SOA Watch Songsheet

SPIRIT OF THE MARTYRS (lyrics by Jeff Winder/music unknown)

The cries of the poor rise up to the heavens/The blood of the martyrs spills into the earth
Nourishes the seeds of our hope for freedom/Wakes in us the power that is ours by birth.

Spirit of the martyrs come and live within us/Let us be your voices as you show us the way
Kindle in our spirits a love for justice/Guide us through this night into the light of the day.

Spirit of resistance come and rise among us/Hearts on fire, bodies working as one
Give birth to the struggle for our liberation/Ain't no stopping 'til our freedom is won.

The spirit's gonna rise up in my people/Wake us from our sleeping for the time is at hand
It's gonna take us to the depths of our true power/Make our voices heard all over this land.

There's love that can move mountains running in my spirit
Joy like a fountain running through my bones
Peace like a river gonna wash my fears away
Power that's within is gonna carry me home

**BRIGHT MORNIN’ STAR ARISIN’** (Bright Morning Star)
Bright mornin’ star arisin’, bright mornin’ star arisin’,
Bright mornin’ star arisin’, day’s a breakin’ in my soul.

Close the SOA, close the SOA,
Close the SOA, day’s a breakin’ in my soul.

**BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON/ON THE ROAD TO THE SOA**
(B. Dowe & T. McNaughton/adapted)

1. On the road to the SOA, there we sat down
   and there we wept, when we remembered the bloodshed.
   There the wicked! Carry us away captivity, require of us a song
   How can we sing a freedom song in a strange land?
   So let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts
   Be acceptable in thy sight over all.

2. Within those prison walls, there we sat down...
3. In the park by the White House...
4. On the road to the Pentagon...

**CLOSE DOWN THE SOA** (Sing It Down)
1. Close down the SOA
   We don't need it anyway
   North and South the people say
   Close down the SOA

2. Close down the SOA
   Or we will civilly disobey
   You will have some hell to pay
   Close down the SOA

**EVIL OF THE SOA** (melody of *Battle of Jericho*/adapted)
We all shook the evil of the SOA, the SOA, the SOA
We all shook the evil of the SOA –and the walls came a tumbling down.
1. You can talk about training soldiers
You can talk about human rights
But we all know the truth about the SOA
And the walls will come a tumblin’ down.
2. Many spirits walk before us
Their witness makes the sound
Of a heartbeat fueled by fire
And the walls come a tumblin’ down.
3. We gathered at Ft. Benning
Twelve thousand people strong
'Cause the truth will not be silenced,
As we lift our voices in song.
4. Well, I’ve heard God’s voice on the mountaintop
In the desert and by the sea
Crying, "Rise up against those SOA walls
And you too shall be free!"

GUANTANAMERA (Jose Marti & Jose Fernandez)
1. Yo soy un hombre sincero, de donde crece la palma (2x)
Y antes de morirme quiero echar mis versos de alma
Refrain: Guantanamera, guajira, Guantanamera (2x)
2. Mi verso es de un verde claro y de un carmin encendido (2x)
Mi verso es de un ciervo herido que busca en el monte amparo
3. Con los pobres de la tierra quiero yo mi suerte echar (2x)
El arroyo de la sierra me complace mas que el mar

HUMBLE YOURSELF (unknown)
You’ve got to humble yourself in the eyes of the mountains, you’ve got to bend down low.
You’ve got to humble yourself in the eyes of the mountains, you’ve got to know what they know.
We can lift each other up higher and higher, we can lift each other up.
(replace “mountains” with rivers, forests, etc. for additional verses)

ISE OLWUA (Yoruba song, Northern Africa)
ISE OLWUA, KOLE BAJE-OH (2x) KOLE BAJE-OH, KOLE BAJE-OH (2x)

JUST ANOTHER LINK IN THE CHAIN (union song/adapted)
Just another link in the chain, in the chain
We’re just another link in the chain, in the chain
People getting stronger, voices raised louder
And that makes us links in the chain.
1. Willing to go ahead when other people are afraid
Remembered for the questions that we raise.
Some dead, some in prison, for the things that we believe
And that makes us links in the chain.
2. Who organized the people, hundreds, thousands strong
When the army tried to stand in their way
It was the rebel voices raised against the wind
And that makes us links in the chain.

KEEP ON KEEPING ON (Chris Inserra)
Refrain: You’ve got to keep on keeping on, you’ve got to keep on keeping on.
1. North and south the people say, we’re gonna close the SOA.
We’re gonna keep on keeping on.
2. You can change the name but not the shame, we’re
gonna play you’re game
We’re gonna keep on keeping on.

