

**THOMAS MULCAIR**
DÉPUTÉ, MP, OUTREMONT

December 06, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500 USA**Re: Clemency Petition for Leonard Peltier, a Lakota-Anishnabe Indigenous American leader,
Prisoner #89637-132, incarcerated at U.S.P Coleman 1, Florida USA**

Dear President Obama,

I appeal to you in the interests of justice and on humanitarian grounds to grant the request for Executive Clemency on behalf of Leonard Peltier, a Lakota-Anishnabe Indigenous American leader, incarcerated for over 40 years in maximum security. He is 72 years old and in failing health, suffering from diabetes and a heart condition. He has exhausted all legal appeals and has no possibility for parole until 2024. Numerous doubts have been raised over his guilt and the fairness of his trial in connection with the murder of two FBI agents during a heated confrontation on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota in 1975.

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No doubt because Mr. Peltier was arrested in and extradited from Canada, there is considerable interest in this country for his plight. Many prominent Canadian Native leaders, Parliamentarians from all three major parties, Labour organisations, the Canadian Bar Association and even the former Solicitor General of Canada have come to his defence - particularly once it emerged that the extradition decision was based on evidence that was subsequently deemed faulty, even by the Federal Bureau of Investigation itself. Indeed, the key witness whose testimony was the foundation of the decision later retracted her account and claimed to have been coerced.

There remain many unanswered questions in this case, to the extent that several officers of the court directly involved in the legal proceedings have expressed their disquiet about the way in which the case has proceeded. Despite the absence of any direct evidence of Mr. Peltier's personal participation in the killings, and despite his consistent denial of involvement, he was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences. This verdict and harsh sentence stand in sharp contrast with the earlier acquittal of two men accused in the same crime, an acquittal based on a recognition that in the extreme atmosphere of violence and intimidation that prevailed on the reservation at the time, the men may have acted out of fear for their lives. Equally alarming is what appears to be the withholding of potentially key ballistic evidence that might have contributed to Mr. Peltier's defence.

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Unsurprisingly, this case has garnered international attention and the list of supporters for Mr. Peltier around the globe is long, impressive and varied. I add my voice to those of the many political, human rights, Indigenous, and religious leaders, academics, artists and Nobel laureates, including Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, Reverend Jesse Jackson, who have spoken out in his favour. Mr. Peltier has also earned the backing of many respected associations and organisations including Amnesty International, the European Parliament and the Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights. Indeed, Mr. Peltier is an Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience, the only person presently incarcerated in the United States with this title.

Mr. Peltier is recognized as an elder in his community. He is a renowned Native American artist whose paintings are sold worldwide. He is a great grandfather who has been separated from his loved ones for most of his life. Given the ongoing concerns about the justice of his file, the time he has spent incarcerated and the exhaustion of all appeals in his favour, I hope you will grant his request for clemency so that Mr. Peltier might fulfill his wish of living out his remaining days among his people at Oglala Reservation.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Mulcair." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Member of Parliament for Outremont
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada