

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

10/13/09

(Standup Week 231)

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: **4,348**
US military wounded: **31,527**
Iraqi civilians killed: **102,071***
Money spent on war: **\$692 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **871**
US military wounded: **4,198**
Afghani civilians killed: **13,094**
Money spent on war: **\$229 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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Declare Victory and Get Out

By Carla Nordstrom

A young man stopped by the Stand-Up recently, took the flyer, read it, and said, “I’m for peace but we can’t leave Afghanistan now.” He couldn’t explain why we had to stay. He described a gut feeling of honor and responsibility.

This conversation brought to mind Senator George Aiken’s famous suggestion of how to end the Vietnam War. In the mid 1960’s he is reported to have said, “Declare victory and get out.” At the time, the comment was disparaged but a decade later when US troops finally left Vietnam, many regretted that we had not taken Senator Aiken’s wise advice.

Just like with the Vietnam War, current warriors, such as General McChrystal, are lulling us into believing that success (whatever that is) is achievable. He and his fellow generals provide no clear idea of what our goals are or why we continue to prop up a corrupt government. McChrystal just wants more money and troops on the ground. As the warriors try to rev up the war, Senator Aiken’s 1960’s solution sounds pretty good.

This exit strategy does not mean that we don’t have responsibilities to fix what we broke.

Like many of us, perhaps the young man at the stand-up worries that if we leave Afghanistan women and children will lose out big time. Some say that we must stay to protect the women. But what about empowering the women? Instead of expanding the war, why don’t we figure out how to provide humanitarian aide solely to the women and children of Afghanistan? That approach would be a fine way to declare victory and get out.



Photo by Gary Schlichter