

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

1/31/11

(Standup Week 299)

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?

In Iraq

US military dead: **4,435**
US military wounded: **32,965**
Iraqi civilians killed: **108,501***
Money spent on war: **\$761 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,461**
US military wounded: **10,140**
Afghani civilians killed: **16,318**
Money spent on war: **\$382 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 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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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Oh...and by the way...

By Carla Nordstrom

It was at the snooze point in the State of the Union speech on jobs creation when Barack Obama brought up the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan. He used comforting statements like, “...nearly 100,000 of our brave men and women have left with their heads held high;” “...the Iraq War is coming to an end.” “Thanks to our heroic troops and civilians, fewer Afghans are under the control of the insurgency.” “And this July, we will begin to bring our troops home.” Really? He used such gentle language to describe wars that have cost us thousands of lives, trillions of dollars, and our reputation as decent people.

Why is it American people do not hold President Obama or our government responsible for the mess they have created and sustained in the Middle East? He said “violence is down” in Iraq, yet three suicide bombings caused the deaths of at least 120 people and many more injuries during the week when Obama’s speech was given. (<http://www.independent.com/mt/news.asp?newsitemid=119223>)

“We are strengthening the capacity of the Afghan people,” yet Hamid Karzai is still at the helm and accusing foreigners of interfering in last September’s parliamentary elections. (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/26/AR2011012601584.html?hpid=topnews>)

The wars on Iraq and Afghanistan are still serious, still costly in lives and resources, and deserving of more than a few platitudes about our success. Until Americans demand that our government end the wars and our meddling in the Middle East, we will be mired in a place where we trudge through the sludge of bad actions and bad faith. No amount of good jobs will save our dignity or bring about peace.



Photo by Gary Schoichet