

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

6/23/09

(Standup Week 215)

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: 4,316 US military wounded: 31,354

Iraqi civilians killed: 100,867* Money spent on war: \$634 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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No Quagmire in Afghanistan

By Bob Martin & Kate Abell

The U.S. military officially acknowledged last week that a B-1 bomber crew had failed to follow operational rules in a May attack that killed dozens of civilians in a village in Afghanistan. Its report says 26 civilians were killed. Local Afghan officials place the toll much higher.

This incident follows others in which air strikes have killed the people U.S. forces are supposed to be making safe and secure. Public outrage from Afghanistan was quick and loud. The United Nations mission chief in Kabul spoke out forcefully, saying the political costs of civilian casualties had become disproportionate to the military gains.

These events occur as the overall questions about U.S. strategy in Afghanistan remain. Earlier this month, Tom Hayden gave his assessment for the coming period: “Will the Obama troop escalation deepen the quagmire or become a successful surge against the Taliban by next year? Another 21,000 troops and advisers are on their way to the battlefield. Civilian casualties are mounting, causing the besieged Karzai government to complain. Preventive detention of Afghans will only expand. US deaths, now over 600, are sure to increase this summer. Taliban may hold out and redeploy in order to stretch US forces thin. Prognosis: Escalation into quagmire.”

Hayden said that Congress has given President Obama a one-year pass to follow through on an exit strategy. He called on progressives to push ahead now with grass-roots efforts to keep Obama’s pledge to withdraw forces from Iraq by 2011 in the public eye, and to avoid further escalation in Afghanistan. He’s right. The time is approaching when Bush’s wars will become Obama’s wars. Let’s not let that happen. No quagmire in Afghanistan.



Photo by Gary Schlichtel