

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

2/16/10

(Standup Week 249)

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: **4,376**
US military wounded: **31,648**
Iraqi civilians killed: **103,997***
Money spent on war: **\$727 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **990**
US military wounded: **9,512**
Afghani civilians killed: **15,139**
Money spent on war: **\$241 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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Dependency

By Carla Nordstrom

According to the New York Times, General Stanley McChrystal will implement a new strategy when U.S. and NATO forces invade Marja, Afghanistan to oust Taliban insurgents. No more “mowing the lawn,” a term soldiers use to describe rooting out the Taliban. When troops march into a stronghold to drive the Taliban out, once they’ve succeeded the soldiers leave. Later the Taliban return and the process is repeated. What is different about this strategy is that the army now considers civilians as the ‘prize.’ Military invasions will be followed by an occupation of Afghan administrators, a governor, and lots of police to form a government for the population.

There are problems with this strategy. The Afghan government is unstable and dishonest and most Afghans do not trust the police because they are corrupt. Lt. Gen. Mohammed Karimi, the deputy chief of staff of the Afghan Army, suggests, “We want to convince the Afghans that the government is for them.”

This could be a hard sell since the people of Marja will not be choosing the governor, administrators, or the police to protect them. While the proclaimed purpose of the Iraq war was to bring democracy to the Middle East, I guess we won’t be including Afghanistan in this goal. Could it be the people of Afghanistan are not evolved enough to self govern?

A senior American official in Kabul said that his greatest worry was not the Taliban, or even that the Marja operation would fail. “What do I worry about?” he asked. “Dependency.” In other words, we need to impose marshal law to protect Afghans from becoming welfare cheats.

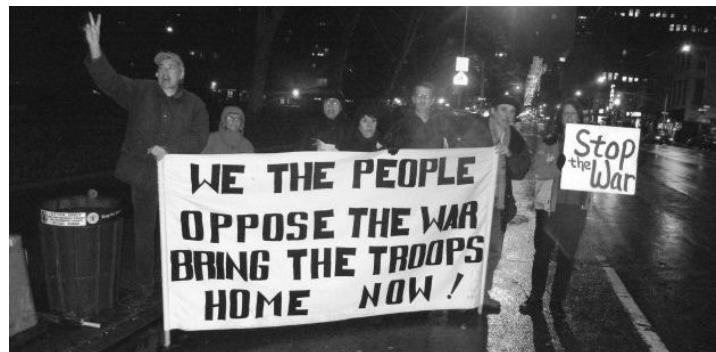


Photo by Gary Scholchet