

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

6/8/10

(Standup Week 265)

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: **4,402**
US military wounded: **31,839**
Iraqi civilians killed: **105,408***
Money spent on war: **\$754 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,088**
US military wounded: **6,140**
Afghani civilians killed: **15,515**
Money spent on war: **\$260 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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Has Israel Lost Its Collective Memory?

By Jacqueline Schoenhaus-Barnett & Gary Barnett

The philosopher George Santayana said: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The Jewish Holocaust took place more than 65 years ago. It seems that the Israeli government has forgotten its past while leading its people into escalating the brutal de-humanization and victimization of the Palestinian people.

On May 31, 2010 Israel attacked a six-ship flotilla in international waters comprised of approximately 700 activists. The ships were carrying 10,000 tons of material aid headed for Gaza in an attempt to break the three year old Israeli blockade. This attack resulted in the deaths of nine activists and the wounding of dozens more.

One of the ships, the Rachel Corrie, carrying wheelchairs, medical supplies, and concrete, was named after the American college student who was 24 years old when she was struck and killed in 2003 by an American made Caterpillar bulldozer as she and other activists tried to stop the destruction of homes in Rafah by using their bodies as human shields. A civil case was brought against the Israeli government who did not do a thorough investigation and denied responsibility for her death.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claims that the blockade of Gaza is needed to prevent missile attacks against Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. According to him, the ships contained weapons to be used against Israel. Ironically, the same misguided rationalization: that a 24-year old woman using her body to prevent the destruction of a house posed a “threat” to Israel, is resurfacing again in her name. Yes, Israel has lost its collective memory and is now the perpetrator of crimes against humanity.



Photo by Gary Schorchet