

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

4/28/09

(Standup Week 207)

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: 4,278 US military wounded: 31,215

Iraqi civilians killed: 99,985* Money spent on war: \$618 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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Extra Money for Low-Intensity Conflicts

By Randy Petsche

Secretary of Defense Gates has recently announced the priorities for next year's Defense budget. Notable is the decision to transfer funds away from expensive large-scale weapons programs to an increase in “low tech” systems such as conventional helicopters, sensor-equipped turboprop planes, Predator drones and expanded Special Operation capabilities.

A reduction in wasteful, high-tech Pentagon spending is always welcome. But the new Defense budget is more sinister than that.

The United States has engaged in low-intensity conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan for the last seven years at horrific cost. The end of neither war is in sight. Implicit in the new budget is the addition of new non-conventional wars to the hopper.

In the early 1960's the Kennedy Administration ordered a shift away from big-ticket preparation for a third world war with the Soviet Union to combating “subversion” in the third world. Counter-insurgency became the hallmark. The Green Berets were the heroes of the day.

40 years later massive aircraft hangars built by the Brown & Root Construction Company of Texas are still decaying in Vietnam. Unexploded military ordinance abounds there. It sometimes detonates on innocent people.

Seven years ago former Defense Secretary Rumsfeld promoted the invasion of Iraq as a low cost conflict thanks to the flexible responses of the American military.



Photo by Gary Schlichter