

IN MASSACHUSETTS

413-586-4407

PO BOX 4690

SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101

THE SEDITION COMMITTEE

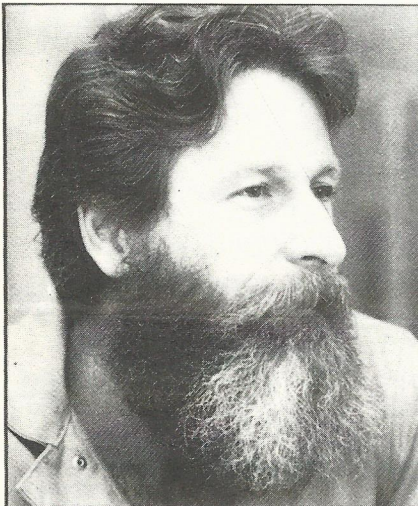
OHIO / ON TRIAL FOR SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY

IN NEW YORK

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PO BOX 1418, CATHEDRAL STA

NEW YORK, NY 10025



THOMAS MANNING

EMERGENCY BULLETIN

On Tuesday, August 30, 1988, the US Government dropped the sedition and RICO charges against THOMAS MANNING and JAAN LAAMAN. Ostensibly to simplify the trial, this action by the US Government silences two very powerful voices and separates TOM and JAAN from their wives and comrades, who are still on trial. TOM MANNING and JAAN LAAMAN will now begin to serve their existing sentences of 95 and 98 years for actions of resistance.

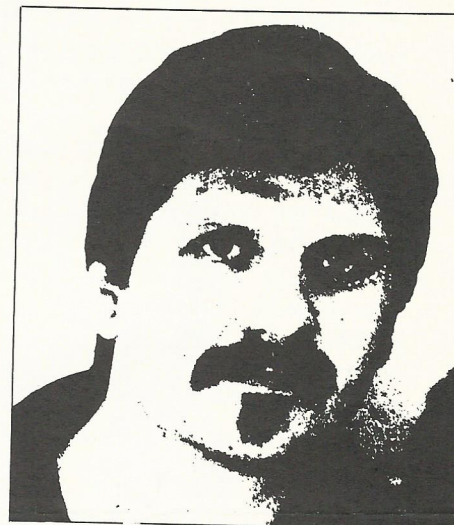
TRIAL UPDATE

In August, most court time for the OHIO 7 was spent doing jury selection. Since April when this process began, 248 prospective jurors have been interviewed. Six jurors are now seated.

The issues of security and the marshals' behavior continue to be troublesome. On 8/15, Ray Levasseur made an oral motion questioning the usage of electrical stun guns by the marshals. It is illegal to possess stun guns in Massachusetts. Noting that marshals have attacked members of the OHIO 7 in other courtrooms with stun guns, Ray asked the judge to investigate current practices with stun guns.

On 8/25, a very humane and progressive jury candidate was being interviewed. This 60ish woman had stated that she "agreed with the goals of the defendants" but did not agree with armed struggle. After some questioning the judge, preparing to excuse the juror, called for a conference at the side of the bench. As Ray and the attorneys approached the bench, a marshal jumped up, ran over, and stood between the judge and the defense team. Another marshal came and stood a few feet away as the first marshal assumed a menacing stance. Attorney Lew Gurwitz and Ray Levasseur spoke out and questioned how a sidebar conference could be possible with belligerent marshals in the way. The OHIO 7 team refused to approach the bench and there was a heated interchange between the judge and the OHIO 7 team. The judge then summarily dismissed the juror. Liz Fink, attorney for Carol Manning, pointed out that this hostile display by the marshals took place in front of a very supportive juror. The OHIO 7 team has long contended that marshals are meant to intimidate the public and cast a very negative shadow on the trial by their numbers and behavior, both inside and outside the courtroom.

Regional publicity this month about the sedition trial has emphasized its rising costs. The overall costs of the trial of the OHIO 7 for sedition and RICO charges have exceeded \$2.1 million dollars. The government has



JAAN LAAMAN

spent about \$600,000 for the defense attorneys, over \$800,000 to pay the Federal Marshals' Service for transport and security and about \$700,000 in court costs and staff. There has been no public statement of the costs of the Western Sweep, an eight-year investigation which led to the capture of the OHIO 7. 6 of the OHIO 7 have been tried already for the activities covered in this current trial and have received sentences ranging from 15 to 53 years. The OHIO 7 have never stopped fighting for their politics, their ideas and their human and legal rights.

