

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

Event: Friday rally and march count down through themes for March 19th Mobilization: “Respect Human Rights and International Law: Stop the Torture and Spying.”  
Date: Friday, February 17th, 2006  
Time: 5:00 p.m.  
Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Broadway & SW Yamhill, downtown Portland

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**Friday rally and march count down through themes for March 19th Mobilization: “Respect Human Rights and International Law: Stop the Torture and Spying.”**

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*’s Friday rally and march will this week begin to count down the themes for the big rally and march set for the third anniversary of the US war on Iraq on March 19th. “We join with the United Nations today to repeat a call we’ve made many times over the past few years: Shut down the illegal detention center at Guantánamo!,” said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. “One focus of the March 19th mobilization is a call for the US to respect human rights and international law, and the recent UN report on the violations and torture being conducted by the US in Guantánamo highlights the urgency of this issue.” One of the several themes adopted for the March 19th peace rally and march is “Respect Human Rights and International Law: Stop the Torture and Spying.” With the recent revelations of warrantless wiretaps and the publishing of additional horrifying photographs from Abu Ghraib, the theme spotlights prominent features of Bush’s so-called “war on terror” that have drawn harsh criticisms in recent months.

“It is a national disgrace that the White House and Euro-fascists like Frank Gafney brazenly defend the practices of torture and abuse, and the complete denial of basic human rights protections under the US Constitution and under International Law,” said Seaman. “Guantánamo and Abu Ghraib have come to symbolize the United States in the minds of much of the world today, all thanks to the criminal policies of the Bush Administration, their supporters in Congress and the modern day Joseph Goebbels pundits such as Bill O’Reilly, Shawn Hannity, and Ann Coulter.”

The Friday rally will also address the recent shooting of Texas Republican fundraiser, Harry Whittington, by Dick Cheney. “One obvious question, which it typically and routinely raised in cases of hunting accidents, is whether alcohol was involved,” said Seaman. “It is pretty clear that once again the White House staff has been placed above

the law, with not even the pretence of an investigation into what may tragically turn out to be a fatal shooting.” Whittington suffered a heart attack which was reportedly caused by a pellet from the shooting lodging in his heart. “It seems that Cheney couldn’t be bothered to make certain that he knew where his hunting partner was when he fired the shot that struck Whittington, and that callous disregard for the consequences of his actions speaks volumes about his character and explains the ruthless and reckless nature of his policy decisions since taking office,” said Seaman.