

Resolution by RI Progressive Democrats in Support of Leonard Peltier

WHEREAS, Progressive Democrats of America functions as a grassroots PAC operating inside the Democratic Party, and outside in movements for peace and justice; and

WHEREAS, a US trial prosecutor has stated, after Peltier's conviction, that the identity of the person(s) who actually killed the two FBI agents is still unknown; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier has served thirty-nine years in federal penitentiaries, and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier was convicted and sentenced to two consecutive life terms in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and

WHEREAS, appellate courts have repeatedly acknowledged evidence of U.S. government misconduct—including knowingly presenting false statements to a Canadian court to extradite Mr. Peltier to the United States, forcing witnesses to lie at Mr. Peltier's trial, and hiding ballistics evidence reflecting Mr. Peltier's innocence from the jury; and

WHEREAS, according to official court records, the United States prosecutor in the Peltier case has twice admitted that no one knows who fired the fatal shots; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier has maintained his innocence, yet expressed remorse for the loss of life for the federal agents and the young American Indian man killed on June 25, 1975; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier has fulfilled his federal sentencing guideline requirements and maintained a clean prison record for 15+ years yet, on August 21, 2009, the U.S. Parole Commission denied his application for parole; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier is a great-grandfather who is 70 years old and in poor health, and at risk for premature death; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier's unjust imprisonment has been recognized by national and international human rights organizations, Amnesty International, the National Council of Churches, the National Association of Defense Lawyers, luminaries and dignitaries, 55 Members of the U.S. Congress and others—including a judge who sat as a member of the court in two of Peltier's appeals—who have all called for his immediate release; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rhode Island Progressive Democrats urge President Barack Obama and/or members of his Administration to secure a grant of Executive Clemency to Leonard Peltier on constitutional and overriding human rights and compassionate grounds. Rhode Island Progressive Democrats also urge our four (4) Rhode Island Congressional delegates to do everything in your persuasive powers to secure clemency for Leonard Peltier; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Leonard Peltier be granted Executive Clemency as a moral right to correct a legal wrong; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rhode Island Progressive Democrats, in meeting assembled, does hereby call for the release of up to 100,000 FBI documents in Leonard Peltier's case which are held in FBI field offices.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Rhode Island Progressive Democrats at a meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015, having 18 members present, constituting quorum by the vote of 16 yea, 0 nay, and 2 abstaining.

SIGNED: *[Signature]*

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*