

Leonard Peltier Defence Committee's Indigenous Human Right week 2016  
in Washington D.C.

Day 4

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2016

Program overview

**Monday-Saturday, December 5-10 – White House Vigil**

Join us daily for a vigil at the White House for Executive Clemency for Leonard Peltier, peak hours from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**A press conference will be conducted beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the National Press Club,** Zenger Room, 529 14th Street, NW, 13th Floor, Washington, DC 20045. The panel will include Martin Garbus, lead counsel for Leonard Peltier; Cynthia Dunne, attorney for Leonard Peltier and former federal prosecutor; Bruce Ellison, long-time attorney for Leonard Peltier; Justin Mazzola of Amnesty International-USA; John Dulles, former Regional Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (and successor to Bill Muldrow); and Jean Roach and Norman Patrick Brown, survivors of the June 26, 1975 fire at the Jumping Bull ranch, commonly referred to as “the Incident at Oglala” that led to the decades-long imprisonment of Leonard Peltier. The panel will be joined by Peltier family members and other invited guests. The panel presentations will be followed by a Q&A session. Opportunities for individual interviews with panelists and other attendees will be provided.

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The weather was dry and not too cold. We went straight away with the banner in front of the White House. For quite some time it was just Leonard C. Bolt and me there. After a while, 2 women came, which had been to each event, but just around ½ an h. It is actually really a pity that not more people could be reached to stand up for Leonard Peltier. Even though I was attached to one of the banner poles, I tried to reach out to the people and spoke with them.



Yvonne Swan, the wife of belated Floyd Red Crow Westerman came with her daughter and held the banner for some time. Ali my friend from L.A., who actually is Persian and decided to come with me to Washington D.C. in order to support me in my mission for this cause, forms together with Nolan Awhak and Leonard Seabolt the backbone of the Banner holders. Without them, the entire Vigils would not take place. The others mostly, just come and stand around without

taking action.

Or just pop in and leave again. Yvonne Swan is a good friend of Leonard Peltier and is also 72 years old. She has collected a 69 000 signatures on 5000 pieces of paper for Leonard Peltier's release. She spoke about the time at the Pine Ridge reservation and what a gentle guy Leonard is.

Fred Staffeld came, who had started the day before to make a little clip about me and Nolan for his blog DCfred. He films everything what is going on around the White House. He named the clip

### **Warrior: A German Woman's Quest For Leonard Peltier's Freedom**

<https://youtu.be/sXdI7qqyOsA>

**Published on 7 Dec 2016**

This week I met Veronika Geyer, a German national, and Nolan, a black revolutionary activist from Los Angeles, who are visiting DC as part of an international effort to gain executive clemency for Leonard Peltier before president Obama leaves office. Mr. Peltier was a member of the Lakota tribe who was convicted of murdering two federal agents in 1977. Since then, he has come to be known as a symbol of mistreatment of Native Americans by the US criminal system; others see him as the murderer of two FBI agents.

[#leonardpeltier](#) [#freeleonardpeltier](#) [#peltier](#)

He also took this picture of me in front of the White House



At around 12 o' clock, we went to the Press conference and I was so happy, that Nolan and Ali took over displaying the banner in front of the White House so I could leave.





From left to right: Cythia Dunne, attorney at law,  
Norman Brown, survivor of the incident at Oglala,  
Jean Roach, survivor of the incident at Oglala,  
Chauncey Peltier, Leonard Peltier's oldest son,  
John Dulles, U.S. Commission of Civil Rights (retired)  
Justin Mazzole, Amnesty International



Norman Brown, who was just 15 at the time of the shoot-out, got quite entangled in the entire case, since he was a witness intimidated by the FBI.



This was a highly interesting Press conference. I have actually recorded it, so in case someone is interested to hear it.....

Around 15-20 journalists were there. Mrs Dunn spoke excellent and very transparent. And there were quite a lot of Questions and Answers. The conference took about 2 hrs.

At the end they especially talked about the chances for LP to be released.

They have given the

petition for clemency exactly at the first day when it was possible, to the White House, in February this year. Now there is a procedure in place, that first the Justice Department (or something like that) has to see how this prisoner was doing etc. and then it would hand the papers over to Barack Obama. Ridiculously and sad, this could take up to 2 years. So actually, the entire Clemency petition could not reach Obama in time. He will be out of office in 43 days, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January. (this is just how I understood it.)

It was also clearly stated that the FBI had let the LP Defence Committee know, that they are still against his release and do what they can to prevent it. This is such a disheartening fact, after all those years.

While Ali and Noland had held the banner in front of the White House, they were approached by some government employees to hear about the case, during the conversation the government people had voiced their opinion against his release for various reasons, such as; why did he run to Canada...Who then shot the agents....and so forth.

These are Leonard Peltiers paintings.

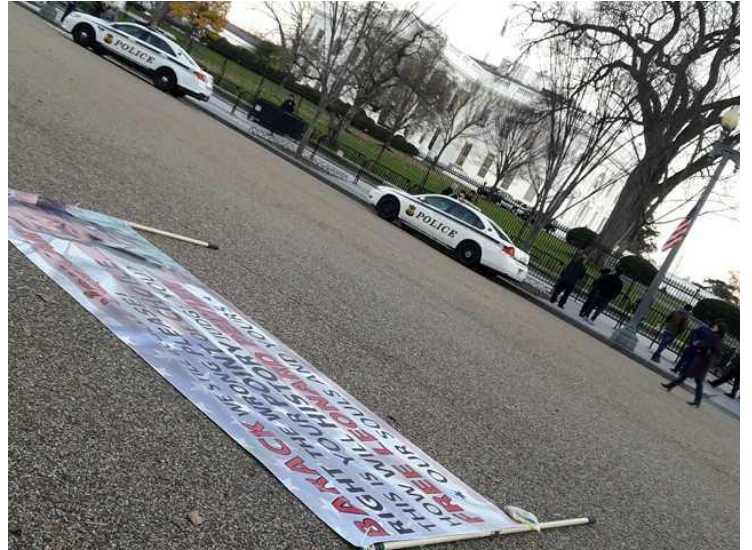






After the conference Peltiers Ex-wife took my hand, placed this feather in it and thanked me.

Right after the conference I returned to my banner alone, since I could not motivate anybody to stand in with me and relieved Ali and Nolan. Having no other choice, I had to lay the banner down, but did not want to leave the place and tried my best to reach the people until about 7 pm. It was an interesting atmosphere and quite rewarding to stand in front of the White House and see the natural light diminishing and the artificial lights glow up.



End

