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* * * MEDIA ADVISORY***

WHILE CONSUMERS SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS, BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK VIGIL FOR PEACE AT UNION SQUARE

WHEN: Friday, November 29, noon-1 pm

WHERE: Union Square, San Francisco

WHAT: On the busiest shopping day of the year, while thousands jam Sach's, Neiman-Marcus and Macy's, clutching their holiday gift lists, Bay Area Women in Black will hold a silent theatrical procession through the streets outside, representing the people whose voices are not heard as the generals and corporate oil interests try to drag the nation into an invasion of Iraq. A war in Iraq will not only kill thousands of innocent Iraqis, needlessly risk the lives of US service people, increase anti-American sentiment around the world, and rob us of the financial resources we should be devoting to schools, health care and affordable housing -- it also carries with it the threat of an expanded regional war between Israel and the surrounding Arab states, "In these perilous times -- as our civil liberties are being rapidly curtailed in the name of combating terrorism -- we feel that dissent must be allowed expression, and that taking action for peace is crucial," said Women in Black member Ronnie Gilbert, who was blacklisted in the 1950's as a member of the 'popular folkloric group The Weavers.

WHO: Bay Area Women in Black is a group of Jewish feminists and allies who stand in solidarity with Israeli Women in Black, who have held silent vigils weekly for most of the past 14 years, to protest the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, and to mourn all the Israeli and Palestinian lives that have been lost. Contact us at bayareawomeninblack@earthlink.net.

PHOTO/VIDEO

Vigil includes giant puppets and drummers

BACKGROUND: As Jews, we honor the fundamental teaching, "Choose Life, so that you and your children may live." In order to choose life, we must struggle for the conditions that allow the lives of all people to flourish. As feminists, we stand with women peace activists in Israel and Palestine who march together under the banner "We Refuse to be Enemies."