WAKE UP! (Again)

Concord's selectmen refused to ring the meetinghouse bell on October 30, 1859 when Henry David Thoreau proposed to read a lecture he had drafted in defense of the recently captured John Brown. Firm and principled resistance to the status quo had never been popular in the US. Legend has it that Thoreau rang the bell himself and that the people gathered. Brown had been condemned in both the North and the South for his "rash" act, his impatience with the slave-keepers and slavery-apologists of his country. Many abolitionists, including the editors of the leading journal of New England's political enlightenment, The Liberator, marked Brown's attempt on the Harper's Ferry arsenal as an "insane" endeavor. The overwhelming sentiment across America in the fall of 1859 was that Brown had exceeded the bounds of proper conduct. Perhaps the only thing he had going for him, as his execution at the hands of the US military approached, was that a stubbornly independent, often annoyingly brilliant Henry Thoreau was speaking passionately on his behalf in the towns of Massachusetts. In spite of the seeming unpopularity of his subject, Thoreau drew an enthusiastic response from his audiences. John Brown and his act on behalf of four million slaves was not forgotten.

In 1988, a slowly gathering handful of bell-ringers occasionally succeeds in gathering small audiences on behalf of the modern-day John Browns. The real issues of 1988 are not the Republican and Democratic conventions - any more than they were in 1859 when John Brown tried to bring a revolution to Northern Virginia. Let the shallow and repetitive drone of the networks spill itself into nothingness. The bland faces which jostle each other on the nighttime tv screens, the dangerous postponers of America's new self-reckoning, are not worthy of our time or attention. Our prisons are restraining the liberators, and the ballot cannot bring them out to us. It is time for a new awareness to bring the tranquilized nation to wakefulness. It is time for us to march past the frowning and dazed selectmen and into the towers. It is time to call the real meeting to order.

BOB CANNEY 1928-1988

Bob Canney died suddenly on August 21st in Alfred, Maine. He is survived by his wife Connie and three children. Bob was tireless worker for human rights and had been active on many fronts since the 1960s - from civil rights to labor organizing to the anti-war movement. Most recently he had been active against US intervention in Central America and was a staunch supporter of the Black Liberation struggle.

Bob Canney always called for the release of political prisoners from US prisons, and he and his family have provided material and political support to the OHIO 7.

The Canney family is establishing a memorial fund to provide material aid to Nicaragua. Donations may be sent to Connie Canney PO Box 350, Alfred, Maine 04002. On behalf of the OHIO 7 and the SEDITION COMMITTEE we extend our deepest sympathies to the Canney family.

NATIVE AMERICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

In 1978, **Standing Deer**, a 65-year-old Oneida/Choctaw, exposed a government plot to assassinate American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Leonard Peltier in Marion prison.



This bizarre case has been documented in several books, including *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse* by Peter Matthiessen. In 1984, Standing Deer, Leonard Peltier, and Albert Gaza fasted for 42 days to draw world wide attention to the deplorable conditions at FCI Marion, the maximum security prison. In retaliation, the

government held these three men in total solitary isolation for 15 months with nothing in their cage but steel bunk and toilet. Standing Deer continues to fight for human dignity despite failing health and reprisals from his captors.

In his Marion Death Fast Statement Standing Deer wrote, in part: "All of the above things I could probably learn to live with because I realize that Marion is america's #1 gulag for political prisoners, and I know that my brothers, friends comrades in here are suffering the same indignities. But there is one outrage that I can no longer tolerate. I will no longer allow the united states to deny me the right to practice my religion. For 491 years the religion of my people has been trampled on and disrespected by the sea pirates and many of their descendants who invaded my land so long ago. For those of us today who wish to follow the religion and teachings of our grandfathers, the road is rocky and the struggle is hard even under conditions in the so-called "free world." But for American Indians in Marion, we have been cast into a spiritual wastebasket where every aspect of our religion is denied.

Leonard and me enter into this fast not out of despair or depression but with a joyful commitment of total love and dedication to our people. We must have our pipe, drum, sweat lodge and access to our outside spiritual people. We will fast until we are either granted our constitutional right to practice our religion or until we return to our Creator. If the united states does not wish us to die they have but to obey their own laws. If we do die, the united states' total disregard for human rights will be our murderer."