**NEVER TURNING BACK** (Pat Humphries)
1. We’re gonna keep on walking forward, keep on walking forward,
Keep on walking forward, *never turning back, never turing back*
2. We’re gonna keep on singing loudly...
3. We’re gonna close the SOA...
4. We’re gonna tear down walls of hatred...
5. We’re gonna open prison doors...

**NO BASTA REZAR** (Central American)
Refrain: No, no, no basta rezar.
Hacen falta muchas cosas
para conseguir la paz (2x)
1. Y rezan de buena fe, y rezan de corazon.
y tambien reza el piloto cuando monta en el avion.
Para ir a bombardear a los niÑos de el Salvador.
Para ir a bombardear a los niÑos de el Quiche.
2. En el mundo no habra paz mientras haya explotacion.
del pueblo por el pueblo y exista desigualdad.
del pueblo por el pueblo y exista desigualdad.
3. Cuando el pueblo se levante y que todo haga cambiar.
Ustedes diran conmigo no bastaba con rezar.
Ustedes diran conmigo no bastaba con rezar.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO RISE UP** (unknown)
Now is the time to rise up; people, people never give up.
It’s time to reclaim history; freedom never, never came for free
Now is the time to rise up; people, people never give up.
It’s time to reshape history; freedom never, never came for me.

**OH MARY DON’T YOU WEEP** (spiritual/adapted)
Refrain: Oh, Mary don’t you weep, don’t you moan (2x)
Pharaoh’s army got drownded, oh Mary don’t you weep

1. One of these days in the middle of the night,
People gonna rise up and set things right, Pharaoh’s army...
2. One of these days you’ll hear the sound
Of the SOA walls a falling down, Pharaoh’s army...
3. Sisters and brothers, we call out your names,
The rising blood of you pain, Pharaoh’s army...
4. Students from across the land,
Raise their voices and take a stand, Pharaoh’s army...

**PUT IT IN THE GROUND** (Wobblies)
Put it in the ground, spread it all around.
Dig it with a hoe, it’ll make your flowers grow.

**RICH MAN’S HOUSE** (Human Rights’ Choir)
Refrain: Going down to the rich man’s house, take back what he stole from me
Take back my dignity, take back my humanity (2x)
1. Going over the SOA, take back what they stole from me...
2. Going over to the World Bank...
3. Going over to the IMF...

RISE UP (unknown)
Rise up keep the spirit alive; come together got to fight to survive
Rise up it won't be long; come together keep our movement strong.

SIPH’ AMANDLA NKOSI (South African Freedom Song)
Refrain: Siph’ amandla Nkosi, wokungesabi
Siph’ amandla Nkosi, siyawadinga.
1. God give us power, to rip down prisons. God give us
   the power, to lift the people.
2. God give us courage to withstand hatred. God give us
courage not to be bitter.
3. God give us power and make us fearless. God give us power
   because we need it.

SIYAHAMBA (South African Freedom Song)
Si-ya-hamb’ e-ku-kha-nyen’ kwen-khos’
si-ya-hamb’ e-ku-kha-nyen’ kwen-khos. (2x)
Si-ya-hamba, hamba, si-ya-hamba, hamba
Si-ya-hamb’ e-ku-kha-nyen’ kwen-khos. (2x)
1. We are marching in the light of God (4x)
   We are marching, we are marching, we are
   marching in the light of God
2. Caminamos en la luz de Dios...
3. We are marching to say never again...
4. Hoy queremos decir nunca mas...

SOON AND VERY SOON (traditional/adapted)
Refrain: Soon and very soon, we are gonna change this
world (3x)
Together, forever we’re gonna change this world.
1. Close the SOA, we are gonna change this world...
2. Saying NO! to torture...
3. Nunca mas, no more...
4. Crossing the line...

STEP BY STEP (traditional)
Step by step the longest march, can be won, can be won.
Many stones can form an arch, singly none, singly none.
And by union what we will, can be accomplished still.
Drops of water turn the mill, singly none, singly none.

WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED (traditional/adapted)
We shall not, we shall not be moved (2x)
Just like a tree that’s standing by the water, we shall not be moved.

1. Close the SOA...
2. The struggle will go forward...
3. Never again no more...
4. The truth cannot be silenced...

No, no, no nos moveran (2x)
Como un arbol firme junto al rio, no nos moveran.

1. Cierra el SOA, no nos moveran...
2. Luchamos con el pueblo...
3. Nunca mas, basta...
4. Basta a la mentira...

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT** (same melody as *We Shall Not Be Moved*)
Refrain: Time, time, time is running out (2x)
You know corruption’s in the land, why don’t the people take a stand?
Time is running out.
1. Go tell the IMF time is running out...
2. Go tell the World Bank...
3. We’re here at the SOA ’cause time is running out...

**WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE SCHOOL OF TORTURE**
(to the tune of *What Shall We Do With a Drunken Sailor/traditional*)
Haul it away and up we rise (3x)...a new day is dawning.

**WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?** (Florence Reese)
Refrain: Which side are you on? Which side are you on?
1. My daddy was a miner, he's now in the air and sun
   And I’ll stick with the union ‘til every battle’s won.
2. The say in Harlan County, there are no neutrals there
   You’re either with the union, or a thug for J. H. Blair.
3. O workers can you stand it? O tell me how you can?
   Will you be a crummy scab or lend us all a hand?
4. Don’t scab for the bosses, don’t listen to their lies
   Us poor folks haven’t got a chance, unless we organize.

**NO MAS, NO MORE** (John McCutcheon/adapted)
No mas, no more shout the hills of El Salvador
Echo the voices of the world, we cry out: No mas, no more.
No mas, no more we must stop the dirty war
Compañeros, compañeras, we cry out: No mas, no more.

**AIN'T AFRAID OF YOUR JAIL** (unknown/adapted)
1. Ain’t afraid of your jail ’cause I want my freedom
   I want my freedom, I want my freedom
   Ain’t afraid of your jail ’cause I want my freedom
   I want my freedom now!

2. Ain’t afraid of your hose...
3. Ain’t afraid of your dogs...
4. Ain’t afraid of your guns...
5. Ain’t afraid of your laws...
6. Ain’t afraid of your money...
7. Ain’t afraid of your hate...
JACOB’S LADDER (traditional/adapted)
1. We are climbing Jacob’s Ladder (3x) Brothers, sisters, all (alternate: “Sisters, brothers, all” etc.)
2. Every rung goes higher, higher...
3. We are dancing Sarah’s circle...
4. Every round a generation...
5. We are marching for peace and justice...
6. Spirits of the martyrs move us forward...
7. Todos unidos en paz (3x) Hermanos, hermanas, todos

CLOSE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (STAND UP FOR JUSTICE)
(to the tune of “Wade in the Water”)
Chorus: Stand up for justice! Stand up for justice, people! Stand up for justice! Close the School of the Americas!
1. It’s a school of assassins, a school of shame! (Close the School of the Americas!)
Not with my money, and not in my name! (Close the School of the Americas!)
2. They killed Oscar Romero in El Salvador! (Close the School of the Americas!)
They’re waging a war against the poor! (Close the School of the Americas!)
3. They teach torture, murder, hatred, and fear! (Close the School of the Americas!)
Too many dead, too many disappeared! (Close the School of the Americas!)

BACK TO WHERE WE CAME FROM
(by Hugh Masakela adapted by SOAW music workshop)
1. We swim up river to gather all together.
   We come together a people whole and different. (2x)
Refrain: We’re bringing this back to where we came from.
   Strong currents going back the where we came from.(2x)
2. So many stories all in one common strand.
   Our tiny whirlpool becomes a mighty dream. (2x)

GOING DOWN THAT ROAD FEELING BAD (traditional/adapted)
1. Going down that road feeling bad
   I’m going down that road feeling bad
   I’m going down that road feeling bad, Lord, Lord
   And I ain’t gonna be treated this a way
2. I’m gonna speak my mind & I don’t care
3. Gonna tell my family what you done...
4. Going down that long lonesome road...
5. Even behind bars we speak the truth...
6. I might be scared but here I stand...
7. My brothers & my sisters walk with me
8. Going down that road seeking truth...
9. Going down that road feeling good...

CLOSE THE SCHOOL DOWN (music by Si Kahn, lyrics by Dave Martin and Si Kahn)
Chorus: Close the school down! (8x)
(sing “Close the school down!” after each line of verse)

1. The School of Torture
   Has trained the killers
   Has fueled the hatred
   Has killed our people
   But we won’t be silenced
   Our voices rising
   We stand in witness
   To the ones who’ve fallen
2. Have you seen the dead ones?
   With the blood still on them
   They’re walking with us
   On this road to freedom
   The road is bloody
   The load is heavy
   It is our burden
   It is our journey
3. There is no jail term
   Can break our spirit
   Too much blood has spilt
   To turn back silent
   The disappeared ones
   The rapes and tortured
   Are standing with us
   Will guide us forward
4. In death and anguish
   The people suffered
   By violence and pain
   They’ve crushed our bodies
   But our spirit won’t bow
   To a reign of terror
   We call for justice
   We call for closure