

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

8/23/11

(Standup Week 328)

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: **33,125**  
Iraqi civilians killed: **111,677\***  
Money spent on war: **\$792 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,744**  
US military wounded: **13,316**  
Afghani civilians killed: **16,807**  
Money spent on war: **\$446 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+

## Bin Laden's Trap

By Randy Petsche

One of the few press interviews Osama bin Laden gave came in 1996 when he spoke to a journalist from Al Jazeera. Bin Laden was distraught. The Clinton Administration had decided to remove its troops from Somalia, a Muslim country.

Bin Laden's extremist cohort could never defeat the U.S. and its friends in their own countries, he said. Rather, his strategy was to draw the U.S. into invading Islamic countries where militant forces would dispirit and ultimately “bankrupt” the U.S. financially through protracted warfare.

Bin Laden had experience in this. In the 1980's he and some of his supporters were on the CIA payroll in Afghanistan where they helped wage a heavily subsidized insurgency against the Soviet supported government. The costs of the war were a factor in bringing down the economically strapped Soviet Union.

For the last ten years American taxpayers have paid for two full-blown wars in Islamic Asia and smaller operations in Africa and the Middle East. The financial expense of these failed adventures has been staggering. The Iraq War will cost American taxpayers three trillion dollars over a 25 year period. The Afghanistan adventure will surely levy a similar price tag.

The national debt is thirteen trillion dollars. A sizeable portion of this is the product of war spending in Afghanistan and Iraq, paid for by credit card. This is not even to mention increases in the “defense” budget, the bloated “national security” apparatus and the cost of maintaining hundreds of overseas military bases.



Photo by Gary Scholchet



## Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

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