

Spirit of Crazy Horse

Official Newsletter of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee

LEONARD PELTIER
DEFENSE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 2005 EDITION

"In memory of the original founder of the Crazy Horse Newsletter Steve Robideau"



"My life is a prayer for my people"

Leonard Peltier

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Words From Leonard



Aho my relations,

As I approach the end of my 30th year deprived of freedom, I write to you from the United States Penitentiary in Lewisburg, PA, after a grueling transfer odyssey that put me in solitary confinement for six weeks. I am here to appease a vengeful government agency that came into my land to back a puppet government that was betraying the Lakota nation in the most despicable way, giving away our land, murdering, and torturing our people. It took the corruption of two countries (Canada and the U.S) to obtain my extradition, conviction, and imprisonment. Today the U.S. government protects a real terrorist, Luis Posada Carriles, from extradition to Venezuela. Posada is one of the masterminds of a car bomb that assassinated a former foreign minister of Chile, Orlando Letelier, in Washington DC, a crime that has been called the worst act of foreign terrorism on American soil before 9/11. He is also responsible for the bombing in Venezuela of a Cubana Airlines flight with the resulting murder of 73 people on board, and many more acts of narco-terrorism. In spite of the incessant claims of this being a country of laws and the example to the world of justice, freedom, and democracy, it is obvious that this government protects whoever it wants and imprisons and kills whoever it wants.

The US government keeps getting more oppressive and tyrannical, everybody's rights are being eroded, fears are heightened as a tool to keep the war machine, alive and increase the destruction of Mother Earth, innocent people are dying all over the world in the name of "democracy and freedom," the prisoner population in this country is increasing exponentially, approximately ten percent of all prisoners are here for life, most of us are people of color. Those of us who dare stand up to injustice get locked up or assassinated. The US government is not pretending anymore, they overtly murdered Filiberto Ojeda Rios, an elder and leader for the freedom of Puerto Rico, and government allies are on national television openly calling for the assassination of courageous champions of justice like President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela who has offered our poor communities and myself a hand. Chavez is the first President in this continent, and probably the world, who is returning land to the indigenous people, making them part of the governing institutions, and recognizing and protecting indigenous culture. It is time we all unite to stop the madness threatening the whole planet, and stand together with those who go beyond words and deliver on the promise of freedom and justice, and against those guided by greed, arrogance, and prejudice. Stay true, work in unity, confront the traitors, don't be afraid, and don't let our struggle die.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse

Leonard Peltier

Message from Our Director



Kenny Loudhawk and Russ Redner being led away by an FBI agent in 1975 Portland

“He defended the Oglala people against a paramilitary attack carried out by several government agencies during the infamous “Reign of Terror”

On December 10, 2004, a “Historical Court of Inquiry and Justice”, led by Chief Justice Gerry Alexander of Washington State, exonerated Chief Leschi of the crime of murder 146 years after his execution. Chief Leschi of the Nisqually Tribe was war chief of the Medicine Creek nations. He was wrongly put to death for killing Abram Benton Moses, a colonel in the territorial volunteer militia who was serving with the US Army troops based at Fort Steilacoom during the war between the United States and the Tribes of Western Washington. When faced with these charges in 1858, Chief Leschi said “I do not know anything about your laws. I have supposed that the killing of armed men in wartime was not murder; if it was, the soldiers who killed Indians are guilty of murder too. ... I went to war because I believed that the Indian had been wronged by the white men, and I did everything in my power to beat the Boston soldiers, but, for lack of numbers, supplies and ammunition, I have failed. I deny that I had any part in the killing... As God sees me, this is the truth”

