

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

8/30/11

(Standup Week 329)

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: **111,819***
Money spent on war: **\$793 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,747**
US military wounded: **13,447**
Afghani civilians killed: **16,807**
Money spent on war: **\$448 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+



Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

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US Citizens Bankrupted by Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

By Jacqueline Schoenhaus-Barnett

As the ongoing recession continues to create an underclass of unemployed workers here in the United States, the government continues spending billions each month on fueling futile wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But how much has the war cost each citizen? It seems that inflation not only applies to the cost of living, but that we can now put a dollar sign on the cost of an American life.

In Afghanistan, the cost per service member climbed from \$507,000 in fiscal year 2009 to \$667,000 the following year, according to the Congressional Research Service. For the current year, 2011 costs are projected to reach \$694,000 per service member, even as the US military begins withdrawing 33,000 of the 99,000 troops there. In Iraq, the cost per service member has escalated from \$510,000 in 2007 to \$802,000 in 2011.

Besides the costs of the direct military expenses, we have to take into account auxiliary expenses such as health care for veterans, the imprisonment of tens of thousands of detainees at US military prisons, and the massive interest on war related debt, which has been estimated could reach \$1 trillion by 2020. Adm. Mike Mullen, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has called the national debt the biggest threat to US national security.

However, all of the above numbers underestimate the actual costs of the wars, according to Brown University, the wars and their collateral effects have cost the US \$3.7 trillion or more than \$12,000 each citizen. And what have we received in return from this investment: an economically depleted and socially demoralized populace.



Photo by Gary Scholchet