

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

12/16/08

(Standup Week 188)

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: 30,832**

**Iraqi civilians killed: 98,130\* Money spent on war: \$582 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

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

## Another week in the war

By Chuck Zlatkin

At last week’s **Chelsea Stands Up Against The War** a young man, a first time voter, asked the people holding our banner, “Why are you still out here? Obama won the election. Isn’t he going to end the war?”

“We certainly hope so, but we are out here until the war is ended and the troops are home safely, regardless of who is president,” was the reply.

Since last Tuesday, at least another 300 Iraqi civilians have been killed in the war. On Wednesday, a bi-partisan Senate Armed Services Committee report said that former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other top Bush administration officials are directly responsible for abuses of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and charges that decisions by those officials led to serious offenses against prisoners in Iraq and elsewhere.

On Thursday, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said that the Pentagon, which plans to send 20,000 additional troops to Afghanistan, was trying to get thousands of the additional combat forces into the country as soon as next spring. Both Gates and General McKiernan said that there would be a “sustained commitment” of American troops in Afghanistan for the next three to four years, although they declined to put a number on that commitment.

And on Sunday it was announced that the Iraqi Defense Ministry says some American troops may remain in urban areas beyond a summer deadline to pull back but only with the permission of the Iraqi government. The comments come a day after the top U.S. general announced troops might continue working with Iraq’s security forces in the cities even after the deadline to pull back troops.



Photo by Gary Scholichet