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**For Immediate Release**

Event: Friday rally and march condemn US military “PsyOps”, deliberate killing of journalists, and US commercial media silence and complicity.      Contacts: (503) 344-5078  
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Date: Friday, December 10th, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

**Friday rally and march condemn US military “PsyOps”, deliberate killing of journalists, and US commercial media silence and complicity.**

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*’s Friday rally and march turns once again to the role of US commercial news media in the selling of war and occupation to the American public. “Last week brought to light the US military use of CNN in its PsyOps war against the insurgents in Iraq,” said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. “A military spokesperson lied to CNN about the US assault on Fallujah with the intention eliciting a response from the insurgents, but of course such lies also mislead the rest of CNN’s audience, meaning that the victims of the US military PsyOps include the US public.”<sup>1</sup> Seaman emphasized that the incident with CNN was a minor example of deception propagated by US commercial media.

“Half of the US public still believes that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and that Saddam Hussein provided substantial support to al Qaeda, two lies encouraged by the Bush administration and for the most part eagerly promoted by US commercial media, a fact that goes a long way towards explaining the outcome of the November election,” said Seaman. “The PSYOPS revelation provides some new insight into the contempt that the current administration has for the US public, but the more serious deceptions and indoctrination are due to the propaganda role played by the commercial media.”

The Friday rally and march will also emphasize the unfolding tragedy in Fallujah, and the US military’s deliberate targeting of journalists in Iraq in the effort to control and suppress information about the US war and occupation. “There is disturbing evidence that the US military deliberately murdered unembedded journalists in order to ensure greater control over the news being reported from Iraq,” said Seaman. “The killing of two journalists by US tank fire directed on the Palestine Hotel, and the attacks on Al Jazeera, deserve far more scrutiny that they’ve received in the US commercial media.” Seaman said that it was surprising, and a disservice to the American public, that US

journalists have largely ignored cases where the US military had killed international colleagues.<sup>2,3</sup>

After earlier attempts had been turned back by the US military, the Red Cross entered Fallujah to find disrupted water and sewerage services and an apparent lack of medical services.<sup>4</sup> “It will be some time before we know the true scale of the human tragedy in Fallujah,” said Seaman. “The main reason for that is the US military’s increasing control of news reporters and news reporting from the regions that are the target of these sustained attacks.” Early on during the attack on Fallujah, the city’s medical facilities were taken over by US military as part of an overall strategy to control reports of civilian casualties.

1. “PR Meets Psy-Ops in War on Terror”, Mark Mazzetti, Los Angeles Times, December 1, 2004.
2. <http://www.ifj.org/default.asp?index=2348&Language=EN>
3. <http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=04/11/23/1457213>