

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

8/16/11

(Standup Week 327)

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: **4,474**
US military wounded: **33,118**
Iraqi civilians killed: **111,668***
Money spent on war: **\$792 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,736**
US military wounded: **13,164**
Afghani civilians killed: **16,796**
Money spent on war: **\$444 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+

Plutocracy

By Carla Nordstrom

Imagine—President Obama addresses the nation. The glitzy long hallway with the red carpet and tacky gold chairs is not the scene. He is sitting on a simple couch with a hazy background. His expression is somber, but peaceful.

“My fellow Americans, I come to you tonight to tell you that I am ending the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, and Pakistan. As I speak, all troops are being brought back to the United States. Simply, we cannot afford these wars and by the way, we won.”

It is not a new idea; Senator George Aiken of Vermont suggested we bring our troops home from the Vietnam War by declaring victory and leaving. What is new, is no Republican, aside from Congressman Ron Paul, and few Democrats even consider thoughtful approaches to ending our wars.

We know we can’t afford these wars. The recent budget talks to raise the debt ceiling made that very clear. Congress tells us that we are spending too much money and have to live within our means, yet the trillion dollar elephant is not even considered to be part of the problem. A low point in the debt ceiling talks was the result if the country went into default. We would pay the interest on our debt and not pay the troops fighting our wars.

We have a government that is so consumed with protecting wealth that we have lost our sense of humanity. If President Obama were to end the wars in the Middle East, I suspect that Congress would demand that the war funds be turned into tax breaks for the rich.



Photo by Gary Scholchet



Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

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