

For Immediate Release

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| <p>Event: Portland Peaceful Response Coalition fires up the protest sign factory to mark five years of war and occupation in Iraq, raises the pressure on Democrats to take action.</p> <p>Date: Thursday, March 13th, 2008</p> <p>Time: 3:00 – 7:00 PM</p> <p>Place: Call for location</p> | <p>Contacts: Portland Peaceful Response Coalition<br/>503-344-5078<br/>pprc@riseup.net<br/>www.pprc-news.org</p> |
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Portland Peaceful Response Coalition fires up the protest sign factory to mark five years of war and occupation in Iraq, raises the pressure on Democrats to take action.

This Thursday, just two days ahead of Portland's next big peace rally and march, the Portland Peaceful Response Coalition will have their peace & justice sign factory in full swing. The sign factory will run from 3:00 to 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 13th; please call 503-344-5078 for location.

"We'll be cranking out hundreds of signs for this Saturday's mobilization against the war and occupation in Iraq," said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. "And each poses an important question, directed to the Democratic Party, about what they will do to end this criminal war and the many other criminal practices of the Bush Administration, including the use of torture and the rest of Republican assault on the Constitution and the rule of law."

PPRC has always kept a clear focus on the crimes of the Bush Administration, but during this Presidential election year they say there's an urgent need to put the Democrats under the spotlight as well. The signs make their message clear, perhaps too clear for the Democratic Party leadership, which is the target for PPRC's interrogative placards: "Will the Democrats End the War in Iraq?", "Will the Democrats Stop Torture?", "Will the Democrats End the Occupation in Afghanistan?" "Will the Democrats Stop the Attacks on Immigrants?"

A key organizer for the Thursday afternoon/early-evening sign making workshop is Mikel Clayhold, a longtime volunteer with PPRC. A machinist by trade, Clayhold has a sharp eye for crafting signs that seem to shout their message. And although he doesn't consider himself a graphic artist, he has been responsible for a very sizeable portion of the signs and banners that Portlanders recognize from past rallies and marches. "In addition to producing signs that speak to the issues that will get us into streets this Saturday, coming to this kind of sign factory is an exciting introduction to

silk screening, and the whole discipline of graphic arts," said Seaman, "and Mikel is both a terrific craftsman, and a wonderful teacher."

Several of Mikel's designs can already be seen at the regular 5:00 pm rallies that PPRC holds each Friday at Pioneer Courthouse Square. But a whole lot more of them will be seen this Saturday for the big mobilization marking five years of the war and occupation in Iraq. "We hope this Saturday's mobilization will make both Republicans and Democrats alike realize that the number one priority for the country is to end this criminal war and occupation and to bring the troops home now," said Seaman.

The sign factory runs from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM this Thursday, March 13th, at 4632 NE 16th Avenue in Northeast Portland. To find out more, or to set up an interview to discuss the fifth anniversary of the war and occupation in Iraq, please call 503-344-5078.

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