

Violeta Barrios Torres de Chamorro
President of the Republic of Nicaragua

Born in Rivas, Nicaragua, on Oct. 18, 1929, Violeta Chamorro was educated in the United States. Her husband, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, an influential opposition leader, was assassinated in 1978. The event catalyzed opposition to, and made him a martyr of, the popular revolution which overthrew the dictatorship of General Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

A member of the first Sandinista government in 1979, Violeta Chamorro resigned after nine months in office. She then published the family newspaper, La Prensa. In February 1990, she won the presidency in national elections as the leader of the National Opposition Union (UNO) against the incumbent, President Daniel Ortega.

Violeta Chamorro has four children.