



## M.A.R. POR CUBA

### **Sylvia G. Iriondo Biography**

Sylvia G. Iriondo, President of Mothers and Women against Repression (M.A.R. por Cuba) was born in Havana, Cuba on January 26, 1945. One year after Fidel Castro came into power, her family sought political asylum in the United States. Upon arrival in 1960, she began to work as a semi-volunteer for the International Rescue Committee, a worldwide refugee organization which was the first agency in Miami to provide assistance to the thousands of Cuban refugees fleeing the island's communist regime and for the Florida State Department of Public Welfare, Cuban Refugee Assistance Program. Her past involvement in community-based charitable organizations is extensive and includes having served as a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Dade County for eight years; as advisory Board member of The Salvation Army; as Chairperson of the Area Agency for Aging for Dade and Monroe Counties (AAA); as President and Board member of the Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers and as member of the Florida's Governor Commission on Aging and the State of Florida Department of Elderly Affairs under Governor Lawton Chiles and Governor Bob Graham, respectively, among other volunteer community service. In 1994, she co-founded M.A.R. por Cuba, an organization dedicated to the advocacy of human rights, to the promotion of democratic values and to the restoration of fundamental liberties and rights to the Cuban people. She has participated in numerous national and international forums to denounce Castro's regime violations of human rights and to enlist support for the courageous Cuban pro-democracy resistance movement. Her organization is part of the Assembly of the Cuban Resistance, a coalition of numerous groups from within the island and in exile that work together to help bring about democratic change in Cuba, and more recently, she was one of nine members elected to serve on its temporary liaison Committee by representatives of more than sixty organizations gathered in San Juan, Puerto Rico for the First National Cuban Encounter in the month of August 2015. Professionally, Iriondo is a successful businesswoman, having worked in the field of real estate for over 40 years. She lives with her family in Miami, Florida.

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M.A.R. POR CUBA, INC.

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