Portland Rally Protests Iraq War Escalation 11 Jan. 2007

author: RhondaB.

A large crowd braved the cold and showed up at Pioneer Courthouse Square to protest Bush's announced escalation of the Iraq war this evening. The crowd marched to the Oregonian newspaper's office, chanting and taking over the street for a short time. In spite of delays, motorists showed great support to the protestors by honking and waving. This has not been the typical reaction of Portland drivers to such delays in the past. Perhaps this is reflective of a poll conducted showing that 89% of Americans oppose sending more troops to Iraq.

It was also unusual to have no noticeable police presence at the event this evening; no storm troopers, no smell of pepper spray in the air, no violation of free speech rights.

The demonstrators marched back to PCS, where singing, chanting, percussion music and general camaraderie took place.

The rally and march, along with the civil disobedience at the federal building earlier today, were part of nationwide protests in response to Bush's announcement yesterday.

Olympia Opposes the Escalation 11 Jan. 2007

author: Mollie

A surprisingly large number of people turned out on this too freezing cold night in Olympia to register their outrage at this latest Bush insanity. The word went out over email today and close to 100 people stood on the corner of Division and Harrison in Olympia's Westside. Some with signs, some without but all committed to ending this insane war. One woman I spoke with said she had thought long and hard about whether it was worth coming out—after all, what good what it do? Then, she asked herself, what good would it do to sit at home? Showing up made more sense, even if it did nothing more than provoke the drivers to think about how strongly we feel about this war, she said.

While Evergreen College sits only a few miles from this intersection, there were few young people. Even on this bitterly cold night, this was the older crowd. There is no question that the peace activists will be busier than ever and word went out that a peace rally is planned for January 27th at noon at the 4th street bridge at noon, in solidarity with the demonstration in D.C. that same day.

Beaverton Peace Vigil Against Escalation 11 Jan. 2007

author: navy dad

Over 150 people assembled at 5th and Hall this evening to protest Chimpy's call for another 20,000 soldiers and an additional carrier battle group to the middle east. The majority of Americans want our soldiers home now. Yet, the cabal that runs the White House does not "get it". Dems plan to block funding, but they MUST know that they have your support. Call toll-free: 800-614-2803. And GOP senators who are up for reelection in 2008 are, by in large, now breaking with Bush. Let them know you support them on ending the war (then vote them out anyway in '08).

Five Women Lockdown to Federal Building in Portland 11 Jan. 2007

Five women handcuff themselves to the Federal Building in downtown Portland Jan. 11th to protest President Bush’s escalation of troops in Iraq.

Protesters outside White House demand troop pullout from Iraq 11 Jan. 2007

author: lora

Anti-war protesters demonstrate in front of the White House, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007, as President Bush was making his address to the nation about his new policy dealing with the Iraq war. Bush said he will send 21,500 additional U.S. troops to Iraq to quell its near-anarchy and for the first time acknowledged he had erred by failing to order a military buildup last year.
On Monday, Fouad would have been twenty nine years old, and presumably enjoying his new found career as a real estate salesman. He would still be the loving son, brother, friend, and human being that so many here have reported about.

That did not happen. Instead, he was cruelly tortured and murdered by the fascist tools of the corporate state, Officer Bergin (Sandy Police) and Deputy Willard (Clackamas County Sheriff).

On September 6, 2005, Fouad was driving his parent's car, apparently carrying gasoline to his pickup truck, which had run out of gas. It was a hot day, and we think that he was clad only in shorts. At some point in this trip, something went dreadfully wrong. Initial reports indicate that Fouad was involved in a rear end collision with a car being driven by a Ms. Tiffany Stanko. From some witness' accounts, he may have already had a fire inside the vehicle, or it may have been ignited when he struck Ms. Stanko's car. At any rate, he did not stop, as he may have been otherwise engaged (people who are on fire sometimes do strange things). Ms Stanko started the law enforcement gang rolling with her cell phone cries for help. Meantime, Fouad was still careening down the rural highway, and struck a couple more cars, before running off the road and bailing out, tearing what little clothing remained from his body, while fleeing the flaming car, which was a total wreck.

