

June 28, 2000

53 Legislative Council Resolution #17

University of Colorado Student Union  
Legislative Council

Sponsor:

Ara Cruz

Representative at Large

Author:

Ara Cruz

Representative at Large

**A Resolution**

**Resolution History**

**On June 26, 1975**, a shoot-out erupted on the Pine Ridge reservation after years of oppression. One Native man and two FBI agents were killed in the firefight. Three people went to trial for the deaths of the agents, one of whom was Leonard Peltier. No investigation of the Native man's death took place. Peltier, an Anishinabe-Lakota political prisoner, was found guilty of first-degree murder and ordered to two consecutive life sentences in one of the most controversial trials of the century. He has spent the last 24 years of his life in prison despite the fact that the government has admitted on numerous occasions that they do not know who is responsible for the crime he was convicted of. According to the final decision of the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, Peltier's trial and previous appeals had been riddled with FBI misconduct and judicial impropriety including: coercion of witnesses, perjury, fabrication of evidence, and the suppression of exculpatory evidence which could have proved his innocence. The Court called the FBI's misconduct "a clear abuse of the investigative process". Yet they ruled against a new trial for Leonard Peltier because they were "reluctant to impute further improprieties to them (FBI)." Because of the glaring Human and Constitutional violations that have been made in the overall targeting, prosecution, and continued imprisonment of Peltier, millions have come to know of his case and support his freedom. Some of whom are the late Mother Theresa, Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, Amnesty International, the National Congress of American Indians, and Jesse Jackson among others. He was recently denied parole before the hearing officer had reviewed and read the amazing supporting evidence and reason for Peltier's release. (see attached)

Resolution Summary

**Whereas:** Leonard Peltier has been wrongly convicted of murder

**Whereas:** The case against Peltier lacks credibility as inconsistencies permeate throughout his **experience** with the judicial system and the FBI, and

**Whereas:** Violations of Peltier's constitutional rights have occurred as he has not been given fair **and just treatment** in the court system

**THEREFORE, be it resolved by the University of Colorado Student Union Legislative Council, THAT:**

**Section I: The University of Colorado Student Union Legislative Council** issues a formal demand that Leonard Peltier be granted presidential clemency and given an apology.

Section II: This resolution will be sent to President Clinton.

**Section III:** This resolution takes effect upon passage.

7/13/00

Passed 1st Reading

4-3-2

7/27/00

Passed 2nd Reading

8-0-1