

RECLAIMING THE PROPHETIC VOICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Honor the Dead, Keep Faith with the Living

FAITH-BASED WITNESS at local CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES marks All Saints Day with a call to INVESTIGATE TORTURE and HALT the KILLING in IRAQ

Tuesday, November 1

Hartford, Norwich, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury

(detailed location information provided at end of release)

Mid-day gatherings (Noon in Hartford; 11am in Norwich; 11:30 other locations)

- Reading the names of 2000+ US soldiers killed in Iraq since March 2003
- Remembering the 100,000+ Iraqi Civilians who have died
- Demanding action from Members of Congress

Religious leaders and people of faith from around the state will hold public witnesses at local offices of the CT Congressional delegation. Participants will join their voices with people across the country calling for an end to torture and a halt to the war in Iraq. As the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq surpasses the 2000 mark, people in every state are honoring those who have lost their lives while demanding steps to bring the war to an end. And communities on both sides of the Atlantic are highlighting the civilian death toll with solemn bell-ringing vigils, planning to achieve 100,000 rings, the estimated number of Iraqi deaths. The All Saints Day events are part of a national call to action by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, honoring the war dead on this first Tuesday of November, one year prior to the 2006 mid-term elections.

“We call upon our Representatives to raise their voices in the halls of Congress to bring an end to the immoral and illegal practice of torture and to halt this immoral and illegal war,” says John Humphries, a Quaker and a member of the Steering Committee for Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice, the statewide interfaith network of religious leaders and

people of faith that has organized this day of public witness in Connecticut.

“The evidence is becoming clearer every day that the American people and the US Congress were fooled into going to war based on lies and false intelligence reports,” says the Rev. Allie Perry, one of the organizers of the witness at Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro’s office in New Haven. “As people of faith, we are answering the call to prophetic witness, speaking out against these immoral actions of our government, honoring those who have died, and demanding that our Representatives publicly denounce torture and be assertive in their leadership to bring a swift end to the war.” Rev. Perry notes that thus far none of the state’s Representatives has publicly supported keeping Senator McCain’s amendment against torture as part of the Defense Appropriation bill.

For the past two weeks, members of faith communities across the state have called congressional offices asking their Representatives to exercise leadership on these issues.

Earlier this year, Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice issued a *Call to Resist the War in Iraq*, recognizing that the War Crimes Tribunals following World War II established that anyone with knowledge of illegal activity and an opportunity to do something is a potential criminal under international law, unless they take affirmative measures to prevent the commission of the crime.

“Our Representatives can take affirmative actions to prevent further crimes by launching an independent investigation into the abuse of prisoners and by cutting military expenditures to give priority to urgent domestic needs, including hurricane relief,” says Humphries.

Participants at each location will take turns reading the names of the US soldiers who have died and tolling a bell to honor the Iraqi civilians who have been killed. A delegation will highlight the human cost of this war, by reading inside the Congressional offices the names of soldiers from Connecticut who have died and posing the question: “How many more of our sons and daughters will die before the Congress is called to account on Election Day 2006?”

*****The time and location for each of the events in CT are listed on the following page.*****

Local information for November 1 actions at Congressional offices:

1st District: Rep. John Larson
221 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT
12 noon

Contact:
Rabbi Donna Berman - 860/249-1207
860/573-7007 (cell)
Rev. Dr. Carl Dudley - 860/236-9794

2nd District: Rep. Rob Simmons
2 Courthouse Square, Fifth Floor
Norwich, CT
11 a.m.

Contact:
Rev. Carolyn Patierno - 860/443-0316
Rev. Kathleen McTigue - 203/288-1807 x202
203-314-7988 (cell)

3rd District: Rep. Rosa DeLauro
59 Elm Street
New Haven, CT
11:30 a.m.

Contact:
Rev. Allie Perry -203/865-6575
203/215-2613 (cell)
Rabbi Herb Brockman - 203/288-3877

4th District: Rep. Christopher Shays
10 Middle Street, 11th Floor
Bridgeport, CT
11:30 a.m.

Contact:
Jody Eisemann - 203/254-7766
203/216 2548 (cell)
Rev. Leigh McCaffrey - 203/524-4210 (cell)

5th District: Rep. Nancy Johnson
100 Grand Street, 2nd Floor
Waterbury, CT
11:30 a.m.

Contact:
Rev. Dr. Dennis B. Calhoun - 203/758-2345
203/217-7239 (cell)

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