

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

5/13/08

(Standup Week 157)

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: 4,075 US military wounded: 30,004

Iraqi civilians killed: 91,094* Money spent on war: \$528 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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VOICES FROM IRAQ: FIVE YEARS LATER

By Gary Barnett & Jackie Schoenhaus

Whose reports do you want to trust; whose reports would be more accurate: those of the Bush administration’s generals or the actual words of Iraqi citizens? The BBC has produced a series of news articles which reflect the lives of ordinary Iraqi citizens five years after the initial “Shock and Awe” of the U.S. invasion. The war is currently costing our country approximately \$300 million a day....so let’s see how things have “improved.”

Farand Nashat is a 14-year old student at the Baghdad School of Music and Dance. He said that when the war began, he woke up in the morning hearing guns and artillery. People were afraid to go out of the house because “planes throw a bomb.” Now, five years later, he still stays in the house practicing his instruments or watching TV. He can’t go outside because “cars come with heavy machine guns and shoot at people.” Farand does not want to leave Iraq because it is his country. But he would like to travel to see how other people live their lives, because, he said, “Our life is not normal.”

Khadem Sharif al Yabani is a motorcycle mechanic who took his sledgehammer to the statue of Saddam Hussein in central Baghdad in 2003. He was happy to get rid of Saddam, but angry that the U.S. army stayed because “nobody likes to have his country occupied.” He feels that the country has been cheated because they still have no reliable electricity or water or public services. “We were hoping our lives would get better....but they get worse.”

There are many more stories to tell of individual, as well as of groups, of Iraqis who are suffering more under the occupation than they did under Hussein.



Photo by Gary Schorichet