

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

12/28/10

(Standup Week 294)

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: **108,348\***  
Money spent on war: **\$755 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,438**  
US military wounded: **9,828**  
Afghani civilians killed: **16,257**  
Money spent on war: **\$378 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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## WikiLeaks, Wars and Spreading the Truth

By Bob Martin

The jailing of Julian Assange on sex-related charges only serves to highlight the vital role WikiLeaks has been playing. Regardless of his innocence or guilt (and it's certainly suspicious that the charges are coming forth now), WikiLeaks provides information that we just don't get otherwise.

As filmmaker Michael Moore put it, in explaining why he posted bail money for Assange, “Why is WikiLeaks under vicious attack? Because they have outed and embarrassed those who have covered up the truth...We were taken to war in Iraq on a lie...Just imagine if the men who planned this war crime back in 2002 had had a WikiLeaks to deal with. They might not have been able to pull it off.”

Bush's and Cheney's case for war was based on weapons of mass instruction that we now know didn't exist. What if “secret” documents exposing those lies were made public then? Maybe Bush/Cheney wouldn't have been able to take the U.S. into war. Or consider 9/11. There were “secret” documents in summer 2001 indicating that Bin Laden was planning a strike on U.S. soil. Now, if that information had been leaked, was there a chance of the flight instructor in San Diego putting two and two together when two Saudi students took no interest in takeoffs and landing?

On the argument that Wikileaks causes harm to U.S. diplomatic negotiations and interests, Moore says, “Perhaps. But that's the price you pay when your government takes us into a war based on a lie. Your punishment for misbehaving is that someone has to turn on all the lights in the room so that we can see what you're up to.” I agree, leave the lights on.



Photo by Gary Scholchet