

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

10/19/10

(Standup Week 284)

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: **107,235***
Money spent on war: **\$755 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,341**
US military wounded: **8,705**
Afghani civilians killed: **16,041**
Money spent on war: **\$326 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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Why Are We (Still) In Afghanistan?

By Bob Martin

The U.S. just entered the 10th year of the war in Afghanistan. Signs that the war strategy (or lack thereof) continues to unravel have been coming one right after another.

The September parliamentary election had more irregularities and corruption than last year’s presidential election. The Marjah military offensive and others have failed and in some cases the Taliban has come back stronger than before. As the peace group United for Peace and Justice puts it, “the more force the U.S. puts into Afghanistan, the more the insurgency grows.” And after a disastrous U.S. attack on Pakistani border troops, the border was closed and the U.S. couldn’t even deliver gasoline to military camps in Afghanistan.

At the October 2 One Nation rally in Washington, Harry Belafonte spoke out strongly to bring the troops home: “Do we really think that sending 100,000 young American men and women to kill innocent civilians...and antagonizing tens of millions of people in the whole region somehow makes us secure? Does this make any sense?”

He went on to say, “The President’s decision to escalate the war costs the nation \$33 billion. That money could not only create 600,000 jobs here in America, but would even leave us a few billion to start rebuilding our schools, our roads, our hospitals and affordable housing.”

And every day brings more shocking news about the foreclosure crisis that brings misery to homeowners and threatens to bring down the economy. Shouldn’t that be the focus of attention, rather than a pointless war?

Why are we still in Afghanistan? Isn’t now the time for President Obama and Congress to end the war?!



Photo by Gary Schochet