

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

2/3/09

(Standup Week 195)

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: 4,237 US military wounded: 31,004

Iraqi civilians killed: 98,846* Money spent on war: \$596 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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Deconstructing the Presidential Monarchy

By Jacqueline Schoenhaus-Barnett

One of the most pernicious innovations of the Bush/Cheney reign in the White House involved the use/abuse of executive privilege to override statutes and treaties by simply invoking national security. Some of the ways that executive privilege was used during their tenure was to expand the use of torture, extraordinary rendition, and unnecessary surveillance of the population.

Relying upon a compliant Legal Department and unrestrained by Congress or courts, presidential power became the embodiment of all three branches (legislative, executive, and judiciary) thereby enabling “King George” to rule by decree. So now fast forward to the Obama administration and we have to ask if constitutional balance will be reinstated since we finally have a “real democrat” in the White House. Perhaps the question of executive privilege will pose the litmus test for Obama to see if he will live up to his promise to make his administration a more open and transparent governing body. For instance, in the area of the Justice Department, many of the opinions written in the Bush/Cheney era have not been made available to the public, but they impact on our Fourth Amendment privacy rights and freedom from indefinite detention without trial rights. It is up to the public to bring pressure to ensure that the Obama Justice Department be transparent and make public all department opinions that pertain to executive power. It will up to the Justice Department to reinstate the checks and balance system repudiating the most unjust positions, in particular the concept of presidential prerogatives to override the law.

[Special thanks to Aziz Huq for his article in *The Nation* that inspired the above.]



Photo by Gary Scholicher