

Portland Peaceful Response Coalition

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For Immediate Release

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| Event: Local Peace Organizations Gather at Federal Building to Protest Israeli Attacks in Gaza. Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 Time: 5:00 PM (gather at 4:30PM, rally at 5:00PM) Location: Federal Building, SW 3rd & SW Madison, downtown Portland, Oregon. | Contacts: Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (503) 888-7455 William Seaman (503) 344-5078 voicemail pprc@riseup.net www.pprc-news.org |
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Local Peace Organizations Gather at Federal Building to Protest Israeli Attacks in Gaza.

Representing a broad range of Portland's peace and justice community, local peace and social justice organizations have organized a demonstration this afternoon to protest the Israeli attacks in Gaza and to call for an immediate cease-fire. The demonstration will be held at the Federal Building at SW Madison & SW 3rd in downtown Portland; the groups are calling for people to gather at the Federal Building at 4:30 PM for a rally set for 5:00 PM.

The demonstration is being organized by *Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights* and the *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition* and has the endorsement of *American Jews for a Just Peace*, the *International Socialist Organization*, the *War Resisters League* of Portland, *Oregon Community of War Tax Resistance*, the *Pacific Green Party*, the *American Friends Service Committee*, the *Sean Slattery Chapter of Veterans For Peace*, *Living Earth*, and others. For more information, and to set up interviews with organizers and members of the Palestinian and Jewish communities taking part, please call (503) 888-7455.

"The US needs to stop picking sides in order to promote peace," said Rima Ghandour, an organizer of the demonstration at the Federal Building. "Condemning Hamas but being silent to the Israeli aggression and months-long imprisonment and starvation of the Palestinians in Gaza is just plain wrong."

"Under the pretext of protecting its citizens, Israel kills and maims innocent Palestinian civilians in its attempt to topple Hamas, a democratically elected

government,” explained Hala Gores, a local Palestinian also helping to organize today’s protest. “Israeli jets, paid for by our U.S. tax dollars, bombard Palestinian homes, refugee camps, a university, and a place of worship. It was not enough for Israel to starve and imprison Gaza’s 1.5 million Palestinians, it now wants to bomb them into submission.”

“It is planes manufactured by US companies, bought by Israel with aid from US taxpayers, which are killing Palestinian men, women and children,” said Steven Goldberg of the *National Lawyers Guild*, who has worked for the enforcement of international law in defense of Palestinian rights. “The only way to end the violence of Israeli aggression and Palestinian resistance is for each of us – as US citizens – to demand that our government immediately halt all aid to Israel, and support and facilitate all efforts to reinstitute a truce in Gaza and negotiate an end to the madness in the Middle East.”

Local peace groups are calling for an immediate cease-fire, and for the US government to pressure the Israeli government to end the attacks. They’re recommending calls to the White House, to the State Department and to Oregon’s representatives in Congress to protest the Israeli attacks in Gaza and to protest the US support for those attacks.

The White House can be contacted at 202-456-1111 or by e-mailing at comments@whitehouse.gov. The State Department can be contacted at 202-647-6575. Contacts for the Oregon delegation can be found at www.pprc-news.org ; additional action links are available at the *US Campaign to End the Occupation* website at www.endtheoccupation.org.

For more information, and to set up interviews with organizers of the demonstration today, please call 503-888-7455.

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