

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday Rally and March mark the turning point as leading Democrats finally come out against the Iraq war and occupation.

Date: Friday, November 18th, 2005

Time 5:00 p.m.

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

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Friday Rally and March mark the turning point as leading Democrats finally come out against the Iraq war and occupation.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday Rally and March take stock of the dramatic shift overwhelmingly against the Bush Administration's war and occupation in Iraq. "After another week of revelations of the horrors of this war and occupation, after the exposure of the secret detention center where prisoners were starved and tortured, after the US military finally admitted that it used chemical weapons, white phosphorous incendiary explosives, in the attack on Fallujah, we are finally seeing leading Democrats take their queue from the US public and come out squarely against this war and call for withdrawal," said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. "When a Democratic hawk like John Murtha finally notices that the US military is the target of the Iraqi resistance and calls for withdrawal, you know that the scale of the Iraq catastrophe has grown beyond the lies and distortions of Bush & Co., and that there is hope of bringing this misguided and criminal war to an end."

PPRC is calling for letters, faxes, e-mails and telephone calls to Congress demanding support for legislation calling for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq. "We know the process of bringing the troops home, of getting the US out of Iraq, is not going to be easy, but the first step is for the American people to send the strongest possible message that they oppose this occupation and they demand that it end," said Seaman. "It is naïve to think the shift in public opinion alone is enough to change the criminal policies of the Bush Administration; people have to be active in their opposition to this occupation." Seaman said that actions against the war should not be limited to calls to Congress. "Some may protest and shut down military recruiters, some organize candlelight vigils or large-scale peace marches, and some may choose the time-honored nonviolent civil disobedience of Henry David Thoreau and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Seaman, "But however we choose, in whatever way we decide to protest, each of us must raise our voice against this war."

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