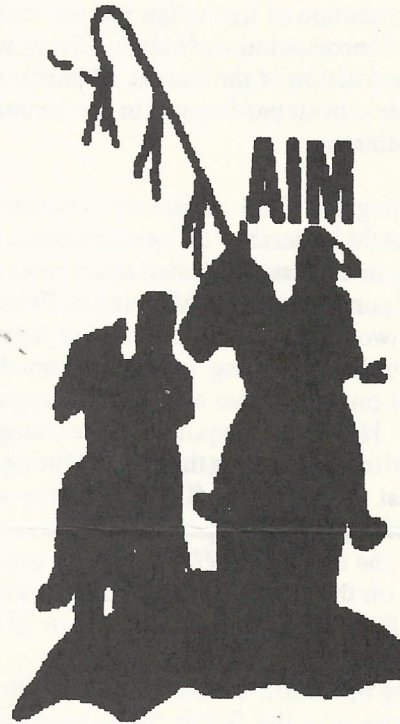
Standing Deer is currently imprisoned at the Oklahoma state penitentiary at McAllister. For years, a battle has been raging between prison officials and Native Prisoners over length of prisoners hair. The prisoners contend that they have the right to wear their hair long as part of their spiritual and cultural heritage. Traditionally, members of many native nations cut their hair only as a part of mourning. The prisoners believe this right to wear their hair long is legally protected under the 1978 Federal Indian Freedom of Religion Act. Prison officials in Oklahoma claim long hair as a "security risk" and have attempted to force Indian men to cut their hair. Several years ago, Ben Carnes filed suit against Oklahoma prison system over this issue. On April 10th of this year, the U.S. supreme court refused to hear the case,

giving the green light to prison guards to chop off Indian prisoners hair.

The only loophole for the prisoners is that they can apply for exemption, contingent upon their being able to prove they have a history of following traditional ways. One such prisoner is Standing Deer. He follows the traditional native ways and is a vociferous fighter for the rights of Native and all prisoners.

Now Oklahoma is trying to make him cut his hair. Standing Deer needs all our support now, so that he can get an exemption from this racist indignity.

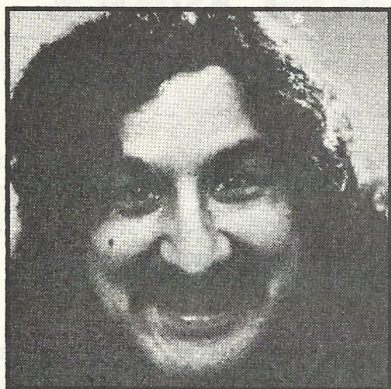
Write to: Chaplin Jack L. Hawkins, Oklahoma State Penitentiary, P.O. Box 97, Mcallister, OK 74502, to express your support for Standing Deer in particular as well as for all Native American brothers who carry forward this struggle.



THE SEDITION COMMITTEE

*OHIO 7 ON TRIAL FOR SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY
IN MASSACHUSETTS:
(413) 586-4407*

Leonard Peltier is a 44 year old Anishinabe/Lakota born on the



Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. Peltier traces the roots of his political activism to the racism and brutal poverty which he witnessed growing up there. In 1958, during a period when the U.S. was attempting to "terminate" reservations (i.e. unilateral abrogate the international agreements allocating these

lands to Indian people) and relocate Indians to urban ghettos, Peltier joined his relatives in the Pacific Northwest. In 1970, an opportunity presented itself for him to express his aspirations to actively help his people. A group of Indians occupied Ft. Lawton, an abandoned military base in Seattle Washington. The base was legally Indian land, and Peltier joined the occupiers who were demanding its return. It was here that Peltier first met American Indian Movement (AIM) organizers.

After the occupation ended, Peltier became increasingly active in AIM politics. In 1972, he helped organize the Trail of Broken Treaties in the Milwaukee, Wis., area. The Trail, a march from reservations across the U.S. to Washington D.C., intended to focus public attention of the Indian people, ended, due to the dishonesty and incompetence of federal officials, with the occupation and destruction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs headquarters. Peltier actively participated in the occupation, acting as security coordinator.

