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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday rally kicks off community outreach for March 19th teach-in and march set for second anniversary of US attack on Iraq.

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Date: Friday, February 18, 2005

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

Friday rally kicks off community outreach for March 19th teach-in and march set for second anniversary of US attack on Iraq.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally and march begins a month of community outreach to promote a teach-in and march planned to mark two years since the US bombing, invasion and occupation of Iraq. "The teach-in will be made up of speakers and broader discussions focused on US foreign policy and local community organizing," said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. "These events are part of an international mobilization, a global day of protest against this criminal war and occupation." The teach-in and march are being cosponsored by the *Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group*, *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*, and a number of other organizations. The teach-in is scheduled to begin at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 19th, at the PSU Campus Ministry/Koinonia House, at 633 Montgomery in downtown Portland. The march through downtown is set for 2:00 pm. For more information or to get involved, contact *Peace and Justice Works* at 503-236-3065.

"The focus will be on the US policy in the Middle East, including the wars and occupations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Israel/Palestine, and of course also on the Bush administration's threats of further aggression against Iran and Syria," said Seaman. "We will also be discussing the ongoing campaign to bring Oregon's troops home, the renewed efforts to oppose the draft and the 'stop-loss' program which has recently been challenged in the local courts." Other topics to be discussed include organizing in schools and universities, media activism and labor activism opposing the wars and occupations.

"This war, built on lies and a wholesale looting of the US and Iraqi national treasuries, has left over 1,450 US soldiers dead, over 100,000 Iraqis killed, over 10,000 US wounded and unknown tens of thousands Iraqis wounded and traumatized," said Seaman. "\$9 billion of Iraqi funds cannot be accounted for, over \$150 billion has already been spent and billions more set to be torn from the US taxpayers, gutting human services and education programs across the country, and there were no WMDs, no links to al Qaeda, and the Iraqi people overwhelmingly want the US troops to get out."