As many of you know, our brother Leonard Peltier is the most prominent political prisoner in the U.S. His case is analogous to Chief Leschi’s in many ways. He defended the Oglala people against a paramilitary attack carried out by several government agencies during the infamous “Reign of Terror”, a veritable time of war. Two agents and a Native warrior lost their lives that day. Nobody was ever charged for the death of the Native man but Leonard Peltier ended up bearing the weight for the deaths of the two agents, even though he asserts he did not kill them and the government has never presented any evidence to the contrary. His case has been fraught with government misconduct since its beginning. Leonard was extradited into this country for trial only because the government knowingly filed fraudulent affidavits in the extradition proceedings. Then, when the trial was held in this country, the government, among other wrongful acts, manufactured false evidence, withheld exculpatory evidence, and coerced witnesses. That there is no dispute about the travesty of Leonard’s case is evidenced by a statement by the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in November 2003: “Much of the government conduct at the Pine Ridge Reservation and in the prosecution of Mr. Peltier is to be condemned. The government withheld evidence. It coerced witnesses. These facts are undisputed.”

In addition, the FBI has engaged in unprecedented abusive actions to keep Leonard in prison. During Leonard’s plea for clemency as former President Clinton was leaving office, and as part of an all out media campaign, the FBI took out a full page newspaper advertisement against clemency and marched en mass in protest before the White House. This abuse of governmental authority by the very agency which committed misdeed after misdeed to assure Leonard’s wrongful conviction continues to this very day. So, Leonard sits in prison as a result of wrongful government conduct which has been recognized by the courts, and remains in prison as a result of this government’s repeated wrongful abuse of power and intimidation.

There are a few more opportunities to obtain his freedom and, as a new Director of Leonard’s Defense Committee, I would like to extend an invitation to each one of you to join us in rectifying the wrongs done to our people, starting with our beloved warrior. There is no riches and a lot of heartache, in return for this work, but what drives us is the knowledge that we are carrying on the sacred fight in defense of one of our warriors who stood up to defend our people, and we have the opportunity to make history for the generations to come. Join us to prevent what happened with Chief Leschi from repeating and bring justice while Leonard Peltier is still alive.

*Mitakuye Oyasin
Russell Redner, MSW
National/International Director
Leonard Peltier Defense Committee*

Legal Update from Barry Bachrach and Mke Kuzma

The legal team continues to press the government to produce the approximately 140,000 documents which it has withheld for nearly thirty years. This has been an arduous process, but the government recently produced certain sub files which we have been particularly pursuing because of the exculpatory information we believe will be revealed. However, the government tried to delay producing these documents and future documents by demanding the payment of monies upfront. This was a change in their tactics because, until this production, the government had produced the documents and we then reimbursed them for the cost. Thanks to loyal sup-

porters we were able to raise the funds to get the documents and prevent the government from engaging in further delay. We now have these key documents, but anticipate that the government will have withheld or redacted key portions. The receipt of the documents is key, however, since this will enable the legal team to pursue the production of all documents, in unpredicted form. The legal team has not yet had an opportunity to view the documents in any depth, so it cannot now report on the contents. The next update, however, will advise you, the supporters, as to what the legal team found and its next course of action.

The legal team filed its reply brief on November 14, 2005, in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eight Circuit concerning Leonard's argument that the Trial Court lacked subject matter jurisdiction to convict and sentence him under the statutes with which he as charged. The briefing has now been completed and the legal team is hoping for a hearing in the near future on this key issue.

The legal team is pursuing other avenues which will be discussed in upcoming updates.

“the government tried to delay producing these documents and future documents by demanding the payment of monies upfront. “

Photo Contest



LEONARD'S PRISONER NUMBER PHOTO CONTEST

Gerry Foley, 58, from Liverpool, describes himself as an Irish Scouse socialist. He says he

was told by his parents that the Native Americans suffered the same as the Irish, that the Irish are the European "Indians", starved, poisoned, thrown off their land, their language banned. He adds "I want to see Leonard free before I die, I always had 100% support from my wife, whom I lost in April, she won't let me go to her until Leonard is free". He has proposed a campaign to get Leonard's prisoner number out in public places/events covered by the media, like sports matches, public celebrations etc. He has

started a contest for the best/most ingenious display of Leonard's number. Every entry will receive a special key ring and the winner, to be decided January 2006, will get US\$ 100, and the photo will be posted on our official website. Leonard's prisoner number is **89637-132** (we have T-shirts and stickers with the number in our online store at <http://www.cafepress.com/leonardpeltier>). Send your photos via e-mail to ghost-shirt2003@yahoo.co.uk

