

Reclaim the Streets

I've seen the pictures on the TV, the pictures on the news,
And they contradict what all my friends have told me
What I know is true.
They don't give reasons for the protest, just the damage that's arised,
And pictures on the TV cannot match what is seen with naked eyes.

And it's all so expensive to repair what they have done:
Trees planted in the tarmac and graffiti just for fun.
But won't somebody simply explain that
Everybody's here for one reason: to reclaim.

They show us the frustration of waiting to pass through
And tell us that the needs of the many should outweigh those of these few.
Everyone's in such a hurry to complete what has to be,
And deadlines in the diary rule the lives
Of everybody that I see.

And it's all so expensive if the meetings are not met.
And now the road is gridlocked, so I'll miss my deadline set.
But won't somebody simply explain that
Everybody's here for one reason: to reclaim.

Many years ago I played with the band I was in at an entirely peaceful Reclaim the Streets protest, our stage being a bus stop shelter in central London; the press were fairly sympathetic that time. However, some months later reports were broadcast of a similar demonstration in a different part of the capital; extremely negative reports. I wasn't there, but many friends were and they all told the same story: a completely different story to the one shown to the world.