



Celia Esther de los Desamparados Sánchez Manduley, known as **Celia Sánchez Manduley**, was born in the sugar town of Media Luna in the house that Dr. Manuel Sánchez Silveira bought in 1913 when he married Acacia Manduley and where the couple's nine children were born. Celia lived there with her family for 20 years until 1940 until she moved to Pílon with her father, where she spent another almost 16 years until the landing of the expedition members of the Granma Yacht led by Fidel on December 2, 1956.

Her mother died when she was young. With her father, Manuel Sánchez Silveira, a rural doctor, cultured man and committed to the liberal Orthodox Party, she had her first approach to politics. He was his assistant and saw the effect of poverty on her patients that closely. Since she was little she was influenced by the thought of José Martí and from a young age she was linked to the popular struggle.

Revolutionary trajectory



He joined the Orthodox Party of Eduardo Chibás but after the coup of March 10, 1952, he became involved with various organizations with an insurrectionary profile. She was one of the first women to take up arms during that revolution. Her main role in that war was played in the preparation of the Granma landing in the Oriente province where she worked hard in the city of Manzanillo. At the urging of Manuel Echevarría on his trip to Mexico, Fidel Castro once expressed:

... if that woman is as you say, where she is best is in Manzanillo, because there she will be more useful ...

Following the Movement's guidelines, he organized a network of peasant collaborators in the vicinity of where the expedition led by Fidel Castro was to disembark, which was essential for the continuity of the struggle. He sent the first armed detachment to the Sierra from "El Marabuzal", in Manzanillo.

In 1957, in Batista's Cuba, Sánchez was the most wanted woman in the country. On March 19, she climbed the Sierra Maestra and joined the Rebel Army as a combatant. She was the main promoter of the creation of the "Mariana Grajales" women's platoon.

In the most difficult moments of the guerrilla led by Fidel Castro, in February 1957 he marched to meet it in the company of Frank País, Faustino Pérez and other members of the National Directorate of the July 26 Movement to coordinate support from the plains, and coordinate the arrival via Havana - Manzanillo of the New York Times journalist, Herbert Matthews, until the presence of Fidel in the middle of the Sierra Maestra. The publication of the journalist's interview with the

guerrilla leader would destroy the Batista propaganda based on the supposed death of Fidel. At the end of April he would go back up to the Sierra, leading the American journalist Bob Taber, who wanted to interview Fidel.

When the so-called "Cuban Revolution" triumphed, he maintained a low political profile although with great influence, participating in the relevant activities and the most significant works undertaken after the triumph of January 1, 1959.

On March 23, 1962, she was appointed Secretary of the Council of Ministers of Cuba (1962-1976) and later was Minister of the Presidency. When she died she was a member of the Central Committee of the PCC, Secretary of the Council of State and a deputy of the parliament for the municipality of Manzanillo in the province of Granma.

He died of lung cancer in Havana on January 11, 1980. (Wikipedia)