

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Event: Friday Rally marks ongoing revelations of war crimes at Abu Ghraib prison, the cover-up of George W. Bush's fictional military service.

Contacts: (503) 344-5078
pprcnews@yahoo.com
www.pprc-news.org

Date: Friday, July 16th, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

Friday Rally marks the ongoing revelations of war crimes at the Abu Ghraib prison, the cover-up of George W. Bush's fictional military service.

Friday's 5:00 p.m. PPRC rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square will turn once again to reports of war crimes committed by American soldiers and private contractors at the now notorious Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. "The recent statements by investigative journalist Seymour Hersh describe US soldiers sexually assaulting young Iraqi boys and filming their crimes,"¹ said William Seaman, a regular speaker at the weekly peace gathering. "These abuses, these war crimes, were the direct result of policies, adopted by the Bush Administration, that sanctioned the use of torture." Seaman said that the continued existence of over a dozen secret detention centers strongly suggests that the abuses are continuing against prisoners held by the US or by US-controlled irregular forces.

Human Rights First (formerly the *Lawyers Committee for Human Rights*) released a report last month detailing the existence of secret US detention centers, to which access by the *International Committee of the Red Cross* had been barred.² "We know exactly what is happening inside these secret detention centers, hidden from world view and shielded from international law and human decency," said Seaman. "Alongside Himmler, Goebbels, and other monsters of recent history must be added the names of Rumsfeld, Cheney, Bush, Wolfowitz, and each of the mid-level bureaucrats, the bloodthirsty legal advisers, who sought to provide technical rationalizations for all of these abuses in the name of 'national security'."

The Friday rally will also turn to the recent reports that George W. Bush's military records had been "accidentally destroyed".³ "While his "Champaign Squadron" shenanigans were of little consequence compared to his latest crimes, it's a pity that his status as a full-fledged military deserter is not more widely acknowledged," said Seaman.

1. 'Secret film shows Iraq prisoners sodomised', By Charles Arthur, Technology Editor, 16 July 2004 - Independent (UK)
2. "U.S. Holding Prisoners in More Than Two Dozen Secret Detention Facilities Worldwide, New Report Says", Human Rights First, Press Release, June 17, 2004, http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/media/2004_alerts/0617.htm
3. "Bush military record 'has been destroyed'", By David Osborne in New York, 10 July 2004 - Independent (UK)