



LEONARD PELTIER OFFICIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE

www.freeleonardpeltiernow.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kalonji Jama Changa, Board Member, Leonard Peltier Official Ad Hoc Committee

Tel.: 678.558.8494

Email: mediablackpower@gmail.com

Dawn Lawson, Assistant Director, Leonard Peltier Official Ad Hoc Committee

Tel.: 1.800.901.4413

Email: dawn@freeleonardpeltiernow.org

STATEMENT OF ATTORNEYS FOR LEONARD PELTIER REGARDING JULY 2, 2024, PAROLE DECISION

This fight is not over until it is over. Lead attorney, Jenipher Jones and Attorney Moira Meltzer-Cohen, who are leading both the administrative appeal and litigation efforts on behalf of Mr. Peltier, will appeal the United States Parole Commission's grotesquely unconstitutional decision.

In a moment of bitter irony, as the nation heads into the 4th of July Independence Day holiday, the United States Parole Commission failed to recommend Leonard Peltier, who is the longest-serving Indigenous political prisoner in the United States, for release. The USPC's July 2, 2024, decision continues to impose upon Mr. Peltier a slow Death by Incarceration. The Parole Commission's decision only illustrates the truth of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention report stating that Leonard's incarceration constitutes an arbitrary detention and noting his parole hearings as a key contributing factor to what they have characterized as his unjustly prolonged incarceration.

Though Congress mandated the closure of the US Parole Commission in 1987, it remains in operation, due to decades of reauthorizations and extensions. After unconstitutional misapplication of statutory parole provisions, the Commission is denying freedom to many vulnerable and elderly population of federal prisoners, known as "old law prisoners," including Leonard Peltier and many other political prisoners.

Leonard is a prisoner of war. Echoing Frederick Douglas this 4th of July holiday, attorneys Jones and Meltzer-Cohen reflect on his enduring words, "what have...those I represent, to do with your national independence? Are the great principles of political freedom and of natural justice, embodied in that Declaration of Independence, extended to us?"

We who believe in freedom cannot rest. We will not give up the fight for Leonard - and neither should you.