

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

12/29/09

(Standup Week 242)

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: **4,371**
US military wounded: **31,582**
Iraqi civilians killed: **103,549***
Money spent on war: **\$713 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **939**
US military wounded: **4,666**
Afghani civilians killed: **15,001**
Money spent on war: **\$235 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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IRAQ – THE QUAGMIRE CONTINUES

By Randy Petsche

Six and a half years of U.S. occupation has settled nothing in Iraq. The country remains one of the most dangerous places on earth. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have died in civil war, at least three million people have left the country, and two million have lost their homes. There are several million war orphans and at least two million widows.

The claims of General Petraeus and the Obama Administration that American force has led to a constructive settlement are highly suspect. A coordinated series of car bomb attacks on August 19, October 25, December 8, and December 15 has left 500 dead and hundreds more wounded.

These bloody demonstrations of insecurity cast a serious doubt on the planned reduction of U.S. troops. There is also the possibility of a border war with Iran similar to the one that raged between 1979 and 1987. And so, it is far from clear that the Obama Administration will live up to its campaign promise to reduce the size of the American expeditionary forces from 115,000 to 50,000 troops by the end of August 2010.

Instead, the American public may have to deal with a President who told the Nobel Peace Prize Committee that “the instruments of war do have a role to play in preserving the peace.” The United States reserves the right to “act unilaterally if necessary” and to launch wars whose purpose “extends beyond self-defense or the defense of one nation against an aggressor.”

This may very well mean that Obama will violate his campaign promises and retain a far larger force in Iraq than he previously said he would. Tell your elected officials not to let him do it.



Photo by Gary Scholchet