

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: PPRC Friday rally and march embraces “the Pearl”, leafleting North Park Blocks area in preparation for the October 3rd mobilization against war and occupation.

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Date: Friday, September 17th, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Places: Pioneer Courthouse Square

PPRC Friday rally and march embraces “the Pearl”, leafleting North Park Blocks area in preparation for the October 3rd mobilization against war and occupation.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*'s Friday rally and march will be heading into Portland's Pearl District, with marchers doing an informational leafleting of the neighborhoods around the North Park Blocks, the site for the next large-scale peace rally and march, now set for October 3rd. “We'll be fanning out across the Pearl District, mostly around the North Park Blocks, with leaflets about the October 3rd Mobilization,” said Mikel Clayhold, a volunteer with PPRC and a regular at the weekly Friday rallies. “We can now add UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to the millions of people worldwide who know that Bush's invasion of Iraq was illegal,¹ and October 3rd provides us with our next chance to make a powerful statement against these misguided and criminal policies.” Over seventy local and regional organizations have now signed on as co-sponsors or endorsers for the October 3rd rally and march for peace and justice.

“This was another tragic week for the people of Iraq and for the US soldiers who were sent there illegally by the Bush Administration,” said William Seaman, another PPRC volunteer. “Last week over a dozen civilians, including children, were killed by a rocket fired by a US helicopter into an unarmed crowd in central Baghdad, and this was just the latest and most widely publicized case of recent US assaults on civilian areas of Iraqi cities.”² Also killed in the attack was Mazen al-Tumeizi, a correspondent for al-Arabiya, an Arabic television channel.

1. “Annan declares Iraq war illegal and warns of election credibility”, by Colin Brown and Patrick Cockburn, 16 September 2004 - Independent (UK).

2. “US missile attack kills 13 civilians in Iraq”, By Patrick Cockburn in Baghdad, 13 September 2004 - Independent (UK); “Ambulance torn apart in Fallujah as US launches 'precision' strikes”, from Patrick Cockburn in Baghdad, 14 September 2004 - Independent (UK)

Videotape of the US missile attack showed the explosion and the impact on al-Tumeizi as shrapnel from the rocket struck him in the back. He died moments later. Sixty-one others were wounded in this attack. Al-Tumeizi was the sixth Arab journalist killed by US troops since the capture of Baghdad last year. In addition dozens of Iraqis died this week in suicide and car bombings. Just one of these attacks, suspected to have been a suicide bombing, killed 47 Iraqis and injured 114 others.

The October 3rd Mobilization for Peace will begin at 2:00 p.m. starting at the North Park Blocks, NW Everett Street & NW 8th Avenue, downtown Portland. The rally and march will be fully permitted by the City of Portland; participation is free and open to everyone. 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 16th) 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, KBOO 90.7 FM Community Radio, Portland Catholic Worker, Islamic Center of Portland - Masjed As-Saber (503-293-6554), 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, Friends of Voices in the Wilderness/Portland, Bridge City Friends Meeting (Quakers), Portland Jobs with Justice (503-236-5573), street roots (media cosponsor), Black Monday Committee, 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, Centro Proceso Social (Lima-Peru), Rights 101 Oregon, Oregon Action, Metanoia Peace Community, and others.