

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

6/21/11

(Standup Week 319)

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: **4,463**
US military wounded: **33,072**
Iraqi civilians killed: **110,721***
Money spent on war: **\$792 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,623**
US military wounded: **12,002**
Afghani civilians killed: **16,577**
Money spent on war: **\$425 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 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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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It's All an Act

By Dave Robinson

It's ironic that this month's 40th anniversary of the release of the Pentagon Papers occurs as the War Powers Act reappears in the news. Obama faces a bipartisan challenge as some members of Congress cite the War Powers Act to question the President's authority to wage war in Libya. Although the Constitution clearly states that only Congress has the power to declare war, Presidents feel equally constitutionally justified as Commander in Chief to wage undeclared wars such as Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and now possibly Libya as well as Yemen.

Congress passed the War Powers Act of 1973 over Nixon's veto after the extent of executive deception became obvious during Vietnam, thanks in large part to Daniel Ellsberg's leaking of the Pentagon Papers. Contrasting Vietnam with Afghanistan in the Guardian UK this month, Ellsberg writes, “In accounts of wars 40 years and half a world apart, we read of the same irresponsible, self-serving presidential and congressional objectives in prolonging and escalating an unwinnable conflict: namely, the need not to be charged with weakness by political rivals, or with losing a war that a few feckless or ambitious generals foolishly claim can be won.”

Some of us wonder where all the Congressional uproar was over the War Powers Act as Bush lied repeatedly for years regarding Iraq and Afghanistan, but active citizens know the truth: the current debate is empty political theater. War is big business and doesn't have to be Constitutional. With elected officials across the board utterly dependent upon corporate war profiteers, one way or the other the killing and dying will continue.



Photo by Gary Scholchet