

07-24-2024

Senator Laphonza R. Butler  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Department of Justice Senate Judiciary Committee Oversight

Greetings Senator Butler,

I am writing to you, as you are a member of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, a standing committee of 21 U.S. senators whose role is to oversee the Department of Justice.

The Bureau of Prisons, as well as the FBI, fall under the umbrella of the Department of Justice.

Leonard Peltier, Bureau of Prisons (BOP) register number 89637-132, held at USP Coleman 1 in Florida, is and has been experiencing deliberate medical neglect by prison officials that is so severe it may cost Leonard his life if someone does not intervene.

It appears that you and your colleagues are the only body in the United States government that can intervene. I am asking that you please do so, to prevent Leonard Peltier's death from medical neglect.

Even Mr. Peltier's Parole Examiner strongly suggested that the BOP evaluate him for a medical transfer.

I am asking that the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary ensure that Leonard Peltier is transferred to a facility which can care for him, such as the Medical Facility in Rochester.

The BOP has stated that its policy supersedes the Constitution. This may hold true in certain security instances, but Leonard is approaching 80 years old and is on a walker. He has lost arm strength and has fallen several times. I fail to see how providing life-saving medical care presents any security risk.

Coleman 1 is unable to meet Mr. Peltier's medical needs. He has been hospitalized three times for complications arising from diabetes. If the diabetes was under control, Leonard would not be in and out of the hospital.

Indefinite lockdowns have exacerbated the comorbidities Mr. Peltier suffers from. Diabetes. Intermittent blindness. An aortic aneurysm. Sleep apnea. Loss of strength in his limbs. A prostate infection. There is more.

Prison officials did indeed give Mr. Peltier a CPAP machine for the sleep apnea. There is no electrical outlet to plug it into.

Retired Leavenworth guard Bruce Smith came forward and said that the FBI calls the shots at the BOP in a clear abuse of power.

The FBI has made it clear they want Mr. Peltier to die in prison. By denying parole, they sentenced him to Death by Incarceration.

Regardless of what the FBI does or does not want, denying crucial medical care and deliberately causing a human being to suffer physically is not legal in the United States.

Please, Senator Butler: someone must step in when corruption becomes so blatant they do not care to cover it up. Please bring this to your colleagues and consider putting an end to this one layer of corruption. Where is the Justice?

Respect,

Dawn Lawson