

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

Event: Friday rally and march spotlight local link to Bush Administration torture policy, notorious ‘extraordinary rendition’ Gulfstream V jet registered to “a shadowy – and possibly illegal - dummy front company, Bayard Foreign Marketing LLC, in downtown Portland.”<sup>1</sup>

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Date: Friday, August 12, 2005

Time 5:00 p.m.

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

**Counter-Recruiting Action**

Date: Saturday, August 13, 2005

Time: 11:00 AM

Place: 1317 NE Broadway, Portland, Oregon.

**Friday rally and march spotlight local link to Bush torture policy, the “shadowy ... dummy front company, Bayard Foreign Marketing LLC ...”<sup>1</sup>**

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*’s Friday rally and march shine a spotlight on a local link with the Bush Administration’s practice of shipping detainees abroad to countries that practice torture routinely, a policy referred to as “extraordinary rendition”. “Only yesterday it was reported that the administration would not send former Guantanamo detainees to China, ostensibly because they feared that those prisoners would be abused by Chinese authorities,” said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. “And yet it has become a common practice by the Bush Administration to send detainees to countries such as Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Morocco, countries known for torture, and this local front company – Bayard Foreign Marketing – has apparently facilitated that dirty work.” In an article published in the Oregonian on December 29, 2004, Mike Rogoway reported the links between the ‘extraordinary rendition’ process and local Portland corporate attorney Scott Caplan.<sup>2</sup>

“It is still unclear how deeply involved this local company and their legal representation has been, or still is, in this process of outsourcing torture,” said Seaman. “We are asking folks to demand a genuine, full-scale investigation into the practices of torture and abuse that have been initiated by the Bush Administration so that we can finally learn the true extent of this scandal and about local business links that certainly warrant

investigation as well.” The *Center for Constitutional Rights* (CCR) has begun an internet campaign to support an independent commission to investigate allegations of torture, urging people to write to their senators to demand an independent investigation into abuse and torture of detainees. Information about the CCR campaign against torture can be found at <http://www.ccr-ny.org/> Details on the CCR campaign can be found at:

<http://www.ccr-ny.org/v2/reports/report.asp?ObjID=Zqhx6j11PS&Content=610>

### **SATURDAY COUNTER-RECRUITING ACTION**

Another counter-recruiting action is planned for this Saturday, August 13th, at the military recruiting outlet located at 1317 NE Broadway in northeast Portland. “We’re hoping to keep up the pressure, to ensure that a clear message gets through to any young people considering a career that would likely put them in the middle of this criminal war and occupation in Iraq,” said Seaman. “You cannot ‘be all you can be’ when you’re dead, or missing limbs, or psychologically scarred and getting substandard treatment from underfunded veterans benefits and medical care.” Local peace groups and veterans organizations have taken their message to recruiting stations in recent weeks, calling for funding for human services and education rather than for more military spending.

“In the coming days we’ll also be thinking of the courageous vigil taking place down in Crawford, Texas, where Cindy Sheehan has been holding a vigil to demand to speak with George W. Bush who is currently vacationing there,” said Seaman. Sheehan’s son was killed in Iraq in April 2004, just five days after arriving in the country. “Ms. Sheehan, like so many other grieving parents and brothers and sisters and friends who have lost loved ones in Iraq, are confronting Bush, demanding answers and accountability for his lies and this criminal war and occupation.”

Local veterans and peace organization have begun a regular vigil at the Federal Building in downtown Portland in support of Cindy Sheehan’s actions in Crawford. They meet at 12:00 PM noon each day at Terry Schrunk Plaza at SW 3rd & Madison. The Veterans for Peace, Chapter 72 can be reached at 503-282-5015, or at [grant@dunckleystreet.com](mailto:grant@dunckleystreet.com)

1. These links were discussed in a letter to a constituent by local Congressman Earl Blumenauer.
2. “CIA intrigue shadows jet: A plane human rights watchers have been following worldwide as it allegedly airlifted terrorism suspects has ties in Oregon”, by Mike Rogoway, Wednesday, December 29, 2004, *The Oregonian*

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