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## 'The day we will never forget'

Collective work by Killarney girls, facilitated by Shari Eppel, Solidarity Peace Trust Zimbabwe.  
(Photo: Shari Eppel)

This arpillera graphically portrays the destruction of the Killarney informal settlement in Zimbabwe in May 2005 during Operation Murambatsvina in which the government, deploying the army and police, purposefully destroyed housing around the country. An estimated 500,000 people were evicted and displaced in the space of a month. Murambatsvina means 'get rid of the filth' and the poor of Zimbabwe were left with the clear message that they were the filth that should be forced out of urban areas.

*Owner: Conflict Textiles Collection. Provenance Killarney Girls, Zimbabwe.  
Image Shari Eppel. © Conflict Textiles Collection*



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### **'Cacerolazo/Women banging their pots'**

Chilean arpillera, Felicia, 1988; Photo Martin Melaugh; Oshima Hakko Museum collection, Japan

In this arpillera, we see a group of women in the streets, resolute and defiant, banging their pots with sticks. They are publicly denouncing the impoverishment they are forced to endure as a result of the economic policies of the Pinochet regime. Their cooking pots have now become implements of protest. We can assume that there is little food to cook in these pots.

*Owner: Conflict Textiles Collection. Provenance Oshima Hakko Museum collection, Japan.  
Image Martin Melaugh. © Conflict Textiles Collection*



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### **'Queremos Democracia/We want democracy'**

Chilean arpillera, Vicaría de la Solidaridad, 1988; Photo Martin Melaugh; Conflict Textiles Collection; Provenance Seán Carroll, USA

Here we see women demanding their rights to a peaceful, non-violent society. Their banner proclaims 'democracy' and they insist on being part of the democratic process. However, the presence of the police car reminds us of the challenges and resistance they will face. Agosin maintains that women were not given due recognition in the new democracy, which, she argues, has not '...acknowledged the significance of the arpilleristas and other women's groups...who had a fundamental role to play in the return of democracy' (Agosin, 2008).

*Owner: Conflict Textiles Collection. Provenance Sean Carroll, USA.  
Image Martin Melaugh. © Conflict Textiles Collection*



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