Here, a "coincidental" thing happened: Ms Stanko's uncle, who was working on a survey crew nearby, chased Fouad into the woods with a baseball bat. According to him, he caught up to Fouad, and tried to grab him, but since Fouad's skin was burned and peeling, and he was bloody, he lost his grip as Fouad kicked out at him. Fouad fell to the ground at that point, then rose, and continued to run, through the woods, apparently hysterical with pain.

By this time, there are countless first responders in the area, including an ambulance, a couple of fire rigs, and multiple agency police. Enter our two heroes: Willard, who a few moments ago was many miles away, finishing part of his lunch and trying to decide whether to have his power bar or his afternoon prayer, and Bergin, a rookie in Sandy, who was also headed for lunch when he heard the calls for aid. Upon arrival in the area, Willard removed his shotgun from his patrol unit, and took off like Rifleman, through the woods, presumably to bag an elk or something similar. Unable to see the victim (Fouad IS the victim), he returned to the safety of the street, when Bergin came screaming up in his patrol car. About this time, a witness came by, saying that they saw a badly bleeding naked man, about a quarter mile up the road from where this assembly of first responders were congregated. Of course, Willard leaped into Bergin's car, and they screamed off like Batman and Robin, in hopes of being first to "bag" this helpless victim.

When they arrived, according to both officers, Fouad was "seated, Indian style (cross legged), naked, bleeding, with skin hanging from his body, rocking back and forth, in a catatonic state, and moaning." Seeing that Fouad was unarmed, and obviously injured, Willard said and did the only intelligent thing that he did in the entire encounter, he "transitioned to less lethal force (taser), and put down his shotgun. Of course, he had another brain lapse at this point (shoulda had the power bar), he tossed the loaded shotgun onto the hood of Bergin's car, and both officers drew their electric torture tools, and advance upon the victim (catatonic, seated, naked, bleeding, injured, etc.), yelling in typical "Cops" style (can't you just hear them?) for him to prone himself on the hot pavement. When he did not comply with these ridiculous demands, Bergin began tasering him, and continued until his toy ran out of electricity. Then, because the victim was writhing in pain, and they had no idea what to do with him (obviously, the idea of first aid never occurred to them), Willard similarly discharged his taser until empty.

Fouad, when added pain of the tasers ceased to torture him momentarily, did the only thing anyone would do in such a state, he fled the pain givers, and climbed to the highest refuge that he could find, the top of the patrol cars.

The protectors of the public peace had by this time decided (according to their statements) that there was no way that they could allow Fouad to leave, and yet, that there was also no way that they would allow him to touch them (all that icky blood and skin and stuff), so they had no choice. They shot him seven times, and at some point in this homicidal action, Fouad's young life was terminated.

Because of these fine individual's insensitivity to the agony that the victim was suffering, and their unwarranted fear of blood (first responders?), Fouad's family and friends must now SUFFER through his birthday, rather than celebrate it.

Please take a moment to share their pain, and to consider what has brought us to the state we are now in, where such egregious actions were not even condemned by a grand jury, led by the District Attorney, mentioned above. How will you be treated, if ever you are injured, bleeding, and burned?

A quick search of Indy, using Fouad's name will bring up past entries, for those who have just joined us.

NYC: Demonstration in solidarity with Mapuche struggles

Anarchists in NYC demonstrate against Benetton, due to their attacks on the Mapuche people in Chile and Argentina.

Nearly a dozen people demonstrated outside of the Astor Place Benetton store in NYC two days ago. After angrily entering the store and being kicked out, the demonstrators set up a picket outside of the Benetton. Flyers were distributed and conversations started with shoppers, with the aim of disrupting business.

The demonstration ended after a little while, just as the police arrived, apparently ready to make arrests.