Desplazamiento / Displacement
Colombian arpillera, 2010
Mujeres tejiendo sueños y sabores de paz
Conflict Textiles collection

Juana Alicia Ruiz, founder and part of the women's sewing group who created this arpillera has this to say on the theme of displacement: "Displacement in Colombia is like any typical displacement as it happens at times during night. It includes violent rape, burning of houses, having to leave behind belongings, houses and animals. The lady who is being carried on a hammock is a sick person, very old and who cannot walk. She is like the soul of the village."

CONFLICT TEXTILES

Somos Mujeres cesantes / We are unemployed women
Chilean arpillera
Anonymous, c1980
Conflict Textiles collection

Here we see women from a poor neighbourhood in Santiago protesting about their lack of employment. For these women, with their men-folk disappeared or imprisoned through the repressive actions of the Pinochet dictatorship, earning money to feed their families was a daily struggle.

CONFLICT TEXTILES

No a las alzas - No a la dictadura - Basta de hambre /
No to inflation - No to dictatorship - Enough of hunger
Chilean arpillera, Anonymous, c1980
Conflict Textiles collection

This arpillera depicts women from a poor neighbourhood protesting at inflation, dictatorship, and their continuous hunger as a result of both. With so many men “disappeared,” in the early years of the Pinochet dictatorship, these women, acting in solidarity, have taken to the streets. Their colourful dresses fulfill conventional perceptions of femininity whilst their public actions defy such traditional roles.

CONFLICT TEXTILES

Toma de terrenos en los barrios de Lima / Squatters in the shantytowns of Lima

Peruvian arpillera, 2008

LC, Mujeres Creativas Workshop

Conflict Textiles collection

This arpillera portrays the arrival of families of displaced people into one of Lima's shantytowns. The poverty of their temporary homes is apparent from the wooden planks they are unloading from trucks. The instability of their lives is evoked by the figures of the women standing guard to resist the police from coming and wrecking the houses. This arpillera depicts the isolation and poverty of those displaced by war and their tenuous link to a kind of peaceful normality.

CONFLICT TEXTILES