

Petition for the Release of Peltier Case Documents Under FOIA

TO:

**Honorable Charles Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

cc:

**Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

**Committee on Oversight & Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

Honorable Charles Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

First, thank you for protecting and advancing government transparency through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

As you may recall, Leonard Peltier is a prominent Native American activist who is currently imprisoned at the United States Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Leonard Peltier was convicted in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on June 26, 1975, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

For years, Leonard Peltier's attorneys have attempted to secure his files from the FBI under the FOIA. FOIA requests have been made on Mr. Pelter's behalf to FBI Headquarters and its field offices around the country. There have been numerous unnecessary delays in the handling of the FOIA requests submitted on Mr. Peltier's behalf, however, and the FBI almost always refuses to release documents citing national security interests. It's difficult to understand what possible risk to national security exists related to a case the FBI investigated over 34 years ago.

I urge you to hold a hearing on the handling of Leonard Peltier's FOIA requests. The FBI must be required to divulge the exact number of documents it maintains on Leonard Peltier and the Field Offices that maintain these records; the total number of documents regarding this case that have been destroyed, as well as the date and authority under which records were destroyed; and whether or not any records dealing with Leonard Peltier have been transferred to any other agencies, as well as pertinent details of those transfers.

More importantly, these documents—that are over 25 years old and historically significant—must be released. At this time, the FBI continues to withhold over 70,000 documents that are known to exist. These documents may contain new information that will shed light on this controversial case. These documents must be released to the public without delay.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name	Signature	Address	City/State	E-mail	Phone

Name	Signature	Address	City/State	E-mail	Phone
Mail copy to the LPDOC, PO Box 24, Hillsboro, OR 97123					

