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> Coalition of Women for Peace:  
> <http://www.coalitionofwomen4peace.org>  
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> A Letter from Rachel Corrie's Parents  
> June 3, 2003  
> To the Coalition of Women for Peace and the Israel Committee  
Against House  
> Demolitions  
>  
> Kahlil Gibran said, "When you are sorrowful, look again in your  
heart and  
> you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been  
your  
> delight." Rachel was our delight. As we weep, we try to recall  
our  
> time with her and try to dwell on all that she leaves us. It is  
> difficult to summarize a life and to put into words what that life  
has  
> meant to yours, but we hope we can share with you a bit of the  
essence of  
> Rachel. From the moment she was born, she was an essential part of  
us-her  
> mom, her dad, her brother, and sister. So much of what we miss  
now, of  
> course, is just having her around-coming through the door to our  
house  
> into the safety of a family place where she could just be. She  
napped on  
> our couches. She relaxed on our deck bathing herself in the  
welcome  
> spring sunshine. She ate potato soup suppers with us, and sat in  
front of  
> the fire to warm herself. She sat quietly in corners writing and  
made  
> messes creating art in the garage. She asked for advice about how  
to grow  
> plants and wandered through the yard looking at what was emerging  
there.  
> She talked us into taking her out for sushi dinners, into buying  
her tin  
> boxes at antique shops, and into purchasing additions for her  
wardrobe at  
> the Goodwill store. She challenged our political views when they  
needed  
> challenging. She chastised us if we weren't thoughtful enough in  
our  
> opinions. She playfully teased us about our many shortcomings and  
worried  
> too much about her own. She loved us, and comforted us, and  
supported us  
> when we needed it. When she hadn't seen us for a time she greeted  
us with  
> long, loving embraces.  
>  
> Her grandmother writes of her as an infant, "Rachel would lie with

Chris  
> and Sarah stretched on the floor beside her, playing a board game.  
Games  
> bored me, but here this baby seemed entranced. I think it was her  
feeling  
> of connectedness, of belonging, that person-to-person relatedness  
that was  
> so remarkable to her. Rachel's life didn't touch yours lightly.  
She  
> impacted you."  
>  
> In her fifth grade yearbook at age eleven Rachel wrote her  
ambitions: "I  
> want to be a lawyer, a dancer, an actress, a mother, a wife, a  
children's  
> author, a distance runner, a poet, a pianist, a pet store owner, a  
> astronaut, an environmental and humanitarian activist, a  
psychiatrist, a  
> ballet teacher, and the first woman president." . . .  
>  
> One of her high school teachers wrote, "When I consider Rachel's  
impact on  
> me the first phrase that occurs is---destined to make a  
difference. In my  
> relationship with Rachel as her teacher and friend...there was a  
mutual  
> respect for the written word. She was the creator. I was the  
editor and  
> as a good listener I was a sounding board for Rachel. She had so  
many  
> ideas, so many questions...Rachel couldn't be bothered by little  
things  
> like turning in all of her assignments, because she was already  
dealing  
> with the big issues: splashing in a puddle on the way to class at  
then  
> writing poetry that was so clear, so poignant and so articulate or  
> wondered but didn't question how this complex young woman had so  
much to  
> contribute.  
>  
> One of her faculty at The Evergreen State College in Olympia wrote  
of her,  
> "She was not content to merely learn about injustice in the world  
but also  
> needed to do something about it. This was true locally where she  
would  
> counsel low-income people, work to save the Labor Center at the  
College,  
> or connect art and peace in the Procession of the Species." (An  
Olympia  
> earth day event that honors all of life.)  
>  
> One of Rachel's college classmates wrote, "She had touched us long  
before  
> all this happened. She will continue to touch us. There was more  
to  
> Rachel than that fateful day in Rafah, thousands of miles away from

her  
> home. There is more to her than any one individual will ever  
know...There  
> was a greatness in Rachel that can and should inspire the greatness  
in all  
> of us. If our collective memory of Rachel ends with admiration,  
then her  
> message is 'lost on us.'  
>  
> We know that Rachel's message is not lost on those of you who have  
> gathered today to remember her. We know you are deeply connected  
to her  
> in your efforts to end the occupation and to bring peace, justice,  
and  
> security to all the people of Israel and Palestine. Tonight, while  
taking  
> a break from writing, we attended a meeting here in Olympia to  
raise  
> awareness of and funds for the Israel Committee Against House  
Demolitions.  
> We will spread the word in the U.S. Mahatma Gandhi said, "A small  
body  
> of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their  
mission can  
> alter the course of history." We thank you for this evening in  
honor of  
> Rachel and we join in solidarity with all Israelis, Palestinians,  
and  
> internationals-determined spirits--who strive to end the horror of  
the  
> occupation and the violence that it brings to us all.  
>  
> Peace to you from the Corrie family.  
>  
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