

# C U S J

## Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

*A national faith-based organization founded in support of Unitarian values*  
President, Katherine Im-Jenkins president.cusj@gmail.com

Senator Patrick Leahy  
Chair, US Senate Judiciary Committee  
e-mail: [senator\\_leahy@leahy.senate.gov](mailto:senator_leahy@leahy.senate.gov)  
422 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

July 19, 2009

Dear Senator Leahy:

I am writing on behalf of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ), a national faith-based organization founded in support of such Unitarian principles. I am writing today to affirm the importance of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations and the inherent worth and dignity of every person., as it applies to the case of Leonard Peltier.

As Canadian Unitarians concerned about both our countries' treatment of those whom we term First Nations peoples, we are writing to urge that you and the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee give careful consideration to the Leonard Peltier parole hearing scheduled this month.

We hope you will be able to review the Leonard Peltier (AIM) case and the upcoming Parole Board hearing, Mr. Leonard has spent 33 years in prison for a crime he may very well not have committed. The international reputation of the US justice system has been harmed by suspicions that much of the evidence presented against him by U.S. Government agencies was fabricated by the FBI. According to Amnesty International, the original trial was a political one.

We understand that Mr. Peltier has been an exemplary prisoner, and during his imprisonment has received a number of awards for his actions and character. Mr. Peltier has suffered a severe beating while in prison, and is now an old man and has health problems. He is a hero to American Indians and Canadian First Nations. His release on parole would be favorably received by the many tribes and bands.

We believe Mr. Peltier should be released to spend his remaining years with his family and friends, that he poses no threat of any kind to anyone, and that you and your Committee should be open to helping him achieve his freedom.

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The treatment Mr. Peltier has received has sullied the reputation of the American justice system internationally.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

Katharine Im Jenkins,  
President,  
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ)

ccThe Honorable Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

ccHarley G. Lappin, Director  
Bureau of Prisons  
U.S. Department of Justice  
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ccLeonard Peltier # 89637-132  
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