaabe and Dakota/Lakota Nations, survivor of Indian boarding school, and a political prisoner/POW. The U.S. government framed and imprisoned Leonard when he was active in the American Indian Movement (AIM). Despite old age and poor health, the U.S. government holds Leonard in a high-security prison. People all over the world, and even federal agents who helped convict him, demand Leonard Peltier's release.

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