

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

Event: PPRC condemns latest escalation of Iraq air war and the certain increase in civilian casualties, as US mounts “Operation Swarmer” on eve of war’s 3rd anniversary.

Date: Friday, March 17th, 2006

Time: 5:00 p.m.

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

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PPRC condemns escalation of Iraq air war and the certain increase in civilian casualties, as US mounts “Operation Swarmer” on eve of war’s 3rd anniversary.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition* strongly condemns the escalation of the US air war in Iraq, citing the certainty of increased civilian casualties. “Just this two days ago it was reported that eleven Iraqis died when a house was flattened by an attack by US warplanes and armor,”¹ said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. The AP photograph from the incident showed the bodies of two men, five children and four bodies covered, accompanied by their relatives, who reported that none of the victims were part of the resistance. “These tragedies are the virtually certain consequence, in increasing numbers, when the US turns to a bombing campaign,” said Seaman. “And those casualties among the Iraqi civilians, which are crimes in themselves, work only to increase the hatred directed towards US troops, and adds fire to the violent resistance fighting our illegal occupation of Iraq.”

Over 150 local organizations will be holding a large-scale rally and march this Sunday demanding an end to the US occupation of Iraq, marking the third anniversary of the US war. “There is every reason to believe that the Bush Administration, as it is ratcheting up the rhetoric of supposed nuclear threats from Iran, has timed this murderous assault as a distraction from the anniversary of its misguided and disasterous invasion of Iraq,” said Seaman. “We are calling on our elected officials in Washington, DC, demanding an end to this war, demanding that the US troops be brought home now, and that we begin the process of regime change here at home to bring the lawless Bush administration to account for its crimes.”

1. “Iraqis Say 11 People Killed in U.S. Raid”, By ZIAD KHALAF, Associated Press Writer, March 15, 2006; “American Raid on Insurgents Kills Civilians in Sunni Town”, By JEFFREY GETTLEMAN, New York Times, March 16, 2006.

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