

I Invoke You, Liberty

The following lyrics are extracted from Kenney, Padraic *1989: Democratic Revolutions at the Cold War's End. A brief history with Documents*. Bedford/St. Martins (2010) (pgs. 109-13)

The songs were part of a protest in Chile that began on November 21, 1983 that took place outside of El Mercurio, the newspaper office that printed the propaganda for the Augusto Pinochet regime.

[Augusto José Ramón Pinochet Ugarte, more commonly known as Augusto Pinochet, was dictator of Chile between 1973 and 1990 and Commander-in-Chief of the Chilean Army from 1973 to 1998].

The protests were led by Roman Catholic priests that began after the disappearance of Sebastian Acevedo, an ordinary worker who was accused of subversive activity, arrested and subsequently “disappeared” while in custody. The Acevedo Movement as it was called carried out nearly two hundred similar protests against the Chilean government.

The priests performed the protest marches similar to those of a Catholic Mass. This allowed many of the followers to either sing along in a religious tone or just march in silence to show their presence. The protests were led by a banner that read “People are Tortured Here.”

Between the Song and the Dialog was a Public Denunciation of the government’s cruelty and a Litany that stated the violations and the fact that the newspaper, El Mercurio was an accomplice to the events.



Augusto Pinochet



Anti-Pinochet protestors being arrested

I Invoke You, Liberty

For the caged bird
For the fish in the fish tank
For my friend that was in jail
For saying what was on his mind
For the wrenched flowers
For the trampled-on grass
For the pruned trees
For the tortured bodies
I invoke you, liberty.

For the persecuted ideas
For the beatings received
For that one who does not resist
For those who hide
For the fear they have of you
For your steps they keep watch for
For the way they attack you
For the children whom they are killing
I invoke you, liberty.

I name you in the name of everyone
By your real name
I name you at dusk
When no one sees you.
I write your name
On the walls of my city (repeat)

For the clenched teeth
For the suppressed fury
For the lump in one's throat
For the mouths that do not sing
For the clandestine kiss
For the censured verse
For the youth in exile
For the prohibited names
I invoke you, liberty.

For the invaded lands
For the conquered people
For the subjugated people
For the exploited men
For the deaths at the stake
For the righteous who are condemned
For the assassinated hero
For the extinguished fires
I invoke you liberty.

I invoke you in the name of everyone. . . .



Dialog (very slow and very loud).

Look! Questions: Those in front

Answers: Those in the back

- Can an accomplice to torture speak of humanity?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of democracy?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of coexistence?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of peace?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of the common good?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of liberty?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of honor?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of honesty?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of truth?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of awareness?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of justice?
- Can an accomplice to torture speak of Christian conduct?
- Can an accomplice to torture lecture on human rights?
- Can an accomplice to torture lecture on violence and nonviolence?
- Can an accomplice to torture lecture on political ethics?
- Can an accomplice to torture lecture on Western and Christian Civilization?

- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot
- No, he cannot

