

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday rally and march mourn the deaths and injuries of the London bombings, call for reflection on the so-called “war on terror” as the death toll mounts and the violence again strikes beyond Iraq.

Date: Friday, July 8, 2005

Time 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Broadway & SW Yamhill, downtown Portland

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Friday rally and march mourn the deaths and injuries of the London bombings, call for reflection on the so-called “war on terror” as the death toll mounts.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*’s Friday rally and march today mourns the deaths and injuries of the London bombings, calling for reflection on the US “war on terror” and prospects for peace and security for all peoples. “After the bombings in Bali and Madrid, we can hardly be surprised by this latest criminal act of violence against innocent civilians of London, many of whom very likely opposed to the policies of Blair and Bush,” said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. “Like the innocent victims of Bush’s war on Iraq, those killed or maimed by napalm and cluster bombs or cut down by machine gun fire as they approached check points, the people who suffer and die have little or nothing to do with the policies that engender the violence.” The death toll from the London bombings currently stands at fifty, with hundreds injured, many seriously with many losing limbs as a result of the attacks.

“We are profoundly disheartened by Tony Blair’s speculation that the murderers in this case carried out these crimes in the name of Islam, just as we are when the crimes of Bush and Blair are linked to their Christian faiths or to their support for Zionism,” said Seaman. “We must look beyond the superficial self-serving explanations offered by politicians and the hate-mongers of talk radio if we are to discover the deeper roots of these acts of violence, to understand why people commit these monstrous crimes, and how we can act to end the violence.” Seaman said that the bombings in London mark another escalation in the violence, but that they reflect a change only in the geography of the suffering, and not in the scale.

“Bombings of this kind have been occurring many times each week in Iraq, and the death toll and injuries from the conflicts in Israel and Palestine and Afghanistan continues to mount with little sign of hope for an end to the carnage,” said Seaman.

“We appeal to our community to rethink the path that our country is on today, to look critically at the policies of our government in these regions of the world, and to become engaged in the work to find solutions to the conflicts that underlie these terrible acts of violence and hate.”

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition* can be reached through their voicemail phone number at (503) 344-5078 or by e-mail at pprcnews@yahoo.com. Their weekly rallies and marches have been taking place each Friday at 5:00pm at Pioneer Courthouse Square since November of 2001.