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K.O.L.A.
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Brussels, October 14. 1993

Dear Mister Mandela,
and members of the African National Congress,

We are convinced we need not introduce **Mr. Leonard Peltier** to you. In the past, you and Bishop Desmond Tutu have repeatedly expressed your concern about his situation.

Mr. Peltier lost his bid for a new trial. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, after a secret (and thus illegal) meeting with the FBI, reached an astonishing conclusion on July 7, 1993. Even despite the Freedom of Information Act, which "*liberated*" circumstantial evidence, proving that Mr. Peltier could in **no way** be linked to the killing of two FBI agents at the Jumping Bull ranch in 1975. The three-panel judge, however, decided that Leonard should remain in prison (he had been sentenced to two consecutive life-times). Despite proof of gross FBI and governmental misconduct, fabricating of evidence, coercion of witnesses, and so on ...

In September 1993, the Attorney General notified Peltier that he was eligible for parole. He had been since 1986, but neither himself, nor his attorneys were notified of this fact ! Mr. Peltier immediately filed a request for parole; the decision will be taken in December of this year. But after 18 years of lies, we cannot feel very hopeful. That is why we are again asking **President Bill Clinton** to commute Leonard's sentence and to grant him **executive clemency**.

The "**Free Peltier Campaign**" will start on **November 21st** and run through **December 24th**, 1993. During this period, delegations of tribal people, attorneys and VIPs will visit with the president of the USA. The same campaign will also take place in 25 other countries. Together, we will present the president 1,000,000 signatures, 100,000 letters and 10,000 resolutions/statements/declarations, demanding the release of Mr. Peltier.

We, the European office of KOLA, have already contacted numerous people of both the political and socio-cultural world. The Belgian **senators Nelly Maes** and **Jo Cuyvers** have just signed the petition for executive clemency, as well as the City Councils of Brussels and St. Niklaas. **Princess Marie-Christina**, our King's sister, has personally written to Bill Clinton on Leonard's behalf. We managed to mobilize actors and rock-artists, and so on. And we have barely started.

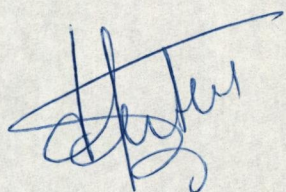
In December, a Belgian delegation (consisting of members of human rights organizations, politicians, and journalists) will meet with the US Ambassador in Brussels. An agreement was made with the Ambassador and US Human Rights Officer, Adam Sterling, that all letters, petitions, resolutions, we collected will be sent to President Clinton as "*diplomatic mail*". Copies of these same documents will be presented to the White House by the US delegations.

In annex, you will find our latest press-file on Mr. Peltier and our VIP-petition. May we ask if you would be willing to help us with this campaign, by signing the petition, or by writing a letter of support. The support of the A.N.C. would be greatly appreciated, and your personal involvement, Mr. Mandela, will be of great importance and weight.

As Mr. Peltier stated : this struggle doesn't just concern one individual, it concerns justice, democracy, freedom and respect for human rights and life.

We are anxiously waiting for your reaction.

With our deepest respect and gratefulness.



Elsie Herten
International Coordinator KOLA

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