

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

1/6/09

(Standup Week 191)

Tuesday, 6pm–7pm

Why are we in Iraq?

Not because of weapons of mass destruction.

Not because Iraq was involved in 9/11.

Not because Iraq was a threat to our national security.

What have we gotten?

US military dead: 4,221 US military wounded: 30,920

Iraqi civilians killed: 98,591* Money spent on war: \$588 billion

Who are we?

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War has pledged to “Stand Up” until the war ends and the troops come home safely.

Every Tuesday evening at 6 pm (rain or shine), **Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War** assembles on the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 24th Street to facilitate “**Chelsea Stands Up Against the War,**” a community protest against the war in Iraq.

We carry banners, signs, and candles as we gather for one hour each week to protest the war in Iraq. We distribute this newsletter, peace buttons, collect signatures on petitions and speak with our neighbors about the need to end war in Iraq. The **Stand Up** make a dramatic statement to passing vehicular traffic on 8th avenue.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is an all-volunteer organization that wants to build the broadest possible neighborhood consensus. With that goal in mind, the organization is open to all and functions by consensus.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is not formally affiliated with any other organization but is willing to work with all groups and individuals who are committed to ending this illegal and immoral war fought by our fellow citizens, paid for with our tax dollars, and prosecuted in our name.

*The recent Johns Hopkins/Lancet report places the figure at 655,000+



Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

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In With The Old

By Dave Robinson

2009 begins with Bush leaving office ducking shoes and his Administration's record of staggering abuses of power.

Lost in the iconic imagery of an American president having shoes thrown at him is the reason Bush was in Iraq in December in the first place. He was there to mark the signing of the Status Of Forces Agreement (SOFA) that extends our legal basis to occupy Iraq. American forces are now obligated to leave Iraq by the end of 2011, and must stop patrolling Iraqi cities by the end of June 2009. Under SOFA, American forces cannot leave their bases for operations without the approval of the Iraqi government.

Military leaders have suggested that this agreement is not binding, an attitude reminiscent of how BushCo ignored the Constitution and the Geneva Conventions. The military is busy reclassifying the definition of “combat troops.” Combat troops today will be referred to in the Vietnam-era code words as “trainers” and “advisors”. Obama has pledged to remove only “combat troops” from Iraq—other types of military personnel as well as private contractors will remain there indefinitely subject to “conditions on the ground”.

Meanwhile, the broadcast news media, looking for a more TV friendly war, are pulling completely out of Iraq for Afghanistan, where thousands more clearly labeled combat troops are now heading. Many Americans, drunk on Hope and Change, don't seem to care that our soldiers will remain in Iraq well into and probably beyond the next presidential election cycle, when both Democrats and Republicans will no doubt exploit/honor them for their service. The next shoe thrown at an American president may very well be a combat boot.



Photo by Gary Scholicher