

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

10/12/10

(Standup Week 283)

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: **4,424**  
US military wounded: **31,951**  
Iraqi civilians killed: **107,153\***  
Money spent on war: **\$755 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,322**  
US military wounded: **8,530**  
Afghani civilians killed: **16,031**  
Money spent on war: **\$318 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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## Happy Anniversary, America

By Dave Robinson

Does the date October 7 mean anything to you? It should. It's the anniversary of America's invasion of Afghanistan. Last week the war in Afghanistan entered its tenth year, making it the longest lasting foreign war in America's history. Should you care?

If nothing else, you should care about the money. According to the National Priorities Project<sup>1</sup>, the war in Afghanistan has cost over \$353 billion since 2001, with \$2.7 billion coming from NYC alone. Think about that next time you complain about MTA fare hikes, teacher layoffs or hospital closings in your neighborhood.

You should also care that Obama was advised last December that there were only about 100 Al-Qaeda members left in Afghanistan. As a New Yorker, do you feel safer knowing that 150,000 NATO soldiers (including 100,000 Americans) are now deployed to counter the threat of 100 Al-Qaeda? I guess you can't be too careful—some of those 100 AQ's might still have box-cutters.

Afghans aren't any safer as a result of our decade long military presence in their country. Most Afghans hate the Taliban but understand their influence increases because of America's presence, not in spite of it. The levels of violence may rise or fall in various regions, but the local people blame foreign occupiers as the root cause of all of it. That means us.

Of course American forces will eventually leave Afghanistan, defeated, after thousands more people die and more billions of dollars are wasted. Until then, the corruption, political lies and senseless death will continue. Happy Anniversary, America—see you next year.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.costofwar.com>



Photo by Gary Schochet