

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

3/2/10

(Standup Week 251)

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: **4,379**
US military wounded: **31,693**
Iraqi civilians killed: **104,257***
Money spent on war: **\$731 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,007**
US military wounded: **972**
Afghani civilians killed: **15,187**
Money spent on war: **\$243 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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Remember the Words of Martin Luther King

By Bob Martin & Kate Abell

Black History Month was a fitting time to look back on the words of Martin Luther King at Riverside Church on April 4, 1967 condemning the Vietnam War. In this seminal speech, he said “my conscience leaves me no choice” and insisted that it was morally imperative for Americans to halt the war.

It was a wise, moving, and prophetic speech. Two points among many stand out for us. King said, “when the issues at hand seem as perplexed as they often do in the case of this dreadful conflict we are on the verge of being mesmerized by uncertainty; but we must move on.” Uncertainty characterizes the U.S. approach in Afghanistan. There still seems to be hope for a military victory—witness the hoopla about the current campaign in Marja, in which the claimed success is highly doubtful. The only way to move on is to move out of Afghanistan, now.

Rev. King also spoke of the Vietnam War’s impact on the war on poverty: “There was a real promise of hope for the poor...experiments, hopes, new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war...” Flash forward 40+ years. We can’t afford decent health care or a jobs program because wars are bankrupting our economy. *Consider this: China and Russia combined spend only 10% of what the U.S. spends on defense.*

King’s words are an inspiration for us to demand that President Obama and our leaders bring home U.S. soldiers from Afghanistan and Iraq without any further delays or excuses.

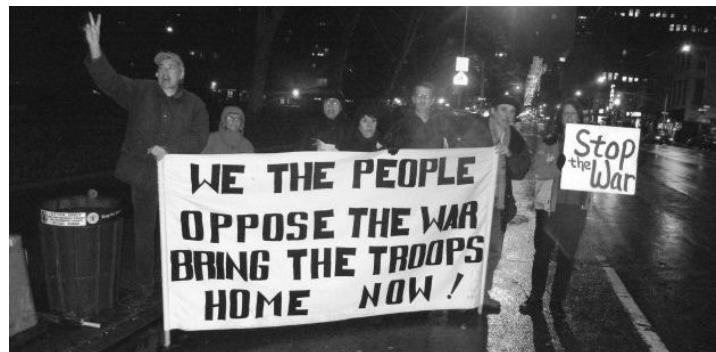


Photo by Gary Schlichter