

For Immediate Release

<p>Event: Rally and march to Shut Down Guantanamo Bay Prison Date: Friday, January 11, 2008 Time: 5:00 PM Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Broadway & SW Yamhill, downtown</p>	<p>Contacts: Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (503) 344-5078 pprc@riseup.net www.pprc-news.org Peace and Justice Works (503) 236-3065 pjw@pjw.info</p>
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**Portlanders to Rally and March to Shut Down Guantanamo Bay Prison
Action in Solidarity with International Efforts
Friday, January 11, 2008, 5 PM, Pioneer Courthouse Square**

Local peace and justice groups are joining an international call to action to shut down the U.S. prison complex at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, this Friday, January 11, 2008. The local action will take place beginning at the SW corner of Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Broadway and Yamhill, in downtown Portland, before a march begins at approximately 5:15 PM.

The Friday rallies continue to proceed in spite of the ongoing threats of "noise" citations from Pioneer Courthouse Square, Inc. (the private corporation that administers the square). This effort to roll back the Friday rally involves calling on the City of Portland Noise Control Officer to issue "noise" control citations to any Friday rally participant using a megaphone, a practice that has been part of the Friday rallies since November 2001. Last week's Friday rally went ahead in the spirit of this tradition without incident. Although no citations were issued at last Friday's rally, the peace marchers were informed by Portland's Noise Control Officer that they would be in violation and that they could be cited. This Friday's rally faces the same threat of citations. For more information, and to see video reports on last Friday's rally, please visit the PPRC website at:

www.pprc-news.org

Over 300 people have been held at Guantanamo since 2002, most without access to legal help, and many exposed to harsh conditions that many consider torture. In February, 2006, the National Journal wrote an investigative piece that showed: "Some of ... the terrorists, the trainers, the financiers, and the battlefield captures -- are

indeed at Guantanamo. But National Journal's detailed review of government files on 132 prisoners who have asked the courts for help, and a thorough reading of heavily censored transcripts from the Combatant Status Review Tribunals conducted in Guantanamo for 314 prisoners, didn't turn up very many of them. Most of the 'enemy combatants' held at Guantanamo -- for four years now -- are simply not the worst of the worst of the terrorist world.

"Many of them are not accused of hostilities against the United States or its allies. Most, when captured, were innocent of any terrorist activity, were Taliban foot soldiers at worst, and were often far less than that. And some, perhaps many, are guilty only of being foreigners in Afghanistan or Pakistan at the wrong time. And much of the evidence -- even the classified evidence -- gathered by the Defense Department against these men is flimsy, second-, third-, fourth- or 12th-hand. It's based largely on admissions by the detainees themselves or on coerced, or worse, interrogations of their fellow inmates, some of whom have been proved to be liars."-1

Witness Against Torture has declared January 11, the six-year anniversary of the first prisoners arriving at Guantanamo, an International Day of Action to Shut Down Guantanamo. In Washington, DC, they will be holding a demonstration at the National Mall followed by a procession to the Supreme Court. Actions are currently planned in 30 cities, including New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Miami, London, Paris and elsewhere.

Local groups organizing the Friday rally include Peace and Justice Works (PJW), Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (PPRC) and Women in Black. PJW and PPRC echo the national call for participants to wear orange t-shirts, armbands or other orange clothing on January 11th to mark the date.

Endorsers of the national action include Center for Constitutional Rights, Peace Action, United for Peace and Justice, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, War Resisters League and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

For up-to-date details on the international actions, visit <http://www.WitnessTorture.org>.

For local information call Peace and Justice Works at 503-236-3065 or Portland Peaceful Response Coalition at 503- 344-5078.

1--"Empty Evidence" By Corine Hegland, National Journal Friday, Feb. 3, 2006