



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### **USET Resolution No. 2016:015**

#### **CALLING FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA TO EXERCISE EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY FOR LEONARD PELTIER**

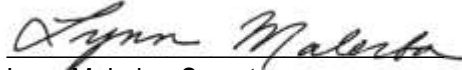
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nations, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Leonard Peltier was convicted and sentenced to two consecutive life terms in connection with the shooting deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and
- WHEREAS,** appellate courts have repeatedly acknowledged evidence of U.S. government misconduct—including knowingly presenting false statements to a Canadian court to extradite Mr. Peltier to the United States, forcing witnesses to lie at trial, and hiding ballistics evidence reflecting Mr. Peltier's innocence from the jury; and
- WHEREAS,** Leonard Peltier has maintained his innocence, yet expressed remorse for the loss of life for the federal agents and the young American Indian man killed on June 25, 1975; and
- WHEREAS,** Leonard Peltier is an accomplished author and artist and is renowned for his humanitarian achievements for which he has been nominated numerous times for the Nobel Peace Prize and has been the recipient of many other awards including the Human Rights Commission of Spain International Human Rights Prize (1986); North Star Frederick Douglas Award (1993); Federation of Labour (Ontario, Canada) Humanist of the Year Award (2003); Silver Arrow Award for Lifetime Achievement (2004); First Red Nation Humanitarian Award (2009); Kwame Ture Lifetime Achievement Award (2010); Fighters for Justice Award (2010); and Mario Benedetti Foundation (Uruguay) - First International Human Rights Prize (2011); and
- WHEREAS,** Leonard Peltier's unjust imprisonment has been recognized by national and international human rights organizations, luminaries and dignitaries, Members of the U.S. Congress and others who have all called for his immediate release; and
- WHEREAS,** President Barack Obama has the authority to grant clemency pursuant to Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board urges President Obama to grant clemency to Leonard Peltier based on constitutional, human rights and compassionate grounds.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, on October 28, 2015.



Brian Patterson, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Lynn Malerba, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*