

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

12/21/10

(Standup Week 293)

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: **4,429**
US military wounded: **32,937**
Iraqi civilians killed: **108,235***
Money spent on war: **\$755 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,437**
US military wounded: **9,771**
Afghani civilians killed: **16,255**
Money spent on war: **\$376 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 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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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Afghanistan 2010: Don't Need a Weatherman... or a Pollster

By Dave Robinson

ABC News just released a poll of Afghan adults entitled “Where Things Stand.”¹ The report offers a blizzard of shifting numbers regarding Afghanistan's economic development, women's rights, government corruption, perceptions of the Taliban, the availability of food, medical care, education, electricity, etc. The poll also reflects the confusion inherent in America's entire Afghan policy: we are told, for example, that while most Afghans apparently support the nine year US military presence in their country, they are also, naturally enough, increasingly blaming our soldiers for the rising levels of violence since Obama's “surge”. Hearts and minds, look out.

Accordingly, the poll and accompanying videos reveal a deep overall pessimism, consistent with what historians have always said about the prospects for foreign forces “winning” in Afghanistan. Nevertheless, General Petraeus blatantly reframes Obama's July 2011 date to start withdrawing US forces as just another “transition” target for the Afghans to somehow secure and govern their own country. According to Petraeus, no real withdrawal of American forces is actually expected before 2014.

Did the goalposts just move, or was June 2011 a lie from the beginning? Does it matter? Either way, you know which way the wind blows. Dead people continue to pile up over there as unfunded but vital government functions pile up back here. It's still only a brutal matter of time, money and corpses until we declare victory and withdraw from Afghanistan, but until then: don't follow leaders, watch the parking meters (i.e., deficits and body counts).

¹<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Afghanistan/afghanistan-poll-things-stand-2010/story?id=12277743>



Photo by Gary Scholchert