

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday rally and march joins with local gathering marking the Day of Quds, a day in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

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Date: Friday, November 12th, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

Friday rally and march joins with local gathering marking the Day of Quds, a day in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally and march will join with a local gathering to mark the Day of Quds, an international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. "This year, the Day of Quds is also a day of mourning and transition for the Palestinian people," said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. "With the death of the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, we are witnessing the passing of an era, the closing of a chapter in the decades-long struggle for freedom for the Palestinian people, and a calling to each of us to rededicate ourselves to securing justice for the Palestinians, and peace for all of the peoples of that troubled region."

Reflecting on his friend of many years, the prominent Israeli peace activist, Uri Avnery, wrote that "When [Arafat] appeared on the stage of history, at the end of the 1950s, his people was close to oblivion. The name Palestine had been eradicated from the map. Israel, Jordan and Egypt had divided the country between them. The world had decided that there was no Palestinian national entity, that the Palestinian people had ceased to exist, like the American Indian nations - if, indeed, it had ever existed at all." Avnery described the contributions Arafat made to the struggle for Palestinian national and human rights, crediting him with having overcome tremendous obstacles to resist Israeli illegal expansion and settlement in the occupied territories. "As the years pass, his stature will grow more and more in historical memory," wrote Avnery. "As for me: I respected him as a Palestinian patriot, I admired him for his courage, I understood the constraints he was working under, I saw in him the partner for building a new future for our two peoples. I was his friend."