

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

Event: First Friday rally of 2008 marks crimes of Bush Administration.

Contacts: PPRC
(503) 344-5078
pprc@riseup.net
www.pprc-news.org

Date: Friday, January 4, 2008

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW
Broadway & SW Yamhill, downtown
Portland

First Friday Rally of 2008 Marks Crimes of Bush Administration, Calls for End to Occupations, Renewing Fight for Civil and Human Rights in the Year Ahead.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition* begins the eighth calendar year of Friday rallies and marches at Pioneer Courthouse Square this Friday at 5:00 PM. The weekly actions, which have continued since late-October of 2001, have provided a forum for opposing the Bush wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, opposition to torture, extraordinary rendition and the illegal detentions at Guantanamo Bay, and for many issues closer to home. Over the years, PPRC has welcomed many other local social justice organizations as hosts for the Friday rallies. The *War Resisters League*, the *Oregon Community for War Tax Resistance*, *Jews for Global Justice*, and many other groups have embraced the Friday rally venue for speaking out on a range of issues. Most recently, the *National Lawyers Guild* hosted a Friday rally protesting the declaration of martial law in Pakistan and the brutal treatment of judges and lawyers by the Musharraf regime.

"This Friday we will look back on another year of wars and occupations, and on the growing list of crimes committed by Bush & Co., and their allies in Congress," said William Seaman, a regular at the Friday rallies. "The use of torture and illegal detentions, the elimination of *habeas corpus* and the assault on our essential civil and human rights, the scapegoating and terrorizing of immigrants and the undocumented in our communities, the bankrupting of our nation's wealth by a corrupt and illegitimate regime in Washington, and we ask that simple question: 'Are we any safer?'"

This Friday's rally will include a march to City Hall to protest moves by Pioneer Courthouse Square Inc., the private corporation that administers Pioneer Courthouse Square, to roll back the activities of the Friday rally. From the beginning, the Friday rally has used a battery-powered megaphone and is often accompanied by the *No War Drum Corps*. On December 21st, individuals at the Friday rally were informed that using the megaphone or playing drums on Pioneer Courthouse Square would result in a citation issued by the City of Portland Noise Control officer. Such citations can result in a fine of up to \$5,000. PPRC has contacted local civil rights legal organizations to determine how to respond. According to rally organizers, this Friday's rally and march will proceed as they have for the past six years.

For more information, please call (503) 344-5078. For press, please call (503) 888-7455.

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