

## **Kris Kristofferson**

### **"The Circle"**

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Written about Layla Al-Atar, a cherished Iraqi artist who was killed when a missile struck her home, instead of it's intended target, a building where a trial was taking place concerning the assassination attempt of George Bush snr. The missiles were fired by the Clinton government.

And for the Argentinean disappeared, ¿Los Olvidados?

Who killed this woman this artist this mother?  
Who broke the candle and snuffed out her light  
Along with her husband and wounded her children  
And sauntered away like a beast in the night?

"Not I" said the soldier  
"I just follow orders and it was my duty to do my job well"  
"Not I" said the leader who ordered the slaughter  
"I'm saddened it happened, but then, war is hell"

"Not us" said the others who heard of the horror  
Turned a cold shoulder on all that was done  
In all the confusion a single conclusion  
The circle of sorrow has only begun

And in Argentina...

Straight to the circle on Sundays  
Down through the canyons they come  
Bearing names of their mothers and daughters  
Names of their fathers and sons

Stolen away with no warning, never to ever return  
On el Rio del Muerto, All the bridges are burned  
Los desaparecidos, lost in the darkness alone  
Gone from the face of the earth  
With no trace left behind them to mark with a stone  
And the faces of Los Olvidados, only survivors recall  
But for the pain and the heartbreak, did they matter at all?

Slowly the circle of sadness, spins in the Plaza Mayor

Lonesome remains of the madness and pain  
In a world gone insane in a war

And the song of those broken survivors, dancing alone  
in the dark  
With the silence of Los Olvidados, like a hole in the  
heart

Los desaparecidos, lost in the darkness alone  
Gone from the face of the earth  
With no trace left behind them to mark with a stone  
And the faces of Los Olvidados, only survivors recall  
But for the pain and the heartbreak, did they matter at  
all?

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