

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

12/9/08

(Standup Week 187)

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?

US military dead: 4,209 US military wounded: 30,852

Iraqi civilians killed: 97,828* Money spent on war: \$580 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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War profiteering: FROM IRAQ TO AFRICA

By Jacqueline Schoenhaus

Pillaging, Rape And Cell Phones: What do these three things have in common? These entities are connected by greed and sexual violence, the outcome of exploitation and colonialism dating back to the last century. Whether it's mega-giants like Haliburton or petty thugs scrambling for survival, the abuses of war always harm the civilian population. In the case of the Congo, substantial evidence points to armed militias, as well as, units of the FARDC (Democratic Republic of Congolese national army) as being heavily involved in the mining and trading of minerals such as tin, gold, wolframite or tungsten ore, bound for industrial use in Europe.

However, the Congolese national army is only one of the many armed groups involved in war profiteering. There are 23 different armed groups, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) or Interahamwe, (who were responsible for the genocide in Rwanda) who have major control over the coltan mines according to the mining ministry. Coltan or tantalite is the mineral that goes into making cell phones, laptop computers and Sony Play Stations. The FDLR has consolidated its economic base and it is benefiting from selling the minerals that eventually fall into the hands of the multinationals that manufacture the cell phones etc. that use these materials throughout the world.

Unfortunately, these same militias have been responsible for the brutal sexual violence perpetrated on Congolese women. According to Human Rights Watch, armed groups systematically violate women and girls in the streets, fields, and homes. So think about this the next time you use your cell phone and measure the cost of this convenience in human suffering.



Photo by Gary Scholichet