

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

4/20/10

(Standup Week 258)

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: **4,390**  
US military wounded: **31,762**  
Iraqi civilians killed: **104,595\***  
Money spent on war: **\$747 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,044**  
US military wounded: **5,564**  
Afghani civilians killed: **15,422**  
Money spent on war: **\$246 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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## COIN: All Dollars, No Change

By Dave Robinson

A portion of Michael Klare’s *Nation* (4/7/10) article, “Two, Three, Many Afghanistans’,” discusses the military’s increasing focus on counterinsurgency, known ironically as “COIN.” The Pentagon’s bloated budget (\$708 billion for 2011) continues to cover big ticket conventional hardware like planes and tanks, but now emphasizes COIN oriented “helicopters, small arms, body armor, night-vision devices, mine-resistant vehicles, aerial gunships, surveillance drones and the like.”

The Pentagon’s Feb. 2010 *Quadrennial Defense Review* (QDR) frames COIN as fixed, long-term policy. The QDR states “...we must expect that for the indefinite future, violent extremist groups, with or without state sponsorship, will continue to foment instability and challenge U.S. and allied interests...U.S. forces will need to maintain a high level of competency in this mission area *for decades to come.*”

Neither political party dissents: their corporate masters profit directly from an ever-growing military budget. Military contractors provide jobs in all congressional districts; a congressperson voting to decrease military funding puts constituents’ jobs at risk. COIN also creates jobs for thousands of new recruits each month whose best career opportunity is killing and dying for corporate America. With the national unemployment rate somewhere between 10–20%, don’t look for Congress to decrease military funding anytime soon.

This means less money for education, alternative energy, infrastructure, deficit reduction, and every other underfunded domestic priority—pending the next Wall Street bailout, of course. War in 2010 America is passively accepted as an economic and political necessity. We simply can’t afford to give peace a chance.



Photo by Gary Schochet