

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

4/7/09

(Standup Week 204)

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: 4,264 US military wounded: 31,153

Iraqi civilians killed: 99,751* Money spent on war: \$612 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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Women Soldiers in the War Zone

By Carla Nordstrom

Imagine you are a soldier in the war zone in Iraq or Afghanistan. While worrying about car bombs, grenade attacks, land mines, and fire fights you also worry about whether you will be able to sleep safely in your assigned bed at the base. Active duty women soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan have this worry. A large number of these soldiers have been raped and sexually assaulted while serving. The perpetrators of these crimes have been other American soldiers.

According to Bob Herbert in the New York Times 2,923 assaults on women were reported during the last fiscal year, a 9% increase from the previous year. This data only tells part of the story because women soldiers are discouraged from reporting rape or sexual assault. Officers try to convince the victims that they don't want to ruin the careers of fellow soldiers or that pressing charges wouldn't make a difference.

There is something you can do to change this situation. **H. Con. Resolution 28** is being offered in Congress to change Defense Department policies regarding the handling of cases of rape and sexual assault. The military will be required to develop effective and timely ways to investigate and prosecute these offences. Ask your congress member to co-sponsor and support this resolution.

In 1996, the country was shocked by the Tailhook scandal where navel officers sexually assaulted women officers during a convention in Las Vegas. This same type of behavior is now taking place on the battle field.

Another thing you can do to stop this madness is demand that the troops be brought home now.



Photo by Gary Scholchet