

Portland Peaceful Response Coalition

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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday rally marks International Day of Action to Stop the Siege of Gaza. Date: Friday, December 1, 2006 Time: 5:00 PM Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square (SW Broadway & Yamhill), downtown Portland	Contacts: Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (503) 344-5078 pprc@riseup.net www.pprc-news.org
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Friday rally marks International Day of Action to Stop the Siege of Gaza, calls for immediate suspension of US military aid to Israel.

Along with *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*, *Women in Black* and other local peace and justice groups, PPRC's Friday rally marks an International Day of Action to Stop the Siege of Gaza,¹ calling on the US government to suspend military aid to Israel. "Israel's military has killed nearly 400 Palestinians in Gaza since June, at least 75 children, and the Israeli assault has caused serious and ongoing shortages in electricity, water and food," said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC and a member of *Jewish Voice for Peace*. "As US taxpayers, we are financing the imposed malnutrition, the crippling of medical care and sanitation services and the deepening social crisis resulting from the Israeli siege."

PPRC and other peace and human rights groups are urging that pressure be put on the government of Israel to end the siege. "We're asking folks to contact their representatives in Washington, DC, to demand an end to the illegal US support for Israel's aggression in Gaza and an end to the economic blockade against the Palestinian government, a form of collective punishment that has contributed to the current crisis."

Nine Israeli human rights organizations have issued a joint call to the international community to ensure human rights in the Gaza Strip. The organizations include *B'Tselem* (the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories), *Association for Civil Rights in Israel*, *Amnesty International – Israel Section*, *Bimkom: Planners for Planning Rights*, *HaMoked: Center for Defense of the Individual*, *Gisha: Center for the Legal Protection of Freedom of Movement*, *Physicians for Human Rights – Israel*, *Public Committed Against Torture in Israel*,

and *Rabbis for Human Rights*. For more information, please visit www.gzasiege.net , www.endtheoccupation.org , www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org or call (503) 344-5078.

1. The International Day of Action to Stop the Siege of Gaza is set for December 2nd and will be marked by demonstrations in Israel and throughout the world, including actions in over 80 cities.

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