

## Río Negro Memorial Textile

### Weaver Profile

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#### Erlinda Alvarado, 26

Erlinda was seven years-old when her father died in the village of Xococ on February 13, 1982. Francisco Alvarado Chen was 45 at the time, a farmer and well liked member of the community of Río Negro. He left seven children behind. One month later, on March 13, 1982, Erlinda was at her grandmother's house while her mother went to Pueblo Viejo to purchase corn and sugar. When the soldiers arrived and called her grandmother, Valeriana Sic, to a meeting, Erlinda was left in the school with her siblings and a group of other children. Valeriana understood the danger of the situation, and died alone at Pak'oxom that day.

Erlinda and the other children were taken into the mountains when the violence began. She remembers very little of her time there. That same day her mother found her hidden with the other children and they spent more than a year living without shelter, food or clothing. "We became orphans." When the family arrived in Pacux in 1984, the children could not attend school for lack of funds to buy basic books and pencils.

Today, Erlinda can write her name and a few words thanks to a literacy program funded by the government, but her life is far from easy. With three children and her mother to feed, Erlinda and her husband do what they can. Erlinda weaves on commission and made one textile for The Advocacy Project to commemorate her father, Don Francisco. The image is unlike any of the others included in the Memorial Textile: a landscape image of Río Negro that Erlinda based on memories of her last visit to the village.

