



DEMO: A demonstration in words

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEADING AMERICAN POETS AND ACTIVIST HOLD MAJOR PROTEST READING DURING REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION (RNC)

Leading American poets and activist will protest the Republican National Convention and the crisis in Iraq at a reading on Wednesday, September 1, 2004 at 8:00 PM at St. Mark's Church, 131 East 10th Street, New York City. The free event called *DEMO: A Demonstration in Words* will feature poets Sonia Sanchez, Cornelius Eady, Hettie Jones, Katha Pollitt, Grace Paley, Carl Hancock Rux, Bob Holman, Sapphire, Mark Doty, Marie Ponsot, Eileen Myles, Grace Schulman, Vijay Seshadri, Kathy Engel, and many others.

"St. Mark's Church was a favorite haunt of Allen Ginsberg, the beat poet who was a key figure at the 1968 Democratic Convention protest in Chicago. We hope the reading will follow in Ginsberg's and Robert Lowell's tradition of poetry as a vehicle for dissent," said Ram Devineni, publisher of *Rattapallax* and co-host. "It's no coincidence that the word 'poet' is embedded in the word 'protest'," noted co-host Jen Benka.

In addition, a special newspaper will be published featuring protest posters and poetry from Mahmoud Darwish, Rick Moody, Martín Espada, Hal Sirowitz, Suheir Hammad, and others on the RNC and crisis in Iraq. The program is organized by the Poetry Project, *Rattapallax*, and Issue Project Room. The reading was featured in the *New York Times* (August 1, 2004).

For more information, please visit www.rattapallax.com/protest.htm

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