It was following the Trail of Broken Treaties that the FBI targeted the "AIM leadership" for neutralization, either by embroiling them in endless, fabricated court cases or by outright assassination. Upon his return to Milwaukee, Peltier was brutally assaulted by two off-duty policemen and then charged with attempted murder for trying to defend himself. He spent 5 months in jail on the charges and went underground soon after making bond. He was later acquitted of the charges and the FBI was implicated in instigating the attack. During 1973 and 1974, the Northwest AIM Group of which Peltier was a member became increasingly relied upon to provide security for AIM activities. In the spring of 1975, the group established the encampment on the land of Jumping Bull Family near Oglala, S.D. on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Since 1972, Pine Ridge had been the scene of massive parliamentary "peacekeeping" operation by the then FBI Director William Webster; it was, like the British "peacekeeping" in Northern Ireland, actually counterinsurgency warfare. Carried out under FBI direction by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) police and a private army known as the GOONs, this large scale terrorist operation was directly responsible for the deaths of more than 60 AIM members and supporters and for hundreds of assaults. The Jumping Bull camp was established at the request of Oglala organizers and traditional elders to protect their community from further GOON depredations. The FBI found the presence of the camp and AIM interference with GOON activities intolerable, but noted that military force would be required to assault the camp. What they lacked was justification. This was created on June 26, 1975, when FBI Special Agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams entered the Jumping Bull property to, as one AIM member put it, serve a warrant they didn't have on someone who

wasn't there for a crime they had no jurisdiction. This rash act precipitated a firefight which eventually involved more than 200 federal troops and left Coler, Williams and AIM member Joe Stuntz Killright dead. Despite a massive manhunt characterized by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights as "an over-reaction which takes on the aspects of vendetta...a full scale military invasion," the FBI was unable to find the participants in the firefight. Eventually, they charged three Northwest AIM members, Leonard Peltier, Bob Robideau, and Dino Butler in the deaths of the agents. Butler and Robideau were tried in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in July 1976. To the dismay of the FBI and federal prosecutor, the jury horrified by the evidence of FBI complicity in a large scale campaign of terrorism, found the defendants not guilty on the grounds that they acted in self-defense. The government vowed to ensure that this did not happen in the case of Leonard Peltier. He was fraudulently extradited from Canada in 1976 and run through a sham trial in the spring of 1977 in Fargo, N.D.. Judge Paul Benson cooperated with the FBI in refusing to allow the jury to hear testimony of FBI misconduct and interfering with the cross-examination of prosecution witnesses who were clearly lying. Peltier was found guilty of two counts of first degree murder on the basis of fabricated evidence and coerced testimony. He was sentenced to two consecutive life terms. His conviction has been upheld through two rounds of appeals despite FOIA documents providing that the FBI lied concerning the most important evidence presented by the prosecution and admission by DA Lynn Crooks that he "couldn't prove who shot those agents."

Peltier was sent directly to Marion. Peltier continued to function as an activist within the "super-max" prison. He, his family, and his supporters participated in the struggle for prisoners' rights and were in the forefront during the hungerstrike, work stoppage, marches and rallies of the early 1980's. In April 1984 Leonard, Standing Deer, and Albert Garza began a spiritual fast to call attention to the systematic denial of religious rights at Marion. Leonard was transferred to Springfield Medical Center and eventually to Leavenworth, where he remains today.

Peltier's uncompromising resistance fueled the growth of an international movement which has focused attention not only on his case but upon broader issues of indigenous land rights and POWs/political prisoners in the U.S.. Millions of individuals have written letters and signed petitions demanding a new trial, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, fifty members of the U.S. Congress, and fifty-one members of the Canadian Parliament. Mikhail Gorbachev recently evoked a wave of protest from the U.S. press when he responded to Reagan's "human rights agenda" by suggesting the U.S. clean up its human rights violations, citing Indians in general and Leonard Peltier in particular.

Currently, Peltier supporters are calling for a Congressional investigation into the FBI's criminal activity which led to his imprisonment. In light of recent revelations of FBI misconduct, popular support for such an investigation is growing. As Leonard has recently said, "We still have a long way to go, but my heart is strong, knowing that one day I will be free, as will all political prisoners, as will be all people."

OUTSIDE CONTACT:
LEONARD PELTIER DEFENSE COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 10044
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64111

FILIBERTO OJEDA RIOS-PRISONER OF WAR

In the eyes of the US government, he is simply too dynamic a leader, too formidable an adversary, to be free. After 3 years of preventive detention, followed by 3 months out on bail with very restrictive conditions in Hartford, CT, Filiberto Ojeda Rios was rearrested Friday, August 26 and charged with actions of self defense taken on the day of his arrest in Puerto Rico, August 30, 1985. This new arrest comes as his trial in the Hartford case has been postponed a year and as he is scheduled to address a rally in his honor in Hartford, August 28, two days later.

