

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday rally and march continues count
down for March 19th Mobilization:
“Military Recruiters Out of Schools!”

Date: Friday, March 3rd, 2006

Time: 5:00 p.m.

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

Contacts: PPRC

(503) 344-5078

pprcnews@yahoo.com

www.pprc-news.org

Friday rally and march marks third subtheme for count down to March 19th mobilization against Iraq war: “Military Recruiters Out of Schools!”

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*'s Friday rally and march highlights the third of five themes for the large-scale rally and march set for the third anniversary of the US war on Iraq on March 19th. “This week we look at the disgraceful targeting of the poor and the young people of our country by the Bush administration’s aggressive military recruiters, the lies and intimidation used to hit their monthly quotas for cannon fodder for this criminal war,” said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. “Every parent should be outraged by the cynical use of the so-called ‘no child left behind’ legislation that forced schools to turn over their sons and daughters names and addresses to unscrupulous recruiters bent on sending their children to fight and die in Bush’s imperial wars.” Along with the many counter-recruiting organizations like the *War Resisters League Military and Draft Counseling Project*, PPRC is urging parents to contact their schools to demand that their children’s names be withheld from recruiters.

The third of five themes adopted for the March 19th rally and march, “Military Recruiters Out of Schools”, highlights growing concerns among parents as the armed services have found it increasingly difficult to meet recruiting quotas. “It has been documented time and time again that recruiters are desperate to hit these numbers, and that they have routinely lied and even used intimidation to pressure kids to sign up,” said Seaman. “We have a poverty draft in this country today, where children who lack the opportunities for college or trade schools feel they have no alternative but to turn to the military which promises job training and money for school.” Seaman said that the reality is that very few get training in areas that help them find employment later in life, and that the promises of recruiters of opportunities or even that they would not be deployed to Iraq are frequently broken. “Why should the children of the poor, who have none of the opportunities of the wealthy in this country, be forced to fight Bush’s wars, the wars to protect the oil wealth of Bush’s friends, to risk death and injury, in order to be granted the most basic rights to education and a decent job?”

For the three remaining Fridays before the March 19th event, the regular weekly gathering will be marching from Pioneer Courthouse Square to the big commute arteries of downtown Portland. They'll be carrying banners and signs urging support for the big peace march, calling on commuters to spread the word about the event marking the third anniversary of the Iraq war.

For more information about the March 19th peace rally and march, please call (503) 888-7455 or (503) 236-3065. As of this week, there are already over 130 local organizations signed on as co-sponsors or endorsers for the event. For an updated listing of these organizations, please see:

<http://www.rdrop.com/~pjw/march1906announce.html>

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