

Boston Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee  
c/o USW L. 8751  
25 Colgate Rd., Roslindale, MA 02131  
617-524-3507 ◦ rosaparksday@brphrd.com ◦ www.brphrd.com

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

**Askia Toure (617) 373-3810**  
**Ernesto Arroyo (617) 524-3507**

**Rosa Parks Human Rights Day - December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Activists Announce Plans for a March through Boston on Dec. 1**  
**Cities Throughout the Country Declare Dec. 1 Rosa Parks Day.**

**PRESS CONFERENCE – Tuesday, Nov. 22 – 11:00 am in front of Macy's at Downtown Crossing**

The Boston Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee, a coalition of politicians, community, labor, youth, religious, women's, cultural and anti-war activists and organizations will hold a press conference on Tuesday, November 22 at 11:00 am in front of Macy's at Downtown Crossing, Boston to announce plans for a rally and march through the streets of Boston on Dec. 1 in honor of Rosa Parks Human Rights Day. This action, which is being done in conjunction with similar actions in cities throughout the country will demand an end to "poverty, racism and war". It was 50 years ago on December 1, 1955 that Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama an action which resulted in the 381 day Montgomery Bus Boycott. This action ignited the modern day civil rights movement.

The March will start at 11:00 am on December 1 at Blue Hill Ave and Dudley St. and then head to Boston City Hall for a Rally.

On October 26 the Boston City Council passed a resolution in honor of Rosa Parks which stated, "*That the Boston City Council encourages all businesses in the City of Boston, both public and private to either close on December 1, 2005, or allow the many workers and students in the City who will want to attend the Rosa Parks Commemoration event taking place during normal business hours, to take the day off, or leave work and school early with impunity*". Similar resolutions have been passed in Boston, New York City, Oakland CA, Baltimore, Detroit, and Cleveland. Ohio and Michigan have declared December 1 as Rosa Parks Day statewide.

The main theme of the march and rally calls for a Day of Absence from School, Work, or Commercial Shopping to honor the pioneering Civil Rights activist, by saying No to Poverty, Racism and War and demanding that troops be brought home now, justice and dignity for Hurricane Katrina survivors, jobs at a living wage, military recruiter out of our schools, cut the war budget and money for healthcare, AIDS, education and housing.

"We're going to march on December 1, the fiftieth anniversary of the arrest of Rosa Parks because we believe that the best way to honor her is to continue struggle against the barriers of human dignity," said Tony Van Der Meer an organizer for the Boston Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee. "We are expecting people from all over the region to fill the streets demanding an end to the occupation of Iraq, justice for Katrina survivors, jobs at a living wage, and money for healthcare & housing, not war.

"This march comes at a crucial time, as antiwar sentiment is sweeping the country," Van Der Meer continued. "Everyone now knows that the Bush Administration lied to justify the war, and more than 100,000 Iraqis and 2,000 U.S. soldiers are dead because of those lies. Meanwhile, jobs and affordable housing are disappearing, education budgets are being slashed, and millions of people are without healthcare. Add to that the announcement from FEMA that it plans to evict tens of thousands Katrina survivors on December 1, and it becomes clear that now is the time to act. In Boston and in cities across the U.S. we are expecting tens of thousands people in the streets against poverty, racism, and war."

The Boston December 1 Rosa Parks Human Rights Day has been endorsed by: Chuck Turner, Boston City Council; Tony Van Der Meer, Prof. UMASS Boston; Felix Arroyo, Boston City Council; USW L. 8751, Boston School Bus Drivers; Askia Toure, Poet & Political Activist; Minister Don Muhammad, NOI Mosque No 11; The Most Rev. Filipe C. Teixeira, OFSJC, Diocese of St. Francis of Assisi, CCA; Diane Wilkerson, State Senator; Rev. William Dickerson, Greater Lover Tabernacle Church; Millions More Movement (Boston); SEIU Local 615; Boston Troops Out Now Coalition; Survivors, Inc.; New England Human Rights Organization for Haiti; Committee to Defend the Somerville 5; Women's Fightback Network; QueerToday.com; MLK Jr. Bolivarian Circle; Rev. Franklin Hobbs; United American Indians of New England; Disabled Peoples Liberation Front; Stonewall Warriors; Boston Mobilization; United for Justice with Peace; The National Lawyers Guild; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; New Democracy Coalition; Mass Vote; Politicin with the Sisters; Reflect & Strengthen; Eye of Zion; Kids Against Police Brutality.