

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

6/2/09

(Standup Week 212)

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: 4,304 US military wounded: 31,312**

**Iraqi civilians killed: 100,588\* Money spent on war: \$628 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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## The Iraqi War Is Now Obama's War

By Chuck Zlatkin

Last week at Chelsea Stands Up Against The War a woman named Winnie stopped by. She told us that she has seen us a number of times before but she just had to stop this time. She was born here and is Kenyan. Her younger brother joined the military because he wanted to be able to go to college. He was killed last year after just six months in Iraq. Winnie felt that her brother was killed for no reason because there was no reason for the U.S. to be in Iraq. Her younger brother should be “falling in love and getting married. He was supposed to have fathered children and enjoyed his life.” There are too many stories like Winnie's.

This month at least 20 American troops have been killed in Iraq, the most in a month since September of 2008. There has also been an increase in attacks on Iraqi civilians. It is thought that Iraqi insurgents are reforming in anticipation of June 30th when American combat troops are supposed to leave Iraqi cities. The U.S. is changing the definition of what institutes both an Iraq city and a combat troop. The prevailing wisdom of the pundits and administration flacks is that Americans are concerned about the economy, and that wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are not foremost in the minds of most Americans.

Democrats and Republicans both voted billions in funding to continue the war, but eliminated funds for closing Guantanamo. Robert Gates and General David Petraeus continue to play important roles for President Obama while seventy-six American troops have been killed in Iraq since President Obama was inaugurated on January 20, 2009.



Photo by Gary Scholchet