

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

3/29/11

(Standup Week 307)

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: **4,441**
US military wounded: **32,992**
Iraqi civilians killed: **109,416***
Money spent on war: **\$781 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,509**
US military wounded: **10,681**
Afghani civilians killed: **16,469**
Money spent on war: **\$388 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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It's not really about democracy

By Sarah Durand

Fox News never mentioned the pro-democracy protests in Iraq earlier this month; nor did Secretary of State Clinton, nor did President Obama.

After the massive U.S. attacks on Iraq's infrastructure and citizenry in pursuit of “weapons of mass destruction” was exposed to be pursuit of regional control and profiteering, the U.S. government developed a better rationale for destroying a sovereign country: Freedom from tyranny! Democracy!

So there was embarrassed silence from our President and secretaries of State and Defense when the U.S. orchestrated “democracy for Iraq” also proved a lie. Before being brutally suppressed by U.S.-trained Iraqi security forces, thousands of protesters took to the streets across Iraq in late February and early March to demand democracy, clean government and basic services, like electricity.

Just as all current U.S.-supported Middle East /North African tyrants (in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Yemen), and formerly U.S. supported dictators (Egypt and Tunisia) justified their suppression of pro-democracy protests, so did Iraq's prime minister. “Nouri al-Maliki, gave a stern speech saying that Saddamist and al-Qaeda factions would try to take over, or attack, any protests” (The Economist, 2/28/11). Al-Maliki had journalists filming the protests arrested. Dozens of protestors have been killed. Think about this when you hear that the U.S. military is in Libya for purely humanitarian reasons. Forty-seven thousand U.S. military personnel are still in Iraq, our drones are still flying in Yemen, and the 5th fleet is still stationed in Bahrain.



Photo by Gary Scholchet