

# March 19th Mobilization

(503) 236-3065

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

Event: Mobilization to Mark Third Anniversary of War in Iraq Announces Speakers, Tops 140 Organizations Pledging Support.	Contacts: Dan Handelman Peace & Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group 503-236-3065
Date: Sunday, March 19th, 2006	William Seaman East Timor Action Network/Portland (503) 888-7455
Time: 1:30 PM gathering, 2:00 PM rally, 2:30 PM peace march.	
Place: Waterfront Park, north of the Morrison Bridge, downtown Portland	

## **Mobilization to Mark Third Anniversary of War in Iraq Announces Speakers, Tops 140 Organizations Pledging Support.**

Over 140 organizations mobilize for March 19 at Waterfront Park

With the addition in the past few days of the *International Longshore and Warehouse Union*, Local 8, and *Tikkun Olam* (Social Action) *Committee* of Congregation P'nai Or, the impressive list of organizations signed on as endorsers and co-sponsors for Portland's next big peace march topped 140 last week and is already speeding to surpass 150. The rally and march calling for a withdrawal of all US troops from Iraq marks the third anniversary of the US war and occupation. The large-scale, family-friendly event is set to begin at 1:30 PM this coming Sunday, March 19th, at Waterfront Park in downtown Portland. A rally begins at 2:00 PM and the peace march is scheduled to start at 2:30 PM.

Recent planning meetings have settled on a prestigious set of speakers for the rallies before and after the peace march. Ramon Ramirez, the president of the regional farmworkers union, PCUN (Northwest Tree Planters and Farm Workers United, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste), will keynote for the rally, highlighting strong links being forged between diverse communities opposing the war in Iraq.

Veterans and military families organizations will be represented by Steven DeFord, a Vietnam veteran who lost his son, Sgt. David Wayne Johnson, in the Iraq war. Mr. DeFord will be representing *Gold Star Families Speak Out*, *Military Families Speak Out*, *Veterans for Peace Chapter 72*, *Northwest Veterans for Peace*, and *Gold Star Families for Peace*. His son David was a cook in the Oregon National Guard who was converted to a machine gunner as a consequence of the Halliburton Corporation taking the contract to provide meals for the troops. While on a routine resupply convoy

traveling north of Baghdad, David's unarmored Humvee was ripped by the explosion from a roadside IED (improvised explosive device). David was killed instantly and was the only one injured in the Humvee (which the US forces continued to use).

The Reverend Doctor LeRoy Haynes, Jr., will address the issues of International Law and Human Rights. Dr. Haynes is a veteran of the Civil Rights and post-Civil Rights Movements. He has served as a youth organizer for the *Southern Christian Leadership Conference* in Southeast Texas, under the national leadership of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. He later became an organizer for the *Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee* (SNCC) in the state of Texas. He served as co-organizer for establishing the *Black Panther Party* throughout the state of Texas. Dr. Haynes presently serves as Senior Pastor of *Allen Temple CME Church* in Portland, Oregon. He has been a visible leader in the movement for police accountability.

The peace rally on March 19th will also have a very special guest addressing the gathering. Ms. Eman Ahmed Khamas, who has traveled from Iraq to be a part of a nation-wide speaker tour made up of Iraqi women, will speak about daily life in Iraq and the prospects of impending civil war. Khamas is a journalist, translator and human rights activist who lives in Baghdad with her husband and two daughters. She is a member of the *Women's Will* organization, which focuses on defining and defending women's rights outside of political party interests and opposing incarceration of women as hostages. Khamas regularly publishes articles on women's conditions in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion, and has documented human rights violations committed by US and Iraqi forces. She is also involved in mobilizing emergency relief (medicines, food and clothing) for victims of the war, especially women and children living in refugee camps.

Two prominent members of the local Palestinian and Jewish communities will address the ongoing conflict in Palestine and Israel. Ms. Zaha Hassan, who in recent years worked to secure the land rights of Palestinian refugees and internally displaced Palestinians inside of Israel, and Mr. Steve Goldberg, active with the *National Lawyers Guild* efforts on behalf of human rights in the region, are scheduled to speak following the peace march. Hassan and Goldberg are currently working together on the lawsuit challenging the NSA wiretapping program.

Also addressing the gathering will be Alfredo Cano, a youth speaker from the *American Friends Service Committee*, Luis Primo, a regional coordinator of the Venezuelan National Union of Workers (UNT), and Jamila Wahab, a documentary filmmaker originally from Afghanistan now living in the United States.

Each of the speakers will be addressing different aspects of the rally themes and related topics. The overarching theme for the March 19th mobilization is “End the War, Begin the Peace!”. The key themes adopted for the event are:

“Bring the Troops Home Now - No more blood for oil”

“End the Occupations of Iraq, Afghanistan, the West Bank and Gaza”

“Fund Education, Healthcare, Jobs and the Environment, Not War”

“Respect Human Rights and International Law – Stop the Torture and Spying”

“Military Recruiters Out of Schools”

This latest mobilization is set for Sunday, March 19th, at Waterfront Park, north of the Morrison Bridge, in downtown Portland. There will be literature tables and music, all are invited to gather at 1:30 PM for a rally set to begin at 2:00 PM. Music will be provided by local talent, including some very special artists, and also begins at 1:30 PM. A peace march through downtown Portland will begin at 2:30 PM.

“We the people have the right to have our money spent on nonviolent methods of bringing humanitarian aid to countries that need our help, including our own,” said Lucinda Tate, chair of the *Portland Rainbow Coalition* and a key planner for the March 19th rally and march for peace. “Our military men and women should be seen globally as peacekeepers not messengers of death and destruction.” As one of 140 faith groups, peace and social justice organizations and local businesses, Tate is leading the *Rainbow Coalition*’s efforts to support the action set for March 19th calling for an end to the US war in Iraq. “How can we in all consciousness continue to support a war that is killing our own sons and daughters and the people of a country that had nothing to do with the September 11 attack or the harboring of Bin Laden?” she asks. “It is time to bring our troops home now and start the peace process of nonviolence.”

