

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

Event: Friday Rally and March calls attention to hunger strike by detainees in US Guantanamo Gulag.

Date: Friday, October 7, 2005

Time 5:00 p.m.

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

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**Friday Rally and March calls attention to hunger strike by detainees in US Guantanamo Gulag.**

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*'s Friday rally and march return to the plight of detainees at the US-run Guantanamo prison, a facility labeled by human rights groups as the American Gulag. "In spite of the Bush Administration's attempts to conceal the horrors of its torture facilities and the dark places used to warehouse the people they victimize, the truth is coming out about the hunger strike by prisoners desperate to bring their cases to light," said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. "US prison officials refuse to allow family members to contact their relatives in the prison, nor will they allow medical personnel to see the prisoners, the hunger strike is in its ninth week and the reports are of emaciated detainees vomiting blood and collapsing into unconsciousness, the military hospital packed with prisoners who they are force-feeding through tubes."<sup>1</sup>

The PPRC is urging people to contact their representatives in Washington, DC, to demand immediate access to the prisoners by their families, by independent medical teams and that they be given independent legal representation and access to the US civilian courts to appeal their cases. "Like the scandal at Abu Ghraib and the other US-run detention facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the secret detention facilities the US is using around the globe, and the outsourcing of torture by 'extraordinary rendition', the Guantanamo facility is a stain on our country that only the US people can remove," said Seaman. "The Bush Administration and its corrupt allies in Congress should be prosecuted for these crimes, they are clearly not going to do anything to put an end to them."

1. "Jail journal tells of grim hunger strike", by Letta Tayler, October 5, 2005, Sydney Morning Herald

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