

# Portland Peaceful Response Coalition

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For Immediate Release

Event: Weekly peace rally sends message to Democrats and Republicans alike: Get the Hell Out of Iraq and Get the Hell Out of Afghanistan! Date: Friday, August 29, 2008 Time: 5:00 PM Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Yamhill & Broadway, downtown, Portland	Contacts: Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (503) 344-5078 pprc@riseup.net www.pprc-news.org
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## **Weekly peace rally sends message to Democrats and Republicans alike: Get the Hell Out of Iraq and Get the Hell Out of Afghanistan!**

### **Calls for Governor to Get Keep the Oregon National Guard in Oregon.**

As the Democratic Party wraps up its convention in Denver and Republicans prepare to open theirs in Minneapolis/St. Paul, local peace groups continue their work to end the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. “We want to make it very clear that we do not think that Afghanistan is today’s “good war,” and that we want a full and immediate withdrawal from both Iraq and Afghanistan,” said William Seaman, a volunteer with the Portland Peaceful Response Coalition. “We know John McCain would continue the crimes initiated by the Bush Administration, with more lies about how the war in Iraq can be won and how torture and warrantless wiretaps are just fine with him, but we also are deeply disturbed when we hear the Democratic candidate calling for escalation of US troops in Afghanistan and an ongoing presence in Iraq.” Local peace groups like the *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition* and *Peace & Justice Works* are unequivocal in their calls for bringing US troops home from both of those conflicts.

“Just this week the UN confirmed that US air strikes in Afghanistan killed 90 civilians, 60 of them children; that is not “progress”, that is not “nation building”, that is an atrocity in a long string of atrocities in two criminal wars launched by our country,”<sup>1</sup> said Seaman. “We want US troops out of Iraq and out of Afghanistan, we want them out completely, and we want them out now.”

Dozens of local peace groups have signed on to a call for the Governor of Oregon to refuse to allow Oregon National Guard to be deployed to Afghanistan or to Iraq. Their efforts are focused on the Oregon House and Senate, and the Governor, calling

for resolutions and legislation that the state can use to challenge the federalization of the Oregon National Guard. “This is an important way that Oregonians can act locally to send a clear message to both parties as we approach the November elections,” said Seaman. “Call you representatives in Washington, call the candidates for office, and tell them that we don’t the young men and women in the Guard to serve a single day in either of these criminal wars and occupations.”

Local and regional organizations that have signed on in support of the Campaign to Keep Oregon’s National Guard from Deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan include: Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom – Portland, War Resisters League- Portland, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Portland Peaceful Response Coalition, Code Pink Portland, Women in Black, International Socialist Organization, Metanoia Peace Community, Families for Peace, Progressive Responses, a program of Community Alliance of Lane County, Salem Raging Grannies, Corvallis Raging Grannies, Oak Grove Peace Vigil, Citizens for Peace and Justice (Medford), Peace House of Ashland OR, Eugene Peace Works, Oregon Peace Works, Portland Rainbow Coalition, American Friends Service Committee, Portland Catholic Worker –Dorothy Day House, East Timor Action Network / Portland, PDX Peace Coalition, Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights, Street Roots, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Rising Tide North America-Cascadia, Workers International League, Peace Memorial Park (Portland), Oregonians Against the War, Peace Action Committee of the First Unitarian Church, Oregon Action, Rural Organizing Project, Portland Jobs With Justice, Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice (Ashland), Veterans for Peace Chapter 72 (Portland), Veterans for Peace Chapter 132 (Corvallis), Veterans for Peace Chapter 141 (Bandon), Northwest Veterans for Peace, Veterans for Peace - Grants Pass, Military Families Speak Out – Oregon, and others.

For more information about the campaign, click on the campaign weblink posted at [www.pprc-news.org](http://www.pprc-news.org)

The weekly rally gathers each Friday at 5:00 PM at the southwest corner of Pioneer Courthouse Square, and SW Yamhill & Broadway in downtown Portland. To find out more about the Friday rally and the other work of the Portland Peaceful Response Coalition, call (503) 334-5078.

1. “U.S. Killed 90, Including 60 Children, in Afghan Village, U.N. Finds”, By CARLOTTA GALL, Published: August 27, 2008, New York Times

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