

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

Event: Friday rally and march protest Supreme Court nominee John Roberts' ruling on drumhead courts, powers of imperial presidency.

Date: Friday, July 22, 2005

Time 5:00 p.m.

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

Contacts: William Seaman  
(503) 888-7455  
PPRC Voicemail  
(503) 344-5078  
pprcnews@yahoo.com  
www.pprc-news.org

**Friday rally and march protest Supreme Court nominee John Roberts' ruling on drumhead courts, powers of imperial presidency.**

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally and march shine a critical spotlight on Judge John Robert's recent ruling in support of the Bush Administration's assault on the Geneva Conventions. "Barely a day after his interview with George W. Bush for the job of replacing Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court, Judge Roberts voted to scrap the Geneva Convention protections for prisoners at Guantanamo and to empower the US President with sole control over the fate of those prisoners with no right of appeal," said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. "For Americans horrified by the abuses and torture carried out under the authority of this criminal administration, the nomination of John Roberts is a clear sign that the abuses will continue and that Bush's powers to abrogate the protections of the US Constitution and International Law will be upheld and expanded by the Supreme Court." The decision by the DC Court of Appeals reversed a lower court's ruling that military tribunals, so-called drumhead courts, convened by the Pentagon to review the cases of Guantanamo detainees, violated the Geneva Treaty and reflected an unconstitutional expansion of Presidential Power.<sup>1</sup>

"John Robert's record is the history of the consummate Washington DC insider, reflecting the ideology of the extreme right, the extreme religious right and the extreme neo-con right, of the legal establishment," said Seaman. "He's been a part of the assault on the separation of Church and State by his support for school prayer, he's attacked a woman's right to choose through statements opposing Roe V. Wade, and he's made it clear he doesn't support First Amendment rights by his backing punishments for people who desecrate the flag." Seaman said that the Bush administration had a chance to find a less controversial Supreme Court nominee to replace O'Connor, but had chosen instead to further a narrow set of extreme right-wing interests. "It is not just women who will suffer under a Supreme Court further skewed to these narrow extremist

views," said Seaman. "The threat today is to the most fundamental constitutional rights of all citizens, and of course to the most basic human rights of all people in the world who risk falling victim to this lawless regime."

1. "The Stakes in Roberts's Nomination", by BRUCE SHAPIRO, The Nation Magazine, posted online on July 20, 2005.

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