

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

1/20/09

(Standup Week 193)

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: 4,228 US military wounded: 30,934

Iraqi civilians killed: 98,650* Money spent on war: \$592 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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WE NEED A PEACE DIVIDEND

By Randy Petsche

The nation’s military spending is bloated. The government will spend at least \$800 billion for national “defense” in 2009, including the Defense Department budget, the national security budget, and the special costs of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. This does not include spending on veterans benefits or the enormous portion of the national debt caused by trillions in previous military spending.

None of this seems to faze our nation’s policy makers. Despite the severe economic recession the incoming administration is not considering any reduction in military spending. Instead, it proposes to increase the size of the Army and Air Force.

Although the Obama administration is pledged to eventually eliminate “combat” forces in Iraq it will maintain at least four huge fortresses to keep watch over the subject population. Any savings from the eventual Iraqi withdrawals will be spent in Afghanistan, where the new administration pledges to double the size of the expeditionary force from its present 36,000 members.

Nothing seems to change. The supposed Soviet menace bit the dust in 1991. This should have led to a permanent reduction in the American military establishment. Instead the U. S. maintains more than 700 overseas military bases.

The government is bent on any kind of threat inflation that serves to inflate military spending. Instead of a red menace we now spend trillions of dollars fighting largely imagined “terrorist conspiracies,” oil wars, and a ridiculous international war on drugs.



Photo by Gary Schoicher