

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

7/22/08

(Standup Week 167)

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: 4,124 US military wounded: 30,409

Iraqi civilians killed: 93,880* Money spent on war: \$544 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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“VIOLENCE IS THE DIPLOMACY OF THE INCOMPETENT” – Isaac Asimov

By Ann Brameier

The two main parties of the Iraqi government, the Dawa and the larger Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council (SIIC), have weak popular support; they represent businessmen and professionals and their main leaders were out of country in the Saddam years. They are thus seen as “outsiders”, who, castled within the Green Zone, are disdained by the “insiders”, those who have stayed all along in Iraq, and who are largely comprised of the followers of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. Thus the U.S. is propping up a popularly detested regime, while Moqtada’s “Sadrist” are splintered into several groups, some of which are supported by Iran. But with the continued violence and 25 kidnappings a day, most Iraqis have grown disgusted with Iranian interference.

Mission Accomplished has created a gnarly civil war, where the so-called long-term status of forces agreement with Iraq is to allow for 60 American bases to continue this dangerous game of Risk.

Now Seymour Hersh has written in depth about Bush & Co. planning and already executing bellicose maneuvers against Iran and the whole world is anxious about this prospect of a new storm of war with that much better militarized country. By overthrowing Saddam the US removed Iran’s greatest enemy, and the electoral system BushCo. created helped bring to power a Shiite majority with long ties to Iran (the SIIC).

Iran doesn’t like US troops on its border, but sees that a precipitous withdrawal of US forces would spell chaos. Its interests thus lie in stability.

Only one of the two American presidential candidates dares utter the D word.



Photo by Gary Scholchet