

In the Matter of Leonard Peltier

Alberto Saldamando, General Counsel, International Indian Treaty Council, <http://www.treatycouncil> (<http://www.treatycouncil>) . Leonard Peltier, a member of the American Indian Movement and Indigenous human rights defender, is reputed to be the longest held political prisoner in the United States. He has been imprisoned for over 33 years and has been eligible for parole since 1993. Convicted of the murder of two Federal Bureau of Investigation on admittedly false and perjured testimony in 1977, his appeals for a new trial have been denied four times, and his requests for parole denied on even more numerous occasions, the last in 2009. The denials of parole have always been hotly contested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and have always been based on the lack of an admission of guilt, a standard not included in the federal guidelines of the US Parole Commission, and to which he cannot truthfully comply.