

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

2/9/10

(Standup Week 248)

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: **103,982\***  
Money spent on war: **\$725 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **984**  
US military wounded: **9,502**  
Afghani civilians killed: **15,126**  
Money spent on war: **\$240 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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## Brother, Can You Spare A Drone?

By Dave Robinson

Obama’s 2011 budget includes a 3.4% increase in Dept. of Defense spending, featuring more than \$2 billion to purchase “unmanned aerial vehicles”, i.e., drones. The President’s proposal would double the current production of drones, our weapon of choice in Afghanistan and Pakistan and soon to be used more widely. Drones are responsible for increases in both civilian casualties and corporate profits.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates recently stated that the use of drones will continue to increase “even as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan eventually wind down....The more we have used them, the more we have identified their potential in a broader and broader set of circumstances,” Gates said. Translation: some wars may wind down (maybe) but others gear up. Have drones, will travel.

The Obama plan to “freeze” a portion of discretionary spending while increasing the obscene military budget gives the thumbs up to Wall Street and the finger to the rest of us. Think of our commitment to drones as a job program, but for flying killer robots, not for the 15.3 million Americans out of work as of Jan. 31.

And don’t forget, Obama’s \$708B proposed DOD budget doesn’t include the \$33B “emergency supplemental” to fund the “surge” in Afghanistan, in violation of his campaign promises to stop that dishonest, Bush-era practice. How’s hope and change working for you?

These wars are not about keeping us safe. They’re about keeping the corporate/political war machine powerful and the rest of us broke and in line.



Photo by Gary Schlichter