For more information, or to find out how organizations can add their name to the list of co-sponsors or endorsers for this rally and march, please call *Peace & Justice Works* at (503) 236-3065.

Cosponsors for the March 19th action now include Peace & Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group (503-236-3065), Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (503-344-5078), Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, East Timor Action Network/Portland (503-235-4986), Sisters of the Road, American Friends Service Committee, September 11th

Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, Veterans for Peace Chapter 72, Palestine Arab-American Association, Portland Labor for Peace and Justice, People of Faith for Peace, Peace Action Group - First Unitarian Church Portland, Oregonians Against the War, Peace Justice and Environment Committee-Mennonite Church, Families for Peace, Rural Organizing Project, Code Pink Portland, White Feather House (Catholic Worker), Christ the Healer - United Church of Christ, Living Earth, Oregon Peace Institute, Pax Christi Portland, Alliance for Democracy - Portland Chapter, Metanoia Peace Community-United Methodist Church, Portland Rainbow Coalition, Vancouver For Peace, Portland Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC), West Hills Friends Church, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church Peace and Justice Commission, Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-Portland Branch, War Resisters League-Portland (503-238-0605), Cascadia Magical Activists, Women in Black, East Side Democratic Club, School of the Americas Watch Oregon (SOA Watch), Portland Solidarity ([portlandsolidarity@post.com](mailto:portlandsolidarity@post.com)), Friends of Sabeel-North America, Friends of Voices in the Wilderness/Portland, Multnomah Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quakers), NW VEG (Northwest Vegetarian Education and Empowerment Group), Portland International Socialist Organization <[pdxiso@yahoo.com](mailto:pdxiso@yahoo.com)>, JubileeUSA Oregon, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Voz (Worker Rights Education Project), Oregon PeaceWorks (503-585-2767-Salem), Board of Peace and Social Concerns of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends, Justice & Witness Team of Bridgeport United Church of Christ, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-Washington County, Department of Peace Campaign, Portland Alliance (media cosponsor), Albany/Corvallis Women in Black, Portland Area Rethinking Schools, Oregon Fellowship of Reconciliation, AFSCME local 88 - Multnomah County Employees, Latino Network, Amnesty International Group 48, Justice and Peace Commission of St Ignatius Catholic Church, DemocracyforAmerica - Old Friends Coffeehouse Meetup, Democracy for Oregon, Oregon Bolivarian Circle, street roots (media cosponsor), Healthy Oregon, MoveOn.org, St Stephen's Episcopal Parish Vestry, Christ the Reconciler-United Methodist Church, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Augustana Lutheran Church, Spirit Moves Peace Center, The Global Country of World Peace, Tikkun Olam (Social Action) Committee of Congregation P'nai Or and others.

Endorsers for the March 19th action now include Northwest Veterans for Peace, PSU Progressive Student Union, PSU Socialist Party, Concerned Students of PSU, SUSTAIN (Stop US Tax-funded Aid to Israel Now), Friends of Lucinda Tate for City Council, No War Drum Corps - Portland Drum Collective ([www.pdxdrums.org](http://www.pdxdrums.org)), Recruiter Watch PDX (Portland Anti-Military Recruitment Coalition), Furniture Craft, Environmental Justice Action Group, Ash Creek Press, People's Activist Cafe

(www.peoples-activist-cafe.info), Bumberlam, Oregon Wildlife Federation, Back 2 the WALL, Northwest Progressive Community, Jews for Global Justice, Reedwood Friends Church, Black Monday Committee, Virginia Lopez and the Mambo Queens, Dones X Dones (Barcelona-Spain), Shelly's Garden-Honkin' Huge Burritos, Freedom Socialist Party, Love Makes a Family Inc, WILPF/Ann Arbor-Michigan, Lane County Taxes for Peace Not War, Portland Jobs with Justice (503-236-5573), Corvallis Alternatives 2 War, West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Social Action Committee, Lesbian Community Project, Tienda Tikal, Centro Proceso Social (Lima-Peru), Eugene Justice Not War Coalition, Portland Nurses For Peace, Women in Black-London, Mirador, Portland Industrial Workers of the World-General Membership Branch, Central Coast Patriots for Peace, Coastal Progressives, Oregon Coast Peace Wave, Flying Focus Video Collective (media endorser), Socialist Equality Party, It's a Beautiful Pizza, Portland Insight Meditation Community Social Action Committee, PCUN (Northwest Tree Planters and Farm Workers Union), Radical Women, Portland International Women's Day, In Other Words-Women's Books and Resources, Laughing Horse Books, Red and Black Cafe, SisterSpirit, Samusson & Tomassi, Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC) ACTION, CAUSA (Oregon Immigrant Rights Coalition), Students for Peace and Justice, Lincoln High School Activist Club, Wisdom Keepers Project, Mojo's Coffee Den, In Defense of Animals, Pete Sorenson for Governor, Hollywood Vintage, Portland Schools Alliance, Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Willamette Valley Jobs with Justice, Three Friends Coffeehouse and Cafe, The Community to Elect Chris Iverson, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 8, Downtown Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish, Justice for Mumia Coalition, House District 26 Democrats of Clackamas County, Women in Black Chapman Park Portland, Law Office Of Phil Goldsmith, Anarchist Student Union, and others.

A full up-to-date list of cosponsors and endorsers is posted at <<http://www.pjw.info>>.

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