

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

7/29/08

(Standup Week 168)

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: 30,435

Iraqi civilians killed: 94,174* 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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When a Disaster is Called a Success

By Carla Nordstrom

During the last few weeks, presidential candidate John McCain has been hyping the success of the Surge in Iraq. In fact he has used appreciation of the Surge as a presidential litmus test on patriotism: those who consider it a success are patriots; those who don't are unpatriotic. It feels like we have been down this road before. In fact it is the same tactic that was used during the build up to the War on Iraq. Either agree with us or you're against America.

A look at the casualties during the Surge is sobering. According to icasualties.org over one thousand soldiers have died since the beginning of the Surge in February of 2007 and approximately 7,000 soldiers have been injured. Information on Iraqi civilians who have been killed during the Surge is harder to find. To get an idea of the magnitude of death, go to <http://www.iraqbodycount.org/database/individuals/> and scroll through names of individuals. What struck me was each page that I saw included at least one child.

Each name on the lists or numbers in the statistics represents a person who either lost a life or was injured, and these lists do not include all of the people who have been killed or impacted by the Surge in Iraq. I'm not sure how anybody could consider an action that is responsible for this amount of destruction, a success.

As our country flirts with four more years of the same, I think we need to ask when we are going to wake up and reject patriotism as an excuse for supporting a disaster.



Photo by Gary Scholchet