Filiberto Ojeda Rios was brought to Puerto Rico under heavy secrecy and immediately jailed at the US military base at Roosevelt Roads. In the courtroom, the judge did not know what to say about his incarceration at a US military base. The marshals had to call Washington, DC for instructions. "This stinks of colonialism," said Filiberto. Outrage spread over Puerto Rico. His court-appointed lawyer refused, on his principles as an independentista, to visit his client at a US base. News of Filiberto has been page 1 in the newspapers and hourly on the radio. Hundreds of supporters gather daily outside the court. Throughout Puerto Rico, people agree that his incarceration at a US base confirms his status as a prisoner-of-war.

When doctors testified that his health was endangered by his punitive conditions (he had heart valve surgery in April, 1988), Filiberto Ojeda was placed in a military hospital at Roosevelt Roads and chained to the bed. As the outcry from the Puerto Rican people grows, Filiberto Ojeda is flown back to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City on Friday, September 9. They may jail the man, but never contain the resistance!

AUGUST 28, 1988 - RECORDANDO 30 AGOSTO, 1985

3 years after the August 30 arrest of 15 Puerto Rican independentistas, Puerto Ricans and their allies gathered in Hartford August 28, 1988 to mark the date and honor the leadership of Filiberto Ojeda Rios. From the Island and from the US, leading independentistas shared the stage with musicians and performers to celebrate our commitment to a free and independent Puerto Rico.

AUGUST 15, 1988 - PUERTO RICANS DEMAND INDEPENDENCE AT THE UN

August 15, 1988 As the UN Decolonization Committee began its hearings on the status of Puerto Rico as a US colony, more than a thousand Puerto Rican and allies marched through Manhattan from El Barrio to the steps of the United Nations. As Puerto Rican representatives of social, political and religious organizations detailed the abuses and social disorder which have resulted from 90 years of US rule in the UN chambers, the crowd outside called for INDEPENDENCE, NOW! Representatives of the Puerto Rican Prisoners-of-War included the case of the OHIO 7 in their presentation to the UN. 90 years of colonialism have surely meant 90 years of resistance in Puerto Rico.

NATIONAL MARCH-SEPTEMBER 24, 1988-HARTFORD, CT
DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE
FREE THE PUERTO RICO / HARTFORD 15!

ASSEMBLE 12 NOON

MARCH TO BETANCES PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (203) 233-7996, 244-3963

SILVIA BARALDINI FIGHTS CANCER ...AND THE BUREAU OF PRISONS

Silvia Baraldini, anti-imperialist political prisoner, is currently recovering from cancer surgery in the Bureau of Prisons medical facility in Rochester, Minnesota. Silvia was given an emergency complete hysterectomy after a diagnosis of adenosquamous carcinoma, a particularly virulent form of cancer which thrives on hormones. As a result, Silvia is unable to take replacement hormones and must guard against the onset of osteoporosis, a dangerous thinning of the bone. While she was held in the Lexington High Security Unit, her treatment for cancer was delayed for "security reasons." Silvia is an Italian national who has lived in the USA all of her adult life and is serving a sentence of over 50 years for aiding the escape of another political prisoner.

In the aftermath of the victory of the lawsuit against the Bureau of Prisons' Lexington High Security Unit, the three political women are still singled out for particular harassment and violations of their human rights. Silvia Baraldini is scheduled to be sent to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City to serve her remaining sentence. Metropolitan Correctional Centers, in New York, Chicago and San Diego, are pre-trial facilities, often overcrowded, which lack work, educational or recreational opportunities. Silvia's doctors have prescribed a program of walking, jogging and swimming to help prevent or retard osteoporosis. Exercise at MCC New York is limited to one hour a week of rooftop recreation.

Silvia Baraldini served three years in Pleasanton, California without incident before being sent to the Lexington HSU for her political beliefs. Silvia must be returned to Pleasanton where she would have the necessary sun, fresh air and exercise for a complete recovery from cancer. Demand human rights for Silvia Baraldini!

WRITE TO

Michael Quinlan, Director
Bureau of Prisons
320 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

MICHAEL HILL AFRICA #M4973

Cannot Identify By
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