

LAW OFFICES OF  
**DAVID A. FRANKEL**

17 Northeast 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Telephone: 954-683-0300  
Facsimile: 954-463-7840  
Email: david@bluelotuslaw.com

March 15, 2018

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to draw your attention to the outstanding case of Native American federal prisoner Leonard Peltier (89637-132). Mr. Peltier has served over 43 years (plus good time) in prison under questionable circumstances, has exhausted all appeals and his best chances for freedom rests in the hands of the President of the United States of America.

For decades, Leonard Peltier has been subjected to a vicious campaign of fake news by the FBI. This campaign stretches back to the occupation of Wounded Knee, intensified during the “Reign of Terror” under the direction of former Tribal Chairman Dick Wilson and his private army, the self-proclaimed ‘Guardians of the Oglala Nation’ (“GOONS”) all in collusion with the FBI. From 1973 to 1975, there were 60 unsolved murders. This led to the shootout that occurred in Oglala on the Jumping Bull Hall on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1975. On that day two FBI agents and one Native American man lost their lives.

The outcome from that tragic day, was the arrest of four Native Americans. The first two were arrested and found Not Guilty by reason of self-defense in 1976. The FBI then dropped all the charges against the youngest defendant, so the full prosecutorial weight of the federal government could be directed against Leonard Peltier as seen in the illegal extradition from Canada. During the trial the blatant deception of the FBI and misconduct of the prosecution led the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals to later conclude that, “**the government, wrongly withheld ballistics information that could have assisted Mr. Peltier**“. *United States v. Peltier*, 800 F.2d 772, 772-773 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir 1986). The appellate court upheld the verdicts only on the basis that Mr. Peltier’s petition failed to meet a time deadline.

Additionally, one of the government lawyers who participated in the original prosecution, Assistant United States Attorney Lynn Crooks, has since admitted before the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, “**We don’t know who shot the agents nor what role Mr. Peltier may have had in (the shootout).**”

Mr. Peltier’s case is widely viewed throughout Indian Country and beyond as emblematic of the world view and prejudices of the 1960’s and 1970’s against Native Americans. We are not trying to minimize the loss of life on that infamous day. We feel it is time for a country and a people to start a reconciliation and healing process; this will never be accomplished as long as Leonard Peltier remains in prison. The largest Native American organizations including the National Congress of American Indians and Native American Rights Fund have called for his release.

Mr. Peltier is 73 years old and in very poor health; his only desire is to go home to the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation and live out the remainder of his years surrounded by his family.

Leonard Peltier's bid for freedom has been supported by an Amicus Brief signed by 55 members of the United States Congress; they were joined by 51 members of the Canadian Parliament and 59 members of the European Union.

I am seeking an appointment to meet with you further to discuss this historic case. I appreciate your attention given to this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Very Truly Yours,

*s/ David A. Frankel*

David A. Frankel