

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

12/15/09

(Standup Week 240)

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: **4,370**  
US military wounded: **31,572**  
Iraqi civilians killed: **103,383\***  
Money spent on war: **\$709 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **934**  
US military wounded: **4,566**  
Afghani civilians killed: **14,075**  
Money spent on war: **\$234 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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## Hope and Change, West Point Style

By Dave Robinson

Hope and Change were in short supply in President Obama's Dec. 1st speech at West Point announcing his “surge” in Afghanistan. Instead we heard delusion/deceit, fear-mongering cynicism and unintended irony.

Delusion/deceit? How about a strategy to “finish the job” in Afghanistan while announcing a timeline for beginning troop withdrawals? Finishing a job means staying until it's done, whatever “it” is. Beginning withdrawals of course depends on those pesky “conditions on the ground” 18 months from now, an unknowable and therefore intentionally misleading caveat. Americans will clearly be killing and dying in Afghanistan for years to come.

Fear-mongering cynicism? Like Bush, Obama used soldiers as props while framing his speech with 9/11, a rhetorical device he used again in Oslo when he accepted his Nobel—get this—Peace Prize. Obama's own National Security Adviser, General James Jones, states that there are approximately 100 Al Qaeda in all of Afghanistan. So we will soon have over 100,000 soldiers (plus at least that many private contractors) in Afghanistan to fight 100 Al Qaeda, and Obama expects any Afghan to believe him when he claims, as he did at West Point, that “we have no interest in occupying your country”?

Unintended irony? Obama announced his 30,000 soldier, \$30 billion (this year alone) surge at West Point's Eisenhower Hall, named after the famous general and Republican president who warned us “against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military/industrial complex”. In your face, America.

The status quo, especially in terms of America's commitment to empire and perpetual war, were never in such safe hands as those of a president elected to deliver Hope and Change.



Photo by Gary Schochiet