

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

12/30/08

(Standup Week 190)

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: 4,218 US military wounded: 30,879

Iraqi civilians killed: 98,413* Money spent on war: \$586 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+

Why We Bother

By Carla Nordstrom

It is getting kind of bleak on the corner of 24th Street and 8th Avenue on Tuesday evenings between 6:00 and 7:00pm. Now that winter is here fewer people are joining the stand-up. The people passing by are less likely to take our leaflets and sometimes it is too cold or wet to hand them out. You might wonder why we bother. After all, aren't we about to begin a new more peaceful era with the end of the Bush Administration and the inauguration of Barack Obama?

With all of the prospects and hope for peace in the Middle East, people are still dying. On Saturday a car bomb killed at least 22 people in Iraq and more than 200 people were killed in Gaza. While we may not consider ourselves responsible for these deaths, our purpose in Iraq and Afghanistan is to fight a war; it is not to bring peace.

It appears that we, on the corner of 24th Street and 8th Avenue, have not been very successful in our goal of ending the war. After 190 weeks, you'd think that the United States would be out of there by now. Although our troops are still fighting in two wars, it is pretty clear that the people of this country want these wars to end. I try to believe that we and people at stand-ups all over the country have helped to convince others that we must bring the troops home. As we like to say, “We'll be here every Tuesday until the war ends and the troops come home.” Do we really have to keep at this for another 16 months?



Photo by Gary Schuchter



Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

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