

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

9/28/10

(Standup Week 281)

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: **4,423**  
US military wounded: **31,951**  
Iraqi civilians killed: **106,954\***  
Money spent on war: **\$755 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,301**  
US military wounded: **8,061**  
Afghani civilians killed: **15,999**  
Money spent on war: **\$309 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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## AFGHANISTAN –

## WHY SOME WANT US TO BE THERE

By Jay Stockman

The longest war in U. S. history is the current war in Afghanistan. More and more Americans are struggling with the rationale for this war. Why are we there? One of the possible answers is the appeal of Afghanistan's extraordinary mineral wealth. No one knows for sure how much there is but estimates run between \$1 trillion and \$3 trillion. The appeal of these riches has been a lure for many nations over the years. The need to determine exactly what, where, and how much there actually was has been a part of every military incursion in the past three centuries. When Britain invaded in 1839 and 1878 the first scientific surveys were completed. Under the Soviet invasion extensive ground surveys were conducted. It was through the air that the most accurate surveys took place and that was by the U. S. military in 2007.

The minerals are located in hard to get to mountainous regions of Afghanistan. The central government has minimal influence and corruption reigns. Attracting private investment to this area is always risky. The largest private foreign investment was the \$2.9 billion contract from China to extract copper. The whole deal was replete with accusations that the Afghan ministers who made the deal had received a \$30 million bribe.

Last June, when the New York Times reported that Afghanistan was rich in copper, gold, iron, lithium, and assorted rare minerals and gemstones, worth over a trillion dollars, they relied upon a newly arrived Pentagon task force that was on the scene to verify the value of the mineral wealth. Is that the reason that the Afghanistan War continues?



Photo by Gary Schochet