

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

2/2/10

(Standup Week 247)

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: **4,375**  
US military wounded: **31,639**  
Iraqi civilians killed: **103,819\***  
Money spent on war: **\$723 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **976**  
US military wounded: **9,502**  
Afghani civilians killed: **15,101**  
Money spent on war: **\$239 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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## BLACKWATER IS NEVER HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY

By Jackie Schoenhaus

On December 30, 2009 Federal Judge Ricardo M. Urbina dismissed a criminal case against five Blackwater operatives who had been accused of perpetrating the Nisour Square massacre in Baghdad in September 2007. During the massacre at least 17 Iraqi citizens were killed and more than 20 were injured in a 15 minute bombardment of unprovoked gunfire. Judge Urbina's dismissal was not for lack of evidence. Jeremy Ridgeway, a Blackwater contractor, admitted that he and five defendants “opened fire with automatic weapons and grenade launchers on unarmed civilians.” Instead, the basis of the dismissal was the claim of gross misconduct on the part of the prosecutors for violating the constitutional rights of the Blackwater operatives.

Only one legal case against Blackwater has not yet come to court. This case involves the youngest victim of the Nisour Massacre, a nine year old boy named Ali, who was shot in the head. Mohammed Kinani, the boy's father, had not thought of suing Blackwater, as he believed that justice would be done in the U.S. That was until a Blackwater attorney denied that Blackwater contractors had killed Ali, claiming instead that he was murdered by a “stray bullet” fired by the US military. Blackwater tried to buy Mohammed off with a “condolence payment” of \$20,000. Mohammed turned it down. The only thing that Mohammed requested was an apology by the owner of Blackwater (Erik Prince) for killing his son. Kinani was told that “Blackwater does not apologize.” Why would Blackwater apologize for killing his son when they can rely upon the injustice of a legal system that has already dismissed the evidence of confessed guilt.

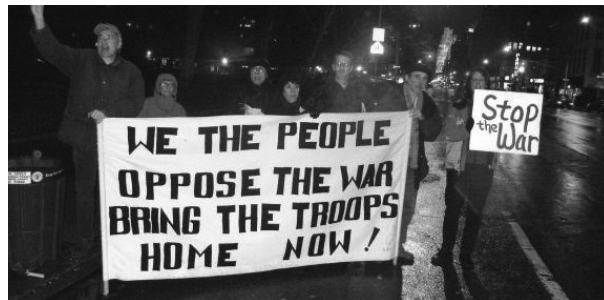


Photo by Gary Schlichter