Letter from a supporter



Jennifer Willison and her dad Mark Squires

“When I was a little girl my dad told me the story of Leonard

Indigenous peoples’ day rally with support for Leonard Peltier and all political prisoners US-Canada Border in Blaine, WA October 8th, 2005

Letter from a supporter: Daily prayers for Leonard’s freedom get passed from generation to generation

My name is Jennifer Willison (aka green butterfly), I am of Shawnee descent. My father Mark Squires (aka Squirrel) has brought me up to fight for the right of our people. My birthday is on the 11th of September and when I blow out my candles my wish is for Leonard’s freedom. When I was a little girl my dad told me the story of Leonard Peltier, at

every meal and before we went to bed we prayed for Leonard. Now I have my first son, Cayden, who is 19 months old, and we do the same thing. At all the pow-wow’s that our drum goes to we do the AIM song and pray for him. I can’t count how many petitions we have signed. It doesn’t seem fair we have our freedom and our loved ones while Leonard is locked up for a crime he didn’t commit. It makes me sad every time I think about it. Now that I am older and have my own

family I look back and realize that Leonard’s story helped me become a stronger Native woman and helped open my eyes to the world of our people. I want my son to know the story and hopefully it touches his heart the way it has mine. When he is old enough to understand, hopefully Leonard will be a free man. No matter what nation we are, we are all of native blood and we all need to fight for Leonard and let him know we love him and never forget about

Peace Arch March and Rally



Elders speak to an audience of approximately 200 people gathered at the Peace Arch Park. Harold Belmont (Seattle, WA) was the MC, and Dorothy Ackerman (Portland, OR) gave the opening prayer. Some of the speakers were: Russ Redner (LPDC, Director), Juan Bocanegra, Shelly Vendiola, Arthur Miller (Tacoma, WA, LPSG), Rosalinda Guillen (Community to Community), and many other powerful speakers. The all Native hip-hop group “United Nations” performed to close the event.

CaféPress

See our new designs at our official online store at

<http://www.cafepress.com/leonardpeltier>



Where is the Justice in all of This ? (by Ron Peltier)



Ron Peltier and Bob Robideau

My brother has been in prison for 30 years, convicted for the deaths of FBI agents Ronald Williams and Jack Coler on June 26, 1975. Ronald and Jack died as they were fulfilling their chosen occupational careers in serving the U.S. government. They had a say in their chosen occupation. They knew full well that their lives were in jeopardy, and that possibly they could leave their wives and children husbandless and fatherless. My brother did not have a say in the fact that he was born to a race that was being harassed, confined, and oppressed by the U.S. government. A government that lacked the wisdom and desire to properly deal with all the intricacies of a conquered peoples who merely desired to keep alive their tradition, culture, and to protect their land and people. This was a government run by unprincipled men who did not have the morality to keep their word even when it was in a legal, binding treaty. A government swayed by large greedy corporations, who lusted after others property to the extent of breaking all kinds of rules and laws to obtain those properties. This oppressed people's condition sank to such a low, that dissidence became an inevitable development. The men of this people had to band together if they were going to survive. The American Indian Movement developed, not because a bunch of trouble-makers were looking for a cause, but because these people, if they did nothing, were going to continue to sink into further oppression and poverty. It was a matter of survival. This is why my brother was at Oglala on June

26,1975.

Where is the justice in all of this ?

Two men, who chose to be occupied as FBI agents died. The government in complete outrage, staged the largest man hunt ever, intimidated witnesses, withheld evidence, fabricated evidence, produced an illegal conviction, later violated their own parole commission rulings, and to this day resist the parole of a 60 year old man with a group of retired FBI agents who formed their own "no parole Peltier committee".

Contrast this with the fact that the Lakota Nation, after being mutilated, tortured, and harassed by "government friendly" opposition, did not hardly receive an ounce of intervention to relieve their situation from the government.

Where is the justice in all of this ?

