

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: EARTH DAY ACTION: PPRC Friday
Rally turns focus on connections between
natural resources and war, marks the death
of US humanitarian aid worker.

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Date: Friday, April 22nd, 2005

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

**EARTH DAY ACTION: Friday Rally turns focus on connections between
natural resources and war, marks death of US humanitarian aid worker.**

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally turns its attention this week to the connections between natural resources and war. "Throughout the 20th Century, western nations vied for control of Middle Eastern oil resources," explained Tina Hulbe, a professor of Geology and PPRC volunteer. "In the 21st Century, while other western nations are finding alternatives to fossil fuels and opting out of wars of choice, America clings to the destructive ways of the past."

"We have to ask who benefits from the status quo," said Professor Hulbe, "It's not you and me, it's an ultra-wealthy elite who are sending our neighbors off to fight in their struggle to maintain power and privilege." The dependence on oil – and specifically the addiction to foreign sources of petroleum – has both immediate and far reaching consequences, from local air pollution to global warming, from the lives of Oregon soldiers sent to war to hatred bred among the peoples of oil-rich lands. "We are fighting for control of a resource that causes as many problems as it solves," says Hulbe. "The devastation and instability bred by western intervention in the Middle East is clear. So is the science of fossil fuels and global warming. But we can choose better alternatives. We must choose better alternatives."

While it seems that the victims vastly outnumber the victors in the oil war, Professor Hulbe suggests ways that ordinary people can change that equation. She pointed to local work in Oregon, such as Governor Kulongoski's *Advisory Group on Global Warming* convened to advise him on actions the state should take to slow the rate of greenhouse gas emissions and to accelerate the development of clean, renewable energy. The panel proposed a slate of viable actions that could play a big role in reviving Oregon's economy.

Also at the Friday rally, guest speaker Christine Hagerbaumer, Program Director on Global Warming and Transportation at the *Oregon Environmental Council*, will discuss Oregon Senate Bill 344, the clean car emissions standard, and what Oregonians can do to support it.

“The crazy thing about the war for control of oil resources is that even if we win, we lose,” says Hulbe, “but when we work here in Oregon to reduce dependency on petroleum, we all win.”

In addition to the Earth Day focus for this Friday’s rally and march, the PPRC will also be remembering the life and work of Marla Ruzicka, a young American activist working to document the civilian victims of the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and to help channel aid to both victims and victims’ families. Along with her Iraqi driver, 43-year-old Faiz Ali Salim, Ms. Ruzicka was killed when the car she was traveling in was caught by the blast of a suicide bomber attack.

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