

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

3/17/09

(Standup Week 201)

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: 4,257 US military wounded: 31,089**

**Iraqi civilians killed: 99,452\* Money spent on war: \$608 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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## No Military Solution Possible in Afghanistan

By Bob Martin and Kate Abell

St. Patrick's Day is a fitting time to remember that rarely if ever are there military solutions to major conflicts. Let us all recall that after decades of seemingly endless violence and repression in Northern Ireland, the breakthrough toward lasting peace came through a political process.

In South Africa, although certainly armed resistance played a role, apartheid died through political means. Peace in the Middle East will not come through the barrel of a gun or a laser-guided bomb.

Bush's war against Iraq has been an utter failure. Aside from the death and destruction, the damage to our own economy, and the harm to U.S. standing in the world, the Iraq war demonstrates yet again that attempted military solutions promote chaos rather than stability, ill will and resentment instead of mutual respect.

Which brings us to Afghanistan. As Pres. Obama reduces troops in Iraq, he announced that 17,000 would go to Afghanistan. This move has prompted calls in the media and Congress for a full review of what the aim is there, lest the U.S. go down the road of an unachievable military solution. Antiwar activist Tom Hayden and others are warning of a Vietnam-style military quagmire. Obama is clearly under pressure from the right wing to move in that direction.

President Obama has shown tremendous determination and gumption in pushing real foreclosure relief, closing Guantanamo Bay, and lifting the ban on stem cell research, despite tremendous pressure to back down on these and other campaign promises. We hope he will show similar leadership and wisdom concerning Afghanistan and step away from a military path.



Photo by Gary Schriber