



A.J. MUSTE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

Supporting Nonviolent Action

October 8, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute urges you to grant executive clemency to Leonard Peltier. Now 71 years of age, his health is deteriorating and the conditions at United States Penitentiary, Coleman, a maximum security facility, render his situation especially precarious. Mr. Peltier has served nearly four decades in prison, sentenced to two consecutive life sentences for the 1975 murders of two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents. Despite the fact that the prosecution had no direct evidence that he participated in the killings, Mr. Peltier has served more time than many other persons convicted of the same or similar offenses.

As you likely know, Amnesty International has followed Mr. Peltier's case for years, listing it in its 2010 Annual Report's "Unfair Trials" category. Along with other humanitarians and attorneys familiar with the underlying facts, Amnesty International has grave concerns about the fairness of proceedings leading to the trial and conviction. Political factors likely influenced the way in which the case was prosecuted, a concern that is underscored by the failure to grant a new trial and denial of parole.

The U.S. Parole Commission has held a number of parole hearings on this case but has denied parole on the grounds that Mr. Peltier did not accept criminal responsibility for the murders of the two FBI agents. This is despite the fact that, after one such hearing, the Commission acknowledged that "the prosecution has conceded the lack of any direct evidence that you personally participated in the executions of two FBI agents." Tenth Circuit Judge Stephanie Seymour and Senior Circuit Judges Stephen Hale Anderson and Wade Brorby are on record as acknowledging that the government not only withheld evidence in Mr. Peltier's case but also intimidated witnesses. (Peltier v. Booker, 348 F. 3d 888, 896 (10th Cir. 2003)).

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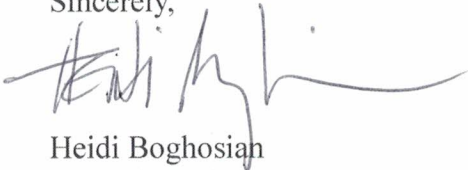
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The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute was founded in 1974 in honor of A.J. Muste, a pacifist, anti-war activist and a leader of the labor and civil rights movements whose personal integrity earned him rare universal respect. The Institute provides resources and funding to grassroots, activist organizations working on behalf of peaceful social change in the United States and internationally.

We add our name to the growing number of organizations and individuals urging you to grant executive clemency to Leonard Peltier so that, on humanitarian grounds and in the interest of justice, he may be unconditionally released from prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Boghosian", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heidi Boghosian
Executive Director