

Resolution In Support of Leonard Peltier

WHEREAS, the Bell Street Chapel works for peace and social justice and upholds the UU principles which affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person, affirms justice, equity and compassion in human relations and, affirms the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and,

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier has served 40 years in federal penitentiaries and was convicted and sentenced to two consecutive life terms in connection with the shooting deaths of 2 FBI agents; 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 trial, and hiding ballistics evidence reflecting Mr. Peltier's innocence from the jury; and

WHEREAS, according to official court records, the U.S. prosecutor in the Peltier case has admitted that no one knows who fired the fatal shots, thereby killing both FBI agents; and,

WHEREAS, Leonard Peltier fulfilled his sentencing requirements and maintained a clean prison record for 15+ years. Despite this, the U.S. Parole Commission denied his application for parole in 2009; and,

WHEREAS, it has been revealed through the Freedom of Information Act that Leonard Peltier was convicted on the basis of fabricated & suppressed evidence in violation of his constitutional rights; 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 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's unjust imprisonment has been recognized by national and international human rights organizations, 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 Bell Street Chapel, in meeting assembled, urges President Obama to secure a grant of Executive Clemency to Leonard Peltier on constitutional and overriding human rights and compassionate grounds; and,

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the Bell Street Chapel does hereby call for the release of more than 100,000 related documents held in FBI field offices and calls on the Rhode Island delegation in both the Senate and the House of Representatives to urge President Obama to grant Executive Clemency for Leonard Peltier.

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the Bell Street Chapel does hereby calls the Bureau of Prisons to get immediate medical treatment at the Mayo Clinic for Leonard Peltier, who is 71 years old, in poor health, and at risk for premature death due to an aortic aneurism.

Certification

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Bell Street Chapel's Social Justice Committee in Providence, RI and later approved by Bell Street's board of trustees at a meeting on this 24th day April of 2016, having 6 members present, constituting quorum by the vote of 6 yea 0 nay, 0 abstaining.