

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday rally and march condemn the confirmation of pro-torture Rice and Gonzales, review the lies and crimes of the Bush administration in Iraq.

Date: Friday, January 28, 2005

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

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Friday rally and march condemn the confirmation of pro-torture Rice and Gonzales, review the lies and crimes of the Bush administration in Iraq.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally and march focus again on the Bush administration's nominations of Condoleeza Rice and Alberto Gonzales, condemning their confirmation by the House and Senate. "Rice lied and lied and lied in the campaign to drag our country into attacking and occupying Iraq, and she actively defended the use of torture against people she judged to be unworthy of human rights protections," said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. "Gonzales laid the legal groundwork for the abuses at Abu Ghraib and at Guantanamo, and while he certainly represents the true criminal nature of the Bush Administration, it is an insult to the Constitution and to the history of human rights activism in this country to have him confirmed to lead the Justice Department."

The *Center for Constitutional Rights* which has spearheaded the legal challenges to the Bush Administration's detainment-without-trial practices in Guantanamo has called Gonzales "the architect of [the Bush] Administration's unlawful torture policy" and has campaigned to stop his confirmation. "As we mark the anniversary this week of the liberation of the death camp at Auschwitz, as we remember the horrors of the rise of fascism in Germany and Austria, and as we hear the words "Never again!" spoken so hypocritically by world leaders today, we must surely look to the changing character of our own country with alarm and we must rededicate ourselves to the fight against fascism here and now, in this country in this new millennium."

The PPRC emphasized that the nominations of Rice and Gonzales should not distract from the lead architects of the murderous policies of the Bush Administration.

"Rumsfeld, Cheney, Wolfowitz and the rest of the so-called 'neo-cons' are at the top of the list of war criminals who should be prosecuted at The Hague," said Seaman. "We can only hope that someday they will eventually be brought to justice, like so many of the monsters who created the machinery of genocide of the Second World War."