

# Wounded Knee

## THE LONGEST WAR: 1890 - 1974

The longest war that the United States government has ever waged has been against the American Indians. The war has never ceased. In 1890 federal troops massacred 300 unarmed Indians at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. In 1973 the government again mustered its forces against the Indian people of the Pine Ridge Reservation who had gathered at Wounded Knee to protest the continuing injustices to their people and the government's violation of their treaty rights under the 1868 Treaty.

On February 27, within hours of calling for aid from the American Indian Movement, members of the Oglala Sioux Civil Rights Organization and its supporters were surrounded. Police set up roadblocks, cordoned off the area and began arresting people leaving Wounded Knee. The Oglala people prepared to defend themselves against government aggression - once again.

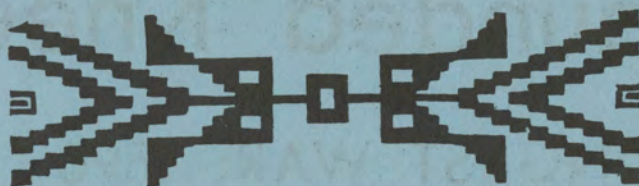
Under heavy fire from government troops and local vigilantes, the Oglala people liberated the village for 71 days - from February 27 to May 8 - establishing the Independent Oglala Nation. Two Indian men, Buddy Lamont and Frank Clearwater, were killed in the fight for their treaty rights.

Like its history of broken treaties, the government failed to honor the agreements ending the liberation of Wounded Knee signed on April 5 and May 5. The liberators asked for, and the Wounded Knee trials support, three basic demands:

1. A treaty commission (Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs) should examine the 371 treaties the United States has made - and broken - with Indian people. Rights should be enforced by law. The Oglala people should receive control of their reservation, as spelled out in the Treaty of 1868.
2. Repeal of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, a major weapon in robbing Indians of their treaty-guaranteed reservation lands, and a means of setting up white-controlled puppet governments. On Pine Ridge, hold new elections with impartial observers protecting against violence and fraud in the election.
3. Remove the Bureau of Indian Affairs from the U.S. Department of Interior -- its oil/mineral/park interests conflict with Indian interests -- and make the BIA an independent agency. On Pine Ridge, there should be an independent investigation of the BIA's handling of Indian affairs, and an independent audit of the tribe's books and land rent records.



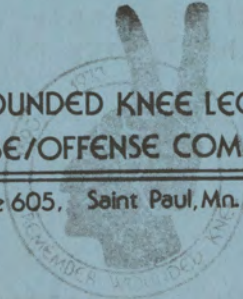
[Feb. 27, 1974]



As a result of the liberation approximately 130 people face heavy federal charges; and many more indictments are expected. Another 150 people face state and tribal charges for their stand at Wounded Knee and other Indian civil rights protests. The trials are in process in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. It costs \$30,000 a month to operate the Defense Committee Offices. YOUR HELP IS DESPERATELY NEEDED TO GAIN ACQUITTALS FOR THE DEFENDANTS.

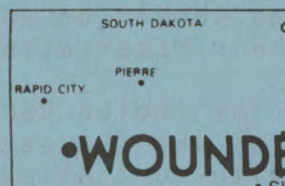
## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

1. Organize fund raising events. Set up speaking engagements for lawyers, defendants, and AIM members. Contact people who might be willing to offer financial support in lump sums or monthly pledges for specific needs. Call the St. Paul Defense Committee Office for Speakers, video tapes and information. For assistance in setting up Wounded Knee support groups and Wounded Knee programs call Doug Durham at 612-224-5631.
2. SEND CONTRIBUTIONS DIRECTLY TO: THE WOUNDED KNEE LEGAL DEFENSE/OFFENSE COMMITTEE, Room 605, 333 Sibley Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55101.
3. Help publicize the trials and political issues behind the liberation by writing letters to your local newspapers, and local radio and TV stations. Ask the national media for detailed, fair coverage of the Wounded Knee trials in St. Paul and Sioux Falls. Request the National Public Broadcasting Network to provide educational programs on Indian people, their history, culture and current reservation living conditions.
4. The American Indian Movement is providing housing, food and medicine for all supporters coming into St. Paul and Sioux Falls during the trials. To help them provide these necessities, contact: I-CARE, Box 1604, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57101, 605-334-4060 - and - AIM, 553 Aurora, St. Paul, Minn. 55103, 612-224-4395



### WOUNDED KNEE LEGAL DEFENSE/OFFENSE COMMITTEE

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### • WOUNDED KNEE

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