Portland, City of Peace
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Portland, city of peace,
is a home to refugees,
a mecca for coffee,
a stage for music on the streets.

Portland is a city of beautiful imperfections,
of light rails and parks,
where Food not Bombs fights
poverty with peace.

Portland, a city of refuseniks,
is now a city of martyrs.
Last night, two men gave their lives
to protect their neighbors.

Portland is home to the pacifist warriors
who died so that veiled
and unveiled could ride,
watching the world unfold with open eyes.

Portland is a city with a shining bright star,
where public servants
who could not silently observe
terror visited on innocent lives—

Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche
and Ricky John Best died—fighting
for a planet bigger than our globe.
Portland is a city of peace.