Where was the heart of our American Government ? If they had addressed the initial issues concerning the traditional Lakotas, the time, energy, and money expended would have been less than what they expended in their outrage over the deaths of their two agents, and their continuing resistance of the parole of an innocent man.

The government became infuriated in total outrage at the loss of two men, and proceeded to spend uncounted volumes of money in ensuing extradition and prosecution. They engaged in very high level action, with extreme motivation to bring about a conviction in order to land "justice".

Where was their motivation to bring peace to a people under their jurisdiction ?

Why was there no drive to help the traditional Lakota people ? A minimum of traditional Lakota and American Indian

Movement people were killed before the incident at Oglala. Two agents get killed, and now the government has motivation.

No motivation to help the citizens of the US on the reservation, but extreme motivation to bring "justice" after only two men get killed. Chalk another one up for the good ol' boys system. The contrast in their motivation concerning two men, verses their motivation concerning a whole group of men, women, and children is startling. What would account for such a difference in attitude ? Why could they gather such where with all for their two men, and no where with all for the Lakota traditional people ?

If the men in our government at that time, had acted in love for the Native American, what difference would we be experiencing today.....

Is there room in the hearts of the governmental leaders for love ?

Love for the Native American People ?

Or are they just wicked men who do not know what love is?

Has the power corrupted them to the point where they are incapable of loving?

Can they treat the other as they would want to be treated?

Where are the good men ? Those who have, and can give love ?

Must I believe that all the governmental leaders are wicked ?

To have justice, one must treat the other the way they would desired to be treated.

This is what is commonly referred to as "the golden rule".

In order to have justice, one must have love for the other party.

**IS IT TOO LATE
FOR JUSTICE FOR
LEONARD ?**

Leonard Peltier Defense Committee November 2005 Edition

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The View from Harvey's Head

PEOPLE OFTEN FORGET how lucky we are to work on behalf of Leonard. We who do so, whatever our color, have stepped onto the Great Red Road, and holy things can happen there. Yes, even miracles. And always there's the deep, almost religious sense of *meaningfulness* in what you do: such simple things as sitting at a card table & giving away free literature and pamphlets, talking to passersby (sometimes hostile) at a powwow, helping LPDC with one of its humdrum secretarial or editorial tasks, contacting a local TV/radio Talk Show and bringing up Leonard's name--these become, to my mind, holy tasks in an otherwise largely unholy world.

I remember one cold pre-Christmas night a few years ago on the sidewalk in front of the White House. Our Gathering of maybe 50-60 people was billed as a 'Candlelight Vigil for Leonard'. The AIM guys were there with their big drum; somehow to this day I remember distinctly the tobacco being sprinkled ceremonially onto the

drum and then the individual particles dancing wildly in the air, as if alive, with each drumbeat. The several dozen Peltier supporters were gathered round in the deepening blue twilight, each with a lit candle before their glowing face. The AIM song, then the Leonard Peltier Honor Song pounded out with increasing urgency, the deep drumbeats echoing off the White House facade, our words turning to frosty clouds of breath as we sang. Half a dozen motorcycled cops stood by, watching us glumly (we had a proper permit). I fantasized George W. Bush himself, up there in the Oval Office, feeling the insistent pounding of the great AIM drum and actually hearing our words sent out so fervently, like a prayer, on the icy night air: **FREE LEONARD PELTIER....**

How lucky we were to be standing there at that moment made suddenly holy. Oh, I know, I know--The President was away on a trip. The cops and passersby couldn't have cared less. Yet this motley group of

50-60 human beings experienced a sacred moment because our hearts were pure (at that moment, at least) and we experienced the palpable sense of doing the right thing on behalf of Leonard & Justice & the human race & , above all, *Wakan Tanka*, the Great Mysterious.

Talk to Peltier supporters and they'll tell you of moments like these. Hopefully, you'll become one of us yourself, contact LPDC at their website -- www.leonardpeltier.org -- donate to the reborn *Spirit of Crazy Horse* quarterly newsletter, get friends to do the same, and, working together, ALL of us and EACH of us, we WILL get Leonard OUT!!

Harvey Arden

