



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

American Indian Movement photograph collection

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2024

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	American Indian Movement photograph collection
Date:	1973-1991
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.449
Creator:	American Indian Movement
Extent:	21 Photographic prints
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection contains photographs from the American Indian Movement (AIM).
Digital Content:	Digital Content: NMAI.AC.449_representative image

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Purchased from Bonnie Kahn's Wild West Gallery, 2009.

Separated Materials

AIM member items, including lapel buttons, a flag, a jacket, a shield, and two paintings. [26/7377-26/7441](#)

Related Materials

Peter Davis photographs from Wounded Knee [NMAI.AC.420](#)

Processing Information

Processed by NMAI Archives Center contract archivist, Mattie Lewis, 2024.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); American Indian Movement photograph collection, image #, NMAI.AC.449; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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American Indian Movement (AIM)

The American Indian Movement, also known as AIM, was founded in July 1968 in Minneapolis, Minnesota by Dennis Banks, Clyde Bellecourt, Vernon Bellecourt, and Russell Means. The civil rights group focused on the violence, discrimination, and poverty faced by American Indians as well as larger tribal issues including treaty rights and cultural preservation.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 21 photographs from the American Indian Movement (AIM), a community activist group dedicated to indigenous civil rights. Photographed events include the Wounded Knee Occupation, Pine Ridge Reservation, the Longest Walk, and others. The majority of the photographs are 8 1/2 x 11 in and black and white.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged in one series, by chronological event.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
- Civil rights -- United States
- Coeur d'Alene
- Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)

Cultures:

- Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
- Coeur d'Alene
- Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)

Names:

- Banks, Dennis
- Crow Dog, Leonard, 1942-2021
- Hill, David
- Peltier, Leonard
- Trudell, John

Places:

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (S.D.)

Wounded Knee (S.D.) -- History -- Indian occupation, 1973

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	<p>Wounded Knee Occupation, February 27- May 8, 1973 5 Photographic prints</p> <p>Notes: The Wounded Knee Occupation was a 71 day protest in 1973 by Oglala Lakota and AIM activists. Around 200 individuals took over the town of Wounded Knee, South Dakota in opposition to corruption by tribal president Richard Wilson and the U.S. government's mistreatment of Native Americans.</p> <p>Folder contains five photographs taken during the occupation.</p>
Box 1, Folder 1	<p>Trading Post, 1973 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Three men sitting at a Trading Post in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, at the start of the Wounded Knee Occupation.</p>
Box 1, Folder 1	<p>Activist at Wounded Knee, 1973 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Unidentified man on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota at the Wounded Knee Occupation.</p>
Box 1, Folder 1	<p>Dennis Banks, 1973 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Dennis Banks (Ojibwe), cofounder of AIM. Photograph was taken not long before the shoot out (possibly Wounded Knee).</p> <p>Names: Banks, Dennis Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)</p>
Box 1, Folder 1	<p>Leonard Crow Dog, 1973 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Leonard Crow Dog (Oglala Lakota), spiritual leader of AIM-preparing each man to fight, to become warriors. Photograph by U.S. News Service.</p> <p>Names: Crow Dog, Leonard, 1942-2021 Culture: Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)</p>
Box 1, Folder 1	<p>Leaving Wounded Knee, 1973 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Leaving Wounded Knee. Raymond Roubideau, lawyer, on left. Photograph by Michelle Vignes.</p>
Box 1, Folder 2	<p>Pine Ridge Reservation, 1975-1985 5 Photographic prints</p> <p>Notes: In 1975, two FBI agents followed a van containing AIM members Leonard Peltier, Joe Stuntz, and Norman Charles onto Jumping Bull ranch at the Pine Ridge Reservation. They exchanged gunfire, killing the two FBI agents. Joe Stuntz was killed shortly after. In a highly</p>

controversial trial, Leonard Peltier was convicted of the murders of the FBI Agents and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences.

Folder contains one photograph from the confrontation and four other related photographs.

This folder contains one restricted photograph.

Box 1, Folder 2

[Cecilia Jumping Bull, 1976](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: Grandmother Cecilia Jumping Bull, owner of the land where the shootout took place.

