

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

11/17/09

(Standup Week 236)

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: **4,362**
US military wounded: **31,557**
Iraqi civilians killed: **102,624***
Money spent on war: **\$701 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **920**
US military wounded: **4,434**
Afghani civilians killed: **14,039**
Money spent on war: **\$231tt 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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Bring the Troops Home, Don't Send More In

By Bob Martin and Kate Abell

President Obama seems to be on the brink of ordering a significant increase in U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Here's what Eugene Robinson had to say about that (Washington Post Nov. 13).

“The most dreadful burden of the presidency—the power to send men and women to die for their country—seems to weigh heavily on Barack Obama these days.” Last week Obama went both to Dover Air Force Base to salute coffins of soldiers and to Arlington National Cemetery. “Obama should keep these images in mind. Sending more troops will mean more coffins arriving at Dover [and] more funerals at Arlington... It would be wrong to demand such sacrifice in the absence of military goals that are clear, achievable and worthwhile. And what goals in Afghanistan remotely satisfy those criteria?”

Robinson finds no such goals in U.S. commander McChrystal's request for 40,000 more troops, and notes that the U.S. ambassador to Kabul, Karl Eikenberry (himself a former 4-star general), has spoken out to express “deep concerns” about sending in more troops. One problem, among others, is the “corruption and mismanagement” that have made the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai “so unpopular and ineffectual.”

“There are reports that Obama has refused to sign off on any plan until his advisers tell him how they propose to end the expanded war they advocate. This just sounds like another way of saying: Tell me how we're going to fix the mistake we're about to make.”

“As long as our goals in Afghanistan remain as elusive as they are now, Obama shouldn't be sending troops. He should be bringing them out.”



Photo by Gary Schriber