

## Río Negro Memorial Textile

### Weaver Profile

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#### Carmen Sanchez Chen, 46

Like all survivors from the Río Negro massacres, Carmen suffered a debilitating series of losses in 1982. On February 13, 1982, her father, sister and cousin were tortured and brutally killed in the massacres that occurred both in the village of Xococ. On March 13, 1982, her mother, two sisters and several cousins were murdered at Pak'oxom, a site above her former home in Río Negro while she was buying sugar in a nearby village shop. On May 14, 1982, her three year-old son, Manuel Chen Sanchez, was kidnapped and disappeared from the settlement of Los Encuentros by helicopter. He has never been found. During the attack, Carmen was washing clothes in the Salama River while her

son, Maneul, was with his grandmother. She was forced to flee into the mountains in nothing but her underwear, where she lived with her husband for over a year before moving to the resettlement village of Pacux in 1983.

Once there, she was unable to leave the village without Army permission for more than a year. After surviving two genocidal attacks by the Guatemalan Army and PAC patrols, she now lives in Pacux with her husband, Bernardo Chen Chen, and their extended family of seven children and numerous grandchildren. Carmen weaves belts and small textiles to sell in the central market in Rabinal, and is president of the Pacux artisans' cooperative.

