

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

9/22/09

(Standup Week 228)

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: **4,345**
US military wounded: **31,513**
Iraqi civilians killed: **101,608***
Money spent on war: **~~\$\$\$~~686 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **830**
US military wounded: **n/a**
Afghani civilians killed: **1314**
Money spent on war: **\$227 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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THE VIETNAMIZATION OF AFGHANISTAN

By Randy Petsche

The troop strength of the U.S.-NATO invasion of Afghanistan is now at the same level of the failed Soviet invasion of the 1980's — more than 200,000 if you include 100,000 contractors and mercenaries. The “surge” in troop strength sponsored by the Obama administration is an expensive and bloody failure. Yet another surge of 20,000 American troops seems likely before the end of the year.

The eagerly awaited Afghan national elections resulted in charges of massive vote fraud by Karzai, the U.S. backed candidate. Desperate for support, Karzai welcomed home the infamous Abdul Rashid Dostum. Dostum is best known to the world as “the Butcher of Kunduz” for his role, in league with U.S. Special Forces, in the suffocation in container trucks of as many as 2,000 prisoners of war after the battle of Kunduz in 2001.

Budgetary shortfalls are eagerly supplemented through the drug trade. Opium is Afghanistan's only export commodity. It accounts for as much as one third of the country's national income. Despite the blather of American authorities, much of the Afghan drug trade is protected by NATO forces. As in Vietnam, many U.S. troops will return home addicted to heroin.

Meanwhile, the failing invasion demands more and more recruits on the ground. Air bombings and predator attacks alone won't do the trick. U.S. war planners are turning back to the remedies of Vietnam in an effort to win the hearts and minds of the Afghans “on the ground.”

The current invasion of Afghanistan has the sickening aroma of the invasion of Vietnam. It lasted 13 years and wasted vast amounts of money and blood. Tell all of your elected officials, beginning with the president, that the adventure must end. Now.



Photo by Gary Scholchet