

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

Event: Local veterans, military families, peace groups mark the death of 2,000 US Soldiers in Iraq, call for US to end its occupation and bring the troops home.

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Place: Terry Schrunk Plaza, SW 12th & Madison, across from the Federal Building, downtown Portland

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Local veterans, military families, peace groups mark the death of 2,000 US Soldiers in Iraq, call for US to end its occupation and bring the troops home.

Military Families Speak Out, Gold Star Families for Peace, American Friends Service Committee, the Portland Peaceful Response Coalition, Veterans for Peace Chapter 72, Northwest Veterans for Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women in Black and several other local peace groups in Portland will gather today at Terry Schrunk Plaza at 5:00 PM to mark the death of 2,000 US soldiers in Iraq. "This tragic moment stands out only as yet another threshold of pain and grief for the families and friends of each of these US soldiers and for all citizens of the United States," said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. "These are 2,000 young men and women who would likely be alive today were it not for the Bush Administration's criminal and misguided war, a war sold to the people of this country by a campaign of lies and fraud."

The names of the dead, those of US soldiers, coalition forces, international journalists and Iraqis, will be read at the solemn gathering across from the Federal Building. "We cannot bring these people back, nor can we make whole again the tens of thousands who have been grievously injured in this war, but we can rededicate ourselves to the struggle to end it, to demand that we bring the troops home now," said Seaman. "A growing majority in this country is opposed to the US occupation in Iraq and we expect that this sad day will bring together growing numbers of people working to bring the troops home."

For more information regarding this action, or to set up interviews with members of any of the organizations involved, please call Kelly Campbell, *American Friends Service Committee*, 503-230-9427, or William Seaman, PPRC, 503-888-7455.