

# A WRONG WORD

*or irony misunderstood,  
a wayward thought, a question  
whispered in a low voice.*

That's all it takes to offend the ministry,  
for the jailer to shackle the hand that writes,  
smash to splinters a poet's limbs,  
make him dig the pit into which he disappears,  
stripped of everything except his conscience.

*A wrong word, a joke, a parable,  
a poem that's allegorical.*

That's all it takes for banishment,  
to be marched through blizzard, snow drift,  
under midday sun, sent next to nowhere  
by the killers of language,  
those who decides who's next to vanish

*for one mistake, a slip of the tongue,  
the unintended adjective.*