

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

8/4/09

(Standup Week 221)

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: 4,330 US military wounded: 31,446

Iraqi civilians killed: 101,006* Money spent on war: \$646 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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“Same donkey with a new saddle”

By Randy Petsche

Vice President Joe Biden came home from Afghanistan full of praise for the effort of NATO troops in support of what he calls Afghan democracy. He told the press the deaths of 19 British soldiers last month was “worth” the sacrifice “in terms of the national interests” of Great Britain and the United States. Among these interests is the new national election that NATO is promoting in Afghanistan.

Biden’s statement should be contrasted with that of Malala Joya, a young Afghan woman who was elected to the parliament in 2005 and later expelled for expressing opposition to the NATO occupation. She writes:

“Almost eight years after the Taliban regime was toppled our hopes for a truly democratic and independent Afghanistan have been betrayed by the continued domination of fundamentalists and by a brutal occupation that ultimately serves only American strategic interests in the region.

“You must understand that the present (Karzai) government is full of warlords and extremists who are brothers in the creed of the Taliban. Many of these men committed terrible crimes against the Afghan people in the civil war of the 1990’s.

“The Afghan Constitution forbids those guilty of war crimes from running for high office. Yet Karzai has named two notorious warlords as his running mates in the upcoming presidential elections. Under the shadow of warlordism, corruption, and occupation this vote will have no legitimacy, and once again the real choice will be made behind closed doors at the White House. As we say in Afghanistan, ‘the same donkey with a new saddle.’”



Photo by Gary Schriber