

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

11/30/10

(Standup Week 290)

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: **4,429**  
US military wounded: **32,929**  
Iraqi civilians killed: **107,938\***  
Money spent on war: **\$755 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,404**  
US military wounded: **9,469**  
Afghani civilians killed: **16,214**  
Money spent on war: **\$362 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

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

## The war in Afghanistan is a drug war

By Jay Stockman

As people try to rationalize why President Obama has escalated the war in Afghanistan, the impact of the drug trade on Afghanistan is undeniable.

When the CIA became involved in Afghanistan in 1979, the opium harvest was 250 tons. In 2007, that figure grew to 8,200 tons. Afghanistan's opium harvest accounts for 50% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and is the basic ingredient in over 90 percent of the world's heroin supply. Opium farming has supported 500,000 Afghan families, nearly 20 percent of Afghanistan's population, for years. It has also funded the Taliban's insurgency.

From the CIA covert war of the 1980s, to the civil war of the 1990s (initially funded by \$900 million in CIA funding), and including the American invasion and occupation in 2001, Washington has tolerated drug trafficking by Afghan “allies” as the price of military success. This benign neglect policy has helped make Afghanistan the number one narco-state in the world.

The value of Afghanistan's current opium crop is \$65 billion. Only about \$500 million goes to the Afghan farmers; \$300 million goes to the Taliban, with the balance of \$64 billion going to international drug traffickers and their money launderers and bankers.

The United States is now deeply entrenched in an unending cycle of drugs and war but there are alternatives.

The U. S. could begin to remove its military while helping to renew this ancient land by replanting its orchards, replenishing its flocks, and rebuilding its irrigation systems ruined by decades of war.

Perhaps one day the U.S. will understand that the only way to pacify a narco-state is when it is no longer a narco-state.



Photo by Gary Schuchman