



Incomindios

International Committee for the Indians of the Americas

The Honourable Robert Douglas Nicholson
The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Justice Canada
East Memorial Building, 4th Floor
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0H8

Zurich, May 15, 2007

Dear Sir,

As the Swiss based human rights organisation for Indigenous peoples of the Americas we appeal to you together with numerous European organisations to take the following matter in urgent consideration:

May 17, 2007: Pending extradition of John Graham, member of the Tutchon First Nation and Canadian citizen. (For information on the case see www.grahamdefense.org.)

We are vehemently opposed to the Canadian government – under the undemocratic 1999 extradition policies – extraditing any of its citizens, more predominantly a member of its Indigenous population.

In this specific instance, this policy is reliant on accepting accusations from the United States which are based on hearsay evidence. From cases in the past, we unfortunately know that the United States has a demonstrated history of fabricating testimony.

We urge you to undertake all measures possible to insure that Mr. John Graham's safety is guaranteed and that he is given a fair trial in Canada. Unless the United States can present valid evidence we feel Canada is obligated not to allow forceful extradition.

Furthermore, we urge you to remedy past injustices such as the unlawful extradition of Mr. Leonard Peltier in 1976, which was based on a forged affidavit by a coerced witness. We understand that both cases serve to undermine the credibility of Native peoples' policies and their history of resistance against unjust structures in both the United States and Canada.

As we strongly believe in human rights and democracy we hope that this letter will contribute to taking the decision of non-extradition of John Graham to the United States.

We thank you for your attention.

Incomindios Switzerland

cc:

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
The Right Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada
Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada
Privy Council of Canada
His Excellency Robert Collette, Canada's Ambassador to Switzerland

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NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations