

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: PPRC Friday rally and march marks the mounting casualties in Iraq, kicks off month of outreach for October 3rd mobilization against war and occupation.

Date: Friday, September 10th, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Places: Pioneer Courthouse Square

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PPRC Friday rally and march marks the mounting casualties in Iraq, kicks off month of outreach for October 3rd mobilization against war and occupation.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally and march will turn again to the human costs of the US war and occupation in Iraq as it begins a month of outreach and preparations for the next large-scale peace rally and march set for October 3rd.

"This week news paused to notice that over 1,000 American soldiers have now been killed in Iraq, and a few noticed also that over 6,900 have been wounded, some blinded or losing limbs," said William Seaman, a PPRC volunteer. "You will look long and hard to find that the most conservative estimates put the deaths of innocent civilian Iraqis somewhere between 11,000 and 14,000, and we know of no reliable sources for the numbers of Iraqis who have been grievously injured or maimed by US firepower in this criminal war and occupation." This week fierce fighting in the Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City took the lives of 34 people, with 193 injured.¹

Although planning has been underway for many weeks already, local peace and justice organizations will be launching into a final month of outreach for Portland's next peace march, currently set for October 3rd. "The people of Oregon and Southwest Washington will have their next big opportunity to show the growing dissent against Bush's wars and occupations in just over three weeks from now," said Seaman. "We hope to see thousands coming together to put these issues squarely in the public eye for the November election." Echoing the sentiments of the huge peace march in New York just prior to the Republican Convention, the theme for the October 3rd rally and march is a call for an end to the wars and occupations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the West Bank & Gaza. "Bush's military and war-profiteering policies have traumatized and alienated the Iraqi people, turned them against our soldiers, and stand now as the greatest obstacles to their freedom and democracy," said Seaman. "On October 3rd we come together once again to say 'Support Our Troops: Bring them home now!'"

The rally and march is set for 2:00 p.m., Sunday, October 3rd, starting at the North Park Blocks, NW Everett Street & NW 8th Avenue, downtown Portland. For more information, please call (503) 344-5078 or visit the PPRC website at www.pprc-news.org

A partial list of co-sponsors of the October 3rd event (as of September 7th) include Peace & Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group (503-236-3065), Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (www.pprc-news.org), Women in Black, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Portland Labor for Peace and Justice, Portland Catholic Worker, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Living Earth, Portland Solidarity (portlandsolidarity@post.com), Love Makes a Family, Peace Justice and Environment Committee of the Portland Mennonite Church, Oregon PeaceWorks (503-585-2767-Salem), East Timor Action Network/Portland (503-235-4986), Portland Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights, Peace Action Group of the First Unitarian Church, Jews for Global Justice, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, War Resisters League-Portland (503-238-0605), North Coast Peace Coalition, Reedwood Friends Church Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Portland Area Rethinking Schools, Justice for Mumia Coalition, Palestine Children's Welfare Fund, Portland Alliance (media cosponsor), National Organization for Women--Portland Chapter, Rainbow Coalition of Portland-Oregon, Christ the Healer - United Church of Christ, Families for Peace, American Friends Service Committee, Sisters of the Road, St. Andrew Catholic Church, Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Multnomah Meeting of Friends (Quakers), Radical Women, Freedom Socialist Party, Vancouver For Peace, East Side Democratic Club, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church Peace and Justice Commission, Journey Catholic Community, Ash Creek Press, and others.

Endorsers include Veterans for Peace, chapter 72 (VFPchapter72.org), Northwest Veterans for Peace, Board of Peace and Social Concerns of Northwest Yearly Meeting of, Friends, PSU Progressive Student Union, PSU Green Party, Friends of Sabeel-North America, Portland Radical Cheerleaders Local #2, Oregon Wildlife Federation, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 8, Back to the WALL, FireTheLiar.com, National Lawyers Guild - Portland, NW Constitutional Rights Center, crossroads, Left Turn-Portland Collective, Eugene Justice Not War, Send Sardo to Salem Committee, Tienda Tikal, In Other Words-Women's Books and Resources, Muslim Community Center of Portland, Pax Christi Portland, No War Drum Corps, Bridgeport United Church of Christ, Great Vow Zen Monastery (Clastkanie), Palestine Arab-American Association, and others.

1. "Dozens killed in Sadr City clashes", By Hamza Hendawi, AP, 07 September 2004, Independent (UK).