

New York Yearly Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
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Dear President Obama:

New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends comprises the body of Quakers in New York State, northern New Jersey and western Connecticut. We call for the release of Leonard Peltier from prison in accordance with the plan drawn up by the National Congress of American Indians. Accordingly, we request that you do all within your power to make this happen.

At the recent gathering of New York Yearly Meeting in November 2014 we came to understand that placing this call is what God would have us do. As is our practice, we minuted this decision in writing. I am attaching the minute, as approved by the gathered body of New York Yearly Meeting, so that you might have a more complete understanding of how we have been led to make this request of you.

New York Yearly Meeting's minute:

Friends have a long-standing concern for prisons and those who have been unjustly imprisoned. We are called by God to act with integrity, and out of this grows a concern for justice. We have historic ties with Native American Nations and hold a concern that Native American individuals and Nations receive justice within our governmental systems. We feel led by the Spirit to call for the release of Leonard Peltier because we are led to speak truth to power. If we remain silent, we fail to take action when we feel called to do so. Our conscience requires it of us and our Spirit moves us to act. We join the international community in calling for his release.

In Leonard Peltier's own words:

The Message

Silence, they say, is the voice of complicity.
But silence is impossible.
Silence screams.
Silence is a message,
just as doing nothing is an act.

Let who you are ring out & resonate
in every word & deed.
Yes, become who you are.
There's no sidestepping your own being

or your own responsibility.
What you do is who you are.
You are your own comeuppance.
You become your own message.

You are the message.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier

New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends calls for the release from prison of Leonard Peltier in accordance with the plan drawn up by the National Congress of American Indians. Leonard Peltier is elderly and in ill health. We ask that he be allowed to rejoin his family and live his last days in peace.

The clerk of New York Yearly Meeting is requested to forward this minute to Barack Obama while he is in office, and to our Senators and Congressional Representatives.

Additionally, the clerk is requested to write to Leonard Peltier personally to inform him of our action and support, as well as the National Congress of American Indians, which formulated the plan for his release; the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee; *Indian Country Today*; and all North American yearly meetings. Individual members of New York Yearly Meeting are also encouraged to express individual support for release of Leonard Peltier as led.

Jeffrey L. Hitchcock
Clerk, New York Yearly Meeting