

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

3/24/09

(Standup Week 202)

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: 4,260 US military wounded: 31, 089

Iraqi civilians killed: 99,525* Money spent on war: \$610 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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ECONOMIC CRISIS = RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By Gary Barnett and Jacqueline Schoenhaus-Barnett

The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers defines a child soldier as one who is associated with government-backed paramilitaries, armed opposition groups, factional groups, and groups based on ethnic or religious identity. These are generally located in developing nations.

How does this apply in the very-developed United States? Many high school students find themselves without a firm direction due to economic disadvantage, lack of parental guidance, or simply not having the academic aptitude/fortitude for higher education. Since 1916 the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) has been using government propaganda to recruit many of these young men and women to become part of the armed forces and thereby “solving all their problems.” These “child soldiers” are used and often sacrificed to protect the geo-political financial interests of the same class of capitalists who are currently benefiting from the financial scams that unfold daily in the headlines. The Junior ROTC is currently operating in 19 New York City High Schools, and the proposed City budget includes \$ 2.3 million to continue support of this program. In an economic crisis that our local leaders tell us will force the closing of hospitals, the reduction of social services, and reduced funding for the Department of Education, how can it be remotely justifiable to allocate any additional funding to this expansion of militarism in our public schools.

To express your views on this subject you can contact Robert Jackson, Chairman of the Education and Finance Committee of the New York City Council, at 212-788-7007 or email to rjackson@council.nyc.gov; or attend a hearing at City Hall on March 26 at 10 a.m.



Photo by Gary Scholchet