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**For Immediate Release**

Event: Local Peace and Justice Organizations Mark  
Second Anniversary of Bush's War and  
Occupation with Teach-in and Peace March.

Date: Saturday, March 19th, 2005

Time: 10:00 am Teach-in; 2:00 pm Peace March

Place: Koinonia House, Campus Ministries,  
Portland State University Campus, 633 SW  
Montgomery, downtown Portland. (Peace  
march begins at Urban Center Plaza, 1800  
SW 6th.)

Contacts: William Seaman  
(503) 888-7455  
PPRC

(503) 344-5078

pprcnews@yahoo.com

www.pprc-news.org

**Local Peace and Justice Organizations, Labor Rights Advocates Mark Second Anniversary of Bush's War and Occupation with Teach-in and Peace March.**

"For the past several weeks the Bush spin-doctors have been campaigning to convince the world that there's been an outbreak of democracy in the Middle East, and that we have Bush's bloody war and occupation to thank," said William Seaman, a volunteer with the *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*, one of the co-sponsors for the teach-in and peace march. "Aside from the obvious questions of whether a democratic revolution is actually happening and whether the people of the region deserve the credit for democratic progress rather than Bush, and the more disturbing suggestion that what is needed for democratic reform is bloody war and occupation, our country faces the damning facts that Bush's war has killed over 100,000 Iraqi civilians,<sup>1</sup> and over 1,500 US soldiers have died, with uncountable thousands of injured."

"As we approach the second anniversary of Bush's attack on Iraq, we're faced with another PR campaign, the latest pack of lies offered up by Bush & Co., to rationalize this criminal war," said Seaman. "The reality is that the election, such as it was, went ahead in Iraq *in spite of* Paul Bremer's opposition to a popular vote,<sup>2</sup> the vote itself was marred by the continued insecurity – so much so that most candidates' names had to be kept secret from the voters – and the country remains a shambles in spite of billions of US tax-payers' dollars and billions of US dollars in Iraqi assets having been given away in no-bid contracts to Bush's corporate crony pals, or siphoned off by corrupt US war profiteers."<sup>3</sup>

Seaman said that the teach-in will provide a setting for discussion and debate of questions now facing Portland's peace and justice community, as well as providing a venue for promoting a recently-announced campaign calling on Governor Kulongoski to

bring Oregon's National Guard troops home. "We will be hearing from veterans and military families, from trade unionists and students, from members of the Iranian and Palestinian communities, and from scholars and activists," explained Seaman. "Together we hope to both learn from each other and begin to map new directions and strategies for opposing Bush's wars and occupations."

The Teach-in, scheduled to begin at 10:00 am this coming Saturday, will focus on US foreign policy and local peace activism, with "break-out" discussions covering topics ranging from organizing in schools and labor unions, to draft counseling and anti-recruitment campaigns. Formal presentations will cover the US occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, US threats of aggression against Iran and Syria, military families' perspectives on the wars, and representatives from local veterans organizations.

The title of the event is "Saying No to War and Occupation: Teach-in and Peace March, Two Years Later." Cosponsors include *Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group*, *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*, PSU Students United for Nonviolence, Portland Campus Christian Ministry, and others. Endorsers include *Portland Jobs with Justice*, *War Resisters League-Portland*, *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*, *Jews for Global Justice*, and others.

NOTES:

1. "Mortality before and after the 2003 invasion of Iraq: cluster sample survey", Les Roberts, Riyadh Lafta, Richard Garfield, Jamal Khudhairi, Gilbert Burnham, *The Lancet*, Published online October 29, 2004  
<http://image.thelancet.com/extras/04art10342web.pdf>, or search for "Iraq" at <http://www.thelancet.com/>; "Revealed: War has cost 100,000 Iraqi lives", by Jeremy Laurance and Colin Brown, 29 October 2004, *The Independent* (UK), "Iraq allies accused of failing to investigate civilian deaths", Sarah Boseley, health editor, Friday March 11, 2005, *The Guardian* (UK).
2. "Iraq's critical Sistani factor - The Shiite cleric seeks an Islam-friendly Iraq, but not a theocracy", by Dan Murphy, staff writer of *The Christian Science Monitor*, January 20, 2005.
3. "Audit: U.S. lost track of \$9 billion in Iraq funds - Pentagon, Bremer dispute inspector general's report", CNN.com, Monday, January 31, 2005 Posted: 0412 GMT (1212 HKT); "IRAQ: Bremer's CPA Lost Track of \$9 billion in Oil Revenues Meant for Rebuilding", by James Ridgeway, *The Village Voice*, March 4th, 2005