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For Immediate Release

Event: PPRC Friday rally and march cheers on the tens of thousands soon protesting at the Republican National Convention in New York, Condemns the US assault on Najaf and remembers US war crimes in Vietnam.

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Date: Friday, August 27th, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Places: Pioneer Courthouse Square

PPRC Friday rally cheers on the tens of thousands soon protesting at the RNC in New York, Condemns US assault on Najaf and marks US war crimes in Vietnam.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally and march will celebrate and cheer for the tens of thousands who are traveling to New York to protest the Bush administration's war crimes in Iraq. "We condemn the Bloomberg administration and the FBI for the harassment of these courageous people who refuse to be intimidated and will stand for so many of us in the protests planned for next week," said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. "They call them 'troublemakers' and even 'terrorists' but in fact they will be upholding the conscience and moral foundation of this country."

The Friday rally and march will also focus on the ongoing US siege and assault on the Iraqi holy city of Najaf, and will look back on the US war crimes in Vietnam that have become a campaign issue in recent days. "Whether it was the US bombing of civilian cities, the creation of 'free-fire zones', the massive defoliation with poisonous chemicals, the use of napalm and white phosphorous on children, the bombing of the dikes and hospitals, the carpet bombing of Laos and Cambodia or the torturing of prisoners, the US governments throughout the Indochina war was guilty of systematic and widespread war crimes," said Seaman. "The current crimes against the citizens of Najaf continue a long, tragic history of US imperial aggression against colonized peoples." Seaman said that Kerry's 1971 testimony on war crimes in Vietnam, which was broadcasted at the recent August 13th Friday rally, was the most eloquent and accurate speech ever given by the current presidential candidate.

"Kerry's testimony for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was an historic landmark for our nation facing the crimes of our government," said Seaman. "The history of those crimes begins with the genocide against the native populations of North America and the genocide of slavery, it continues on through the 'pacification' campaign in the Philippines, the Indochina wars, the Central America wars of the 1980s,

the recent US coup in Haiti, and the ongoing occupations of Iraq, Afghanistan and the West Bank and Gaza, to name only a small sample of these crimes.”

Seaman said the Friday rally may again broadcast the Kerry testimony as the November election draws nearer.