

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

12/8/09

(Standup Week 239)

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: **4,367**  
US military wounded: **31,572**  
Iraqi civilians killed: **103,160\***  
Money spent on war: **\$707 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **931**  
US military wounded: **4,566**  
Afghani civilians killed: **14,074**  
Money spent on war: **\$233 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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## The Permanent War Economy of Eradicating Tribal Peoples

By Richard Chilton

On December 1, 2009, President Barack Obama said:

“We’ve failed to appreciate the connection between our national security and our economy...we can’t simply afford to ignore the price of these wars....(o)ur prosperity provides a foundation for our power. It pays for our military. It underwrites our diplomacy...(t)hat’s why our troop commitment in Afghanistan cannot be open-ended—because the nation that I’m most interested in building is our own.”

Now, let me be clear...” President Obama should have continued:

Both historically and ancestrally, Afghanistan and western Pakistan are an amalgamation of tribal peoples. Their current borders are artificial, born of an era when nation building was—and remains—a relic of European/American-based colonialism. This is not Marxist or communist rhetoric. Our 21st Century power is based on a prosperity rooted in the previous four centuries of violence and conquest against the tribal peoples of North America.

Facing the reality of climate change, we cannot continue to sustain our power on an economy beholden to the conquest of tribal peoples. This is the reason why Al Qaeda and the Taliban exist in the first place. They resort to terrorism because the foundation of our prosperity pays for our military underwriting our diplomacy within borders of artificially imposed nation-states created without regard to tribal peoples. Our European-derived culture conquered these tribal people because, collectively, our natural resource-based prosperity was and remains tied to power over the land, and to hell with all material and living things, including human beings, that stood—and stands—in “our” way.

That is why our troop commitment in Afghanistan cannot be open-ended, because to deal with global warming, we have to get off the permanent war economy of eradicating tribal peoples.



Photo by Gary Schlichter