Box 1, Folder 2

[Steve Robideau, 1976](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: Steve Robideau, Director of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, crossing the Canadian border. Vancouver, B.C.

Box 1, Folder 2

[Jumping Bull Ranch, 1976](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: One year after uprising on Jumping Bull land, demonstration in support of Leonard Peltier.

Box 1, Folder 2

[Leonard Peltier, Circa 1985](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: Leonard Peltier at Leavenworth prison.

Names: Peltier, Leonard

Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

Box 1, Folder 2

[Joe Stuntz, June 26, 1975](#)

1 Photograph

Notes: This photo is restricted.

Culture: Coeur d'Alene

Box 1, Folder 3

[The Longest Walk, 1978](#)

3 Photographic prints

Notes: The Longest Walk was a five month march from San Francisco, CA to Washington, D.C that took place in 1978 in protest of legislation that would revoke treaties, limit native american rights, and greatly decrease access to social services. Folder contains three photographs from the march.

[AIM Students, 1978](#)

Notes: Students from an AIM funded school joined the Longest Walk, running in the rain out of Buffalo, NY. Larry Handboy and Norman Brown listed as participants.

Box 1, Folder 4

[Other AIM Activism, 1979-1991, Undated](#)

Notes: The American Indian Movement (AIM) was an activist group founded in Minnesota in 1968 to confront issues of discrimination, poverty, and other social issues faced by Native Americans.

Folder contains eight photographs of various AIM activists and events.

Box 1, Folder 4

[Robert Robideau and John Trudell, 1985](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: View of Robert Robideau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa/Minnesota Chippewa [White Earth, Minnesota]) and John Trudell (Wahpetonwan Dakota (Wahpeton Sioux)) talking with each other at a table inside of a house. Unknown date and location.

Names: Trudell, John
Robideau, Robert

Culture: Turtle Mountain Chippewa
Minnesota Chippewa
Wahpetonwan Dakota (Wahpeton Sioux)

Box 1, Folder 4

[Puerto Rican Independence Movement, 1985](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: Photograph taken during a forum for the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, which was supported by AIM. Identified AIM members are Vernon Bellecourt, Bill Wahpapa, Floyd (Red Crow) Westerman, Russel Means, Bill Means, Dennis Banks, Clyde Bellecourt, Nellie Red Owl, and Janet McCloud.

Names: Bellecourt, Vernon
Bellecourt, Clyde H. (Clyde Howard), 1936-
Means, Russell, 1939-
Westerman, Floyd Red Crow, 1936-2007
Banks, Dennis

Box 1, Folder 4

[Fish Camp on the Columbia River, circa 1987](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: View of a fish camp on the Columbia River where fishing rights advocate David Sohappy (Yakama) would fish. Photograph by Robert Robideau.

Names: Sohappy, David, 1925-1991
Culture: Yakama (Yakima)

Box 1, Folder 4

[International Political Prisoner's Day, February 11, 1979](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: American flag being burned at the FBI building in D.C. on International Political Prisoner's day. AIM observed the day with a peace walk honoring Leonard Peltier and a rally at the White House. AIM member John Trudell is center.

Names: Trudell, John
Culture: Wahpetonwan Dakota (Wahpeton Sioux)

Box 1, Folder 4

[The Longest Ride, 1991](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: The Longest Ride, organized by David Hill (right) in honor of Leonard Peltier, from the Northwest to Washington, D.C. The ride

was meant to bring attention to Peltier's case and support his pardon. It emulated The Longest Walk, which occurred more than a decade earlier. Photograph taken by Robert Robideau.

Names: Hill, David

Box 1, Folder 4

[David Sohappy, undated](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: Photograph of fishing rights advocate David Sohappy (Yakama) shot by Robert Robideau.

Names: Sohappy, David, 1925-1991

Culture: Yakama (Yakima)

Box 1, Folder 4

[Anna Mae Aquash, undated](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: Photograph of Mi'kmaq activist Anna Mae Aquash.

Names: Aquash, Anna Mae, 1945-1976

Culture: Mi'kmaq (Micmac)