

Berta de los Angeles Soler Fernandez was recently described by the Associated Press as “one of Cuba’s leading dissidents.” Born in 1963, she has been the leader of the Ladies in White movement following the death of the group’s founder, Laura Pollan in 2011. The Ladies in White is a movement of wives and female relatives of Cuba’s political prisoners, but has evolved into a human rights group open to all Cuba women. Soler and four other members of The Ladies in White received the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament in 2006, but the Castro brothers’ communist regime barred them from attending the awards ceremony. Soler helped found the Ladies in White movement after her husband, Angel Moya Acosta, an opposition leader in Cuba, was arrested and sentenced to 20 years in prison during Cuba’s “Black Spring” in 2003. Soler and her husband have remained in Cuba since his release, rejecting an offer of emigration from Spain in order to continue their struggle for human rights and democracy in Cuba, despite frequent and continued repression by the Castro brothers’ communist regime of her and other members of the Ladies in White.