

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday rally and march marks “Buy Nothing Day” to protest corporate commercialism of US culture, continues focus on US atrocities in Fallujah.

Date: Friday, November 26th, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

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Friday rally and march marks “Buy Nothing Day” to protest corporate commercialism of US culture, continues focus on US atrocities in Fallujah.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*'s Friday rally and march today marks “Buy Nothing Day”, a protest of corporate commercialism, but keeps focus on killings of civilians in Fallujah by US forces in Iraq. “This week has brought to light more reports of US forces in Fallujah killing unarmed civilians and targeting of a hospital during this assault,” said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC.¹ “These reports by refugees escaping from Fallujah tell of civilian deaths resulting from bombs and artillery and that many people have been killed by US snipers, including children.” In one case involving the death of a family of seven that included a three-month-old baby, US authorities have acknowledged responsibility for the killings.

“The US of course has accused these refugees of exaggerating the civilian casualties,” said Seaman, “but at the same time the US military has insisted that they do not count civilian casualties.” A recent peer-reviewed study that appeared in the British medical journal, *The Lancet*, estimates excess civilian deaths due to the US war at greater than 100,000.² “We are hearing very credible and consistent reports from refugees indicating widespread targeting of civilians, including children,” said Seaman. Dr. Ali Abbas left Fallujah a week ago where he had been working at a clinic that had been bombed by the US forces. He reported that at least five patients had been killed. He reports also that he had requested doctors at the Fallujah hospital help evacuate the more badly injured and to send medicines and more doctors house to house to treat the casualties. He reports that the US forces had prevented them from providing this urgently needed medical assistance.¹

1. “Witnesses say US forces killed unarmed civilians”, by Kim Sengupta in Baghdad, 24 November 2004, Independent (UK).

2. “100,000 Civilian Deaths Estimated in Iraq”, by Rob Stein, Washington Post Staff Writer, Friday, October 29, 2004; Page A16.