

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

2/22/11

(Standup Week 302)

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: **4,438**
US military wounded: **32,978**
Iraqi civilians killed: **108,865***
Money spent on war: **\$772 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,476**
US military wounded: **10,351**
Afghani civilians killed: **16,407**
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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What's Happening to Our Democracy?

By Bob Martin

“As the throngs celebrated in Cairo, I couldn’t help wondering about what is happening to democracy here in the U.S.,” wrote *New York Times* columnist Bob Herbert 10 days ago. “We’re in serious danger of becoming a democracy in name only...The levers of real power have been all but completely commandeered by the financial and corporate elite. The wealthy call the tune, and the politicians dance.”

What are we getting now in our democracy? “Astounding and increasingly obscene tax breaks and windfall benefits for the wealthiest, while bought-and-paid-for politicians hack away at public services, saying we can’t afford them.” Public employee unions from Wisconsin to New York somehow then become the scapegoat.

Noting John Kerry’s recent statement that the Egyptian people “have made clear they will settle for nothing less than greater democracy and more economic opportunities,” Herbert goes on to say that “Americans are being asked to swallow exactly the opposite...In the mad rush to privatization over the past few decades, democracy itself was put up for sale and the rich were the only ones who could afford it.”

What does this have to do with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq? Lots! For one thing, trying to solve fiscal problems by laying off teachers and slashing public services (and busting unions) is just looking for money in all the wrong places. Instead, bring our troops home and cut the defense budget. That’s the only way to begin to put our nation on a firmer economic footing. On another level, the current economic debate speaks volumes about how the U.S. got into the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Those wars were founded on misinformation and lies, which is just what the American public is being fed right now about domestic spending.



Photo by Gary Schoicher