

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

Event: Friday Rally and March call for prosecution of VP Dick Cheney, demand broad investigation of lies used to take country to war, Cheney's role in promoting torture, illegal detentions, links to war- and disaster-profiteering, outing of covert agent.

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Date: Friday, November 4, 2005

Time 5:00 p.m.

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

**Friday Rally and March call for prosecution of VP Dick Cheney, demand broad investigation of lies used to take country to war, VP role in promoting torture.**

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday Rally and March will call for the prosecution of US Vice President Dick Cheney, demand a broad investigation of the deliberate fabrications and distortion of intelligence used by the Bush administration to support the drive to invade Iraq, and into the Vice President's role in promoting torture and illegal detentions. "This week's latest reports of the US 'secret prisons' in various parts of the world is absolutely and unbelievably horrifying,"<sup>1</sup> said Regina Hannon, a volunteer with the PPRC who regularly attends the Friday rallies. "I've no doubt the system was instituted with a great deal of input from Cheney, who has further disgraced this country by lobbying the Senate to exclude CIA agents from a ban on torture." Several editorials in the past two weeks have expressed shock and opposition to the Vice President's vigorous support for the use of torture against detainees interrogated by US personnel. "It's pretty clear that he's lobbying for this exemption because it is his signature on the memos authorizing the use of these abusive practices, and he seems to realize that he might one day find himself in court, like his former aid and accomplice, 'Scooter' Libby," said William Seaman, another PPRC volunteer.

"Just when I think they cannot be any more evil, they surprise me once again," said Hannon. "When they figure out that they're blocked by a few legal restrictions in this country, they merely turn to this type of secret detention system to hide their crimes." Hannon said that the use of Orwellian language like "black sites" and "enhanced interrogation techniques" should serve as a warning of the types of abuses being carried out in the secret prison system.

“I grew up believing in the ideal of America, you know, the one in which we were the good guys because for one thing, we didn't torture people,” explained Rob Ranta, another regular at the Friday rallies. “We didn't cheat or play unfair, we weren't the bullies.” Ranta said that the last few years have made him realize that the reality falls far short of this ideal. “Still, I never thought that we would start a war with Iraq based on deliberate lies and distortions, and I certainly never would have believed that an elected official of the US government would become an open advocate of torture.”

Ranta is particularly upset by the Vice President's efforts to secure an exemption for CIA personnel to use torture. “He threatened that Bush would veto the annual defense spending bill if it contained language prohibiting the use of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by any US personnel,”<sup>2</sup> said Ranta. “What Mr. Cheney is advocating are policies and practices by the US that will only increase the ranks of terrorist groups, not to mention putting American soldiers at greater risk of the very same methods by our enemies.” Ranta believes that the policies and practices advocated by Cheney only make more war more likely.

“The Geneva Protocols against the use of torture came about after most of the nations of this planet came to a consensus about what is and what is not acceptable human behavior during war,” explained Ranta. “It took years, centuries in fact, to forge these documents and now the Vice Resident of this country wants to turn his back on the vast majority of this country and further tarnish this country's image by making ‘legal’ the use of torture.” Ranta noted that most experts believe that the use of torture is an unreliable means of obtaining useful information.

1. “CIA Holds Terror Suspects in Secret Prisons”, by Dana Priest, Washington Post, Wednesday, November 2, 2005; A01.

2. “Vice President for Torture”, Washington Post editorial, Wednesday, October 26, 2005; Page A18.

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