

## Huelga de mineros / mineworkers strike

Peruvian arpillera, Anon., c1983

Photo Johanna Menzinger

Courtesy of Infostelle Peru, Freiburg, Germany donated by Karin Wierschin

This arpillera was given to Johanna Menzinger during one of the events of the Poesie des Nähens / The Poetry of Stitching exhibition (January – March 2020). Johanna subsequently gave it to the organisation Infostelle Peru, Freiburg, Germany. It is now exhibited in their office.



The arpillera was found in an German handcraft market in Munich in 2006. Unfortunately there is no information about the maker. Most likely it was made shortly after the shutdown of the Mina Catari in the Arequipa region of the province of Caravelí. The closure provoked a large protest march in solidarity for the 4000 people that lost their job. In the 1980s the Colectivo de Mujeres Creativas created many arpilleras showing the complicated political situation of that era. This arpillera may be one of them or at least been inspired by the work of the Colectivo.

Due to the violent conflict in Peru at this time the loss of jobs led to even more poverty for those who were already scraping by. The picture shows a group of unarmed men and women demonstrating in front of the Ministry of Labour flanked by the military armed with guns and tanks. The banner held by the demonstrators says: „Mineros de Cata Acarri piden solución a su pliego de reclamos queremos aumento de nuestro salario, y bonificación y otros - Mineworkers of Cata Acarri ask for a solution to their list of complaints. We want better salaries, bonus and others.“