

Basic Detail Report

Demonstration for divorce

Date

1970-1974

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

A girl holds up a protest placard that reads: 'il tribunale speciale clerico-fascista' at an anti-divorce rally. The Special Tribunal for the Defence of the State was part of the special fascist regime in Italy, formed to judge crimes against the security of the state and the regime. During the Fascist regime the Special Court had the power to be admonish and condemn accused politicians that deemed dangerous to public order and safety of the regime itself. The same law of formation of the court re-introduced the death penalty for certain crimes of a political nature. Divorce was introduced in Italy by law of 1 December 1970. An abrogative referendum supported by Catholic organisations and by the Vatican was defeated on May 12, 1974. A constitutional issue had been also raised with regard to Italy's obligations under the Lateran Treaty, entered into in 1929, on whether it prohibited Italy from authorising divorce. Before 1970, there was no provision for divorce in Italian law, and the difficulty of ridding oneself of an unwanted spouse in the absence of any legal way to do so was a frequent topic of drama and humour, reaching its apotheosis in the 1961 film *Divorce, Italian Style*.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.3 x 21.2 cm (12 x 8 3/8 in.)