

# NORTH AMERICA



## NAVAJO, CHARGED WITH SPYING, REMAINS IN PRISON

Marine Sgt. Clayton Lonetree, originally from Big Mountain, Arizona, remains in military prison at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, accused of handing over top-secret documents to the Soviet Union. Human rights advocates charge that Sgt. Lonetree is a scapegoat to cover up a series of security fiascos at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, where Lonetree was stationed, and that his arrest may have been arranged in retaliation for his family's activism to defend their land at Big Mountain.

Lonetree was court-martialed and convicted, although his defense attorneys were denied visas to travel to Moscow and conduct an investigation of the charges, and all of the service guards and embassy personnel who might have provided evidence to exonerate Lonetree were transferred to 19 countries in different parts of the world. Sgt. Lonetree faces 25 years in prison, but his conviction is now being appealed.

According to Lonetree's attorney, William Kunstler, "Never in my more than forty years of practice have I ever witnessed a more flagrant and unabashed effort to see to it that a defendant was denied every fundamental constitutional protection."

Lonetree's mother, Sally Tsusie, says, "I believe that because of what's going on at Big Mountain ... that they were just looking around for something to attack him with. I'm originally from Big Mountain and in 1980 I was arrested for interfering with fencing of the BIA. ... They filed eight charges against me which never went to court."

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Sens. DeConcini, Inouye, and McCain of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, asking for an investigation into the circumstances of Sgt. Lonetree's arrest and conviction. Donations for Sgt. Lonetree's defense may be made to the Clayton Lonetree Defense Fund, P.O. Box 1380, Tuba City, AZ 86045. **FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Big Mountain Support Group, Box 9908, Berkeley, CA 94709.



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