

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

12/11/07

(Standup Week 135)

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: 3,886 US military wounded: 28,582

Iraqi civilians killed: 85,072* Money spent on war: \$484 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+



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Congressional Enabling

By Carla Nordstrom

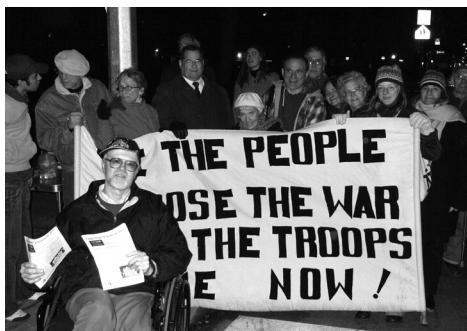
As I watch Congressional Democrats flounder about decisions, funding, and courses of action related to the Iraq War, the word enabler comes to mind. An enabler is a person who allows another person to engage in self destructive behavior. It is a term that is generally associated with people who support alcohol or drug addicts.

Enabler is a perfect description for Democrats in Congress. The voters told Congress to end the War on Iraq, yet Democrats continue to fund the war. Members of the Bush administration break laws, misrepresent facts, destroy evidence, and reject Congressional subpoenas, yet Democrats refuse to hold impeachment hearings. President Bush and his cronies are on a power high, yet the Democratic majority complains that they don't have enough votes to stop these administration antics. If the behavior of this administration was self destructive, I might not care, but congressional inaction has emboldened President Bush.

Congressman Jerry Nadler is a true enabler. Although he opposes the war and would love to hold the administration accountable, he says the war is hopeless, concentrates his efforts on the next presidential election, and has some vague idea that he can encourage a newly elected Democratic President to indict the Bush administration wrong doers. In other words Nadler is content to allow the administration to continue as they are.

If I thought Congressman Nadler was doing everything possible to end the war and administrative mischief, I might not be using an addiction term to describe him. But his behavior in Congress has become one of complacency just like the enablers who allow a loved one to have one last drink.

Photo by Ian Zlatkin



Representative Jerrold Nadler (8th CD), who represents Chelsea in Congress, joined the Stand Up on 12/19/06.

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Where is the opposition to the war in Congress?

By Chuck Zlatkin

For those who were looking for meaningful opposition from the Democrats, you get instead Dems agreeing to an additional \$70 billion to fund military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan with no strings attached.

The CIA may have destroyed evidence of at least two videotapes documenting prisoner interrogations at a secret CIA prison. One of the tapes may have shown CIA agents waterboarding the Al Qaida operative, Abu Zubaydah.

The expected outrage from Democrats about these war crimes is muted by the revelation that In September 2002, four members of Congress met in secret for a first look at a unique CIA program designed to wring vital information from reticent terrorism suspects in U.S. custody. Two of the members of the bi-partisan group included now Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Congresswoman Jane Harman, (D. CA), who was the author of the recently passed H. R. 1955, the Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007. It is difficult to be critical of an illegal policy when you knew about it and did nothing to prevent or expose it.

We can now see why Speaker Pelosi was so anxious to take impeachment off the table after the Democratic victory in November 2006. It is unwise for her to call for impeachment when she may very well have been an accomplice to war crimes herself.

To those of us who are against the war and live in the 8th CD, the question becomes what did Jerry know and when did he know it? Congressman Nadler has followed Pelosi's lead as far as impeachment is concerned and he also voted for H.R. 1955. There is still time for Nadler to stand up against the war. Call Nadler and tell him not to vote for any funding compromise. Tell him to challenge Pelosi on her support of torture, and suggest to Jerry that he should disavow his vote for H.R. 1955.