

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

2/15/11

(Standup Week 301)

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: **4,436**
US military wounded: **32,973**
Iraqi civilians killed: **108,856***
Money spent on war: **\$767 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1475**
US military wounded: **10,308**
Afghani civilians killed: **16,331**
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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They All Look Alike

By Dave Robinson

Even without the Egyptian Revolution rightfully dominating the airwaves, it's doubtful that NYU's newly published report, “Separating the Taliban from al-Qaeda: The Core of Success in Afghanistan,”* would ever be discussed on TV. Among other things, the report claims that Obama is continuing Bush's “conflation” of the Taliban and al Qaeda. Active citizens know that while the Taliban are brutal, medieval fascists who are understandably reviled by most Afghans, they are distinct from al Qaeda as their objectives are tightly focused within Afghanistan.

The NYU report also makes the incisive point that only the older Taliban retain any memory of peace, i.e., life before the Soviet invasion in the '80's. The younger Taliban who are increasingly gaining influence have never known anything but war, which makes them much more receptive than their elders to al Qaeda's more radical and global ideology. According to the study, America's failure to distinguish between the Taliban and al Qaeda is “having the unintended consequence of making (the Taliban) more al Qaeda-like: decentralized, radicalized and predisposed towards jihad.” **

If our leaders can't tell the difference between Taliban and al Qaeda, not to mention between Sunni, Shia, Egyptians, Iraqis, Afghans, Tunisians, whoever—then how can we? After all, they all look so alike on TV. Keeping us fearful and confused is good for ratings; it also keeps Americans from taking to the streets themselves.

At some point, however, the tables may turn. Peoples' movements over there may actually lead to peoples' questions over here. Stay tuned—unfortunately for the Empire, this Revolution actually is being televised.

*<http://www.cic.nyu.edu/> <<http://www.cic.nyu.edu/>>

**<http://blogs.alternet.org/speakeasy/2011/02/07/damning-new-report-shows-u-s-strategy-blocking-chance-for-peace-in-afghanistan/>
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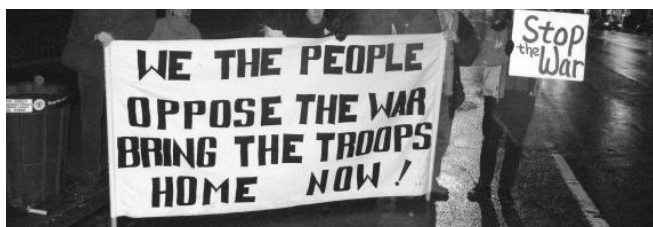


Photo by Gary Schlichter