

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday Peace Rally Condemns Domestic Terror Attacks that Killed Dr. George Tiller and Officer Stephen Johns, Calls for Decisive Action. Contacts: PPRC
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Date: Friday, June 12, 2009

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Yamhill
& Broadway, downtown Portland

Friday Peace Rally Condemns Domestic Terror Attacks that Killed Dr. George Tiller and Officer Stephen Johns, Calls for Decisive Action.

Today at 5:00 PM, the weekly Friday rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square will turn attention to the recent domestic terrorist killings of Dr. George Tiller and Officer Stephen Johns. “Both of these courageous people died in service to others, and both were victims of extremist right-wing ideologies that have degraded our society and the world with hatred and ignorance for far too long,” said William Seaman, a volunteer with *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition* (PPRC). “The perpetrators of these cowardly acts of terrorist murder were deluded by same kinds of doctrines of violence and bigotry that propelled the brownshirts in Nazi Germany in the 1930s, and that today make up a good part of screeds of right-wing propagandists of commercial media in the United States, and also from the pulpits of Christian extremists, our homegrown American Taliban.” Dr. George Tiller was murdered at his church by an anti-choice fanatic in Kansas, and Officer Stephen Johns was murdered by a white supremacist while on duty at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. “We wish to express our deepest grief for the loss of these two heroic gentlemen, and send our condolences to their families and friends, and to their co-workers and the people they served in their communities,” Seaman said.

“We’re calling on our political leaders to take a stand against the terrorist campaign against women’s reproductive rights and health care, to speak out strongly and unequivocally to affirm their commitment to fight for full equality for all women, and most especially in these dark days to protect the fundamental right to privacy and the right to make family planning and all health care decision themselves,” said Seaman, “and those rights mean absolutely nothing unless they are made free from the terrorist threat of violence and intimidation that has been the primary strategy of extremist

Christian anti-choice campaigners here in the US.” PPRC is urging people to sign onto *Planned Parenthood’s* “Open Letter in Response to the Murder of Dr. Tiller” which can be found at their website at www.plannedparenthood.org.

“Now is the time when we must all speak out, when we must all step forward for what we know is right, to protect women’s health care providers against this latest campaign of fear and intimidation, to speak out against the bigotry and scapegoating that we hear daily directed against our brothers and sisters in the immigrant communities,” said Seaman. “It’s easy to condemn the people of 1930s Germany for the vicious anti-Semitic scapegoating that led to the Holocaust, but our community tolerates the same kind of bigotry and scapegoating today from the likes of Michael Savage, Lou Dobbs, Ann Coulter, and so many others; silence is complicity, we must challenge these hate-mongers.”

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