

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

11/24/09

(Standup Week 237)

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: **4,364**  
US military wounded: **31,571**  
Iraqi civilians killed: **102,825\***  
Money spent on war: **\$703 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **923**  
US military wounded: **4,435**  
Afghani civilians killed: **14,039**  
Money spent on war: **\$232 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

212.726.1385/chelseaneighborsunited@yahoo.com/www.chelseaneighborsunited.org

## Breaking up is Hard to Do

By Carla Nordstrom

It is hard to know whether the breaking news on Veteran’s Day evening was timed to the sorrow of a day when many sad soldier stories are told. It was announced that President Obama had rejected all four plans for increasing troop levels in Afghanistan.

Seymour Hersh of the New Yorker was a guest on a TV news show and was asked what he made of this breaking news. He thought it could be huge since the ambassador to Afghanistan, Karl Eikenberry, had wired the president not to send more troops. According to Hersh, a West Point cabal that includes generals Petraeus and McChrystal has been causing trauma in the army to keep this war going. By separating himself from the others, Eikenberry, another West Point graduate, was raising the possibility that the cabal might be imploding.

Turning to another cable news show a different story was told. In this report it was suggested that Obama had rejected the plans because he needed better justification for sending additional troops into Afghanistan. An increase of troop levels in this quagmire was a given.

President Obama’s decision whether to send more troops to Afghanistan has yet to be announced, but a new wrinkle has come to light. According to the Washington Independent there are approximately 50,600 active duty troops in the military. If 40,000 are sent into Afghanistan, there will be too few soldiers in reserve if an emergency arises. Perhaps the West Point cabal has *hoisted its own petard* and the war on Afghanistan will fizzle out because we just don’t have enough troops to fight it.



Photo by Gary Schriener