

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

2/19/08

(Standup Week 145)

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: 3,963 US military wounded: 29,092

Iraqi civilians killed: 88,720* Money spent on war: \$506 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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It's All in a Name

By Carla Nordstrom

Recently, I heard a host on Air America suggest that renaming our involvement in Iraq an occupation would make it possible for us to leave. You don't have to win an occupation, it can be settled.

After all, who are we fighting in Iraq? We created the government and now protect it from its own citizens. We ally ourselves with whatever faction offers its support for the moment. Our only real enemy in Iraq is Al Qaeda, but we brought them to Iraq. There is every reason to believe that they'll be thrown out as soon as we go. As an occupying force, we could leave at any time and not face the stigma of winning or losing.

Is it possible to win a war against a noun? Our past attempts at wars on nouns—like poverty or drugs—have not ended in decisive victories. But, the war on terror has upped the ante. Instead of simply using words and policy, we have added military action to the mix. Our war on this noun is destroying lives throughout the world.

Republican politicians maintain that we are at war and can't leave Iraq until we win. Democratic politicians say they want to leave Iraq but haven't found this semantic exit.

If we continue to follow the Republican war strategy, we could be in Iraq forever, or as John McCain says, for 50 to 100 years. In that case, we'll have to reassess whether war, occupation, or colonization adequately describes what we're doing. If John McCain gets his way, we may have to admit that we have made Iraq a colony.



Photo by Gary Schoichet