

For Immediate Release

<p>Event: Friday rally condemns Bush's pro-torture veto, makes final push for Saturday's mobilization protesting Iraq war.</p> <p>Date: Friday, March 14th, 2008</p> <p>Time: 5:00 PM</p> <p>Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Yamhill &amp; Broadway, downtown, Portland</p>	<p>Contacts: Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (503) 344-5078 pprc@riseup.net www.pprc-news.org</p>
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## **Friday rally condemns Bush's pro-torture veto, makes final push for Saturday's mobilization protesting Iraq war.**

Today's *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition* (PPRC) Friday rally and march at Pioneer Courthouse Square takes aim at the Republican support for torture, as expressed most recently by Bush's veto of legislation that would have made such barbaric practices as waterboarding illegal. "We have a President, and a lot of members of Congress, shamefully also including Democrats, who seem to think we live in Medieval times, when it was just fine to rip out fingernails or perhaps blind their prisoners with searing hot spikes of iron," said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. "Today's torturers feel they are more civilized because the forms of torture they prefer do not leave such outwardly disfiguring marks; they only scar and devastate the minds of their victims, not so much their bodies."

PPRC strongly condemns the Presidential veto that Bush used to stop the legislation that aimed to bring the CIA and other intelligence agencies' practices into line with the Military Code of Conduct which prohibits forms of torture that include waterboarding. "We may be disgusted and appalled by the behavior of the agents and interrogators who use these forms of torture, but surely we must be far more disgusted and appalled by, and surely we must work to prosecute, those elected officials who have just voted in an effort to make these criminal practices legal," said Seaman. "No legislation coming out of this Congress or any other can make murder legal, none can make slavery legal, and none can make these horrifying forms of torture legal." Seaman said that other countries should issue arrest warrants for any US Senator or Representative who voted to support Bush's veto, saying that International Law, which the Constitution sets as the supreme law of the land, ought

to be applied to all members of the Bush administration as well as their allies in Congress.

PPRC will be co-hosting an Action Tent at Saturday's big anti-war mobilization that focuses on the Bush administration's torture policies, along with other attacks on the Bill of Rights. In cooperation with the *Center for Constitutional Rights*, PPRC will provide a range of actions that Portlanders can take to oppose the use of torture, the use of warrantless wiretaps, the use of detention without due process, and the many other practices that have been put into effect under the Bush administration with the cooperation of Congress, often including Democrats as well as Republicans.

"Rain or shine, we will be out at the South Park Blocks on Saturday, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM with the Constitutional Rights Action Tent, and we hope to see thousands of folks coming out to express their dissent against Bush's criminal war and occupation in Iraq, and his criminal pro-torture policies here in the United States," said Seaman. "We hope folks will join us tomorrow for the big anti-war mobilization, and we also hope folks will join us year round for this struggle to restore the rule of law, as well as basic human decency, to our country." There will be an anti-war rally set for 2:00 PM, and a peace march set for 2:30 PM on Saturday. For more information, please call 503-344-5078, or visit the PPRC website at [www.pprc-news.org](http://www.pprc-news.org)

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