

The Rev. Wallace Eamer  
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Dear Councillor Ben Isitt:

I am writing on the status of Leonard Peltier. Please share this letter with others interested in his case, as you see fit.

Justice has many elements, including truth seeking and compassion. I have great respect for truth seeking within the jury system, although like other human institutions there can be errors. A jury found Mr. Peltier guilty; I have no conclusive new evidence that their decision was in error.

Compassion is also an important in justice. The Gospel of John tells the story of the adulterous woman, who by the justice system of that time and place could be stoned to death. When those who would kill her according to Mosaic law asked Jesus what they should do, He shamed them with the words "Let him without sin cast the first stone". None were without sin, and no stone was cast. Jesus then said to the adulterous woman "Go, and sin no more".

As a deacon, I would apply that standard widely today. If Mr. Peltier is no danger to the public, it is vengeance, not justice, to keep him in jail so late into his life. Victims are not honoured or resurrected by vengeance; justice with compassion enables reconciliation. Mr. Peltier should be released by Presidential clemency, or on bail.

The Rev. Wallace Eamer

cc. The Rev. Lon Towstego