

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: PPRC Friday Rally and March mark 38th year of Occupation of Gaza Strip, West Bank and East Jerusalem, call for end to US financing of Israel's illegal settlements and Apartheid Wall.

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Date: Friday, June 3rd, 2005

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

PPRC Friday Rally and March mark 38th year of Occupation of Gaza and West Bank, call for end to US funds for Israel's illegal settlements and Apartheid Wall.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally and march turn once again to the Israel/Palestine conflict, marking the 38th anniversary – June 5th – of the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and East Jerusalem. “This week Israeli plans were revealed for the demolition of 88 houses, the homes for over 1,000 Palestinians, in the government's campaign of ongoing theft of Palestinian land and resources in the occupied territories,”¹ said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. “Like the Apartheid Wall that Israel is building with US taxpayers money, costing millions of dollars, this latest move is part of the broad intention to ethnically cleanse Palestinian communities from East Jerusalem.” The PPRC is joining with the *US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation* to mark the anniversary with calls for public education on Israel's Apartheid Wall and for letters to local media demanding accurate, fair and balanced news reporting on the conflict. The local Palestinian advocacy group, *Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights*, recently released a study documenting significant bias on the part Portland's only daily newspaper, *The Oregonian*, in its reporting on the conflict.²

“The focus of our concern today is the ongoing US support for the Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people, in recent years \$3 billion annually, and the role of corporations such as Caterpillar which is providing the bulldozers that demolish Palestinian homes,” said Seaman. “As American citizens we cannot pretend that we are not involved because we are paying for these crimes and companies that are based in the US are profiting from the dispossession of our brothers and sisters in the occupied territories.”

1. “Demolition threat to Palestinian homes”, by Donald Macintyre in Jerusalem, 01 June 2005, *The Independent* (UK)

2. See “Accuracy in Israel/Palestine Reporting: The Oregonian, A News Coverage Report May-October 2004” available at <http://www.auphr.org/oregonian.php>