

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

6/16/09

(Standup Week 214)

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: 4,313 US military wounded: 31,327

Iraqi civilians killed: 100,820* Money spent on war: \$632 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 Return of the Oil Companies

By Randy Petsche

The government of Iraq nationalized its oil reserves in 1970. While the shipping, refining and marketing of petroleum remains under the control of the major oil companies, title to 87% of the world's petroleum under ground belongs to national companies that maintain some independence from the “Seven Sisters.”

With the American invasion of Iraq it was expected that a pliable Iraqi parliament would pass an oil law permitting the sale and development of most of Iraq's oil supply. Surprisingly, the Iraqi parliament has stood up and refused to pass such legislation. But this is hardly the end of the matter.

With most of the world's oil ownership tied up by national companies, control of the Iraqi oil supply is now the biggest game in town for the oil companies. So the government of Iraq is likely to sign “contracts” with the four companies it booted out many years ago—British Petroleum, Royal Dutch Shell, Total and ExxonMobil—by the end of the year, according to an article discreetly buried in the London Financial Times of May 7.

Ongoing levels of violence in Iraq still pose a big problem for the policy makers and their oil cronies. This means that that a major American military presence will be required for years into the future to act as security guards for the oil companies. This will go on regardless of which party remains in power in Washington unless American public opinion forces an end to the occupation.

Tell your elected officials the time to end the occupation of Iraq is now, if not six years ago.



Photo by Gary Schlichtel