

Maria de Jesus Barroso Soares was born on May 2, 1925 in the Algarve to a family of seven children. Her mother was a school teacher and her father, Captain Barroso, was active in the politics of his day. He opposed the Salazar dictatorship and at one point was even exiled to the Azores. Maria Barroso was just one year old when her family moved to Lisbon where she grew up and was educated. It was at the University of Lisbon that she first met her future husband, Maria Soares. Both Maria Barroso and Maria Soares were raised in families harassed and harassed by political oppression. It is perhaps ironic that Soares was later imprisoned in the same cell with his father. It was in that cell that he married Maria Barroso in 1948. While attending the University of Lisbon, Maria Barroso also studied at the National Conservatory where she graduated with a degree in Dramatic Art. Although she was a dedicated stage actress during her four years as a student, she was eventually banned from the Theater because of her political activities. Maria Barroso became a political activist and joined the "Movimento de Unidade Democrática (MUD)", an opposition party founded by Maria Soares. She took controversial positions and openly participated in political meetings and led revolutionary parties. During her husband's exile, Maria Barroso assumed administration of the family business in her hometown of Colégio. Modern, a private school, was founded by Maria Barroso. During her husband's absence, she managed to visit her husband frequently. In recent years, she has been active in the most important political and cultural organizations in Portugal's recent history. Maria Barroso was not a special interest in the Arts, dedicated herself equally to many humanitarian causes, including the presidency of Portugal of the Special Olympics, as well as the presidency of Portugal's United Chapter. Maria Barroso has also been actively active for the rights of children in Portugal as well as internationally with particular interest in the children of Mozambique.

VISITA DA DR^a MARIA DE JESUS BARROSO SOARES

PRIMEIRA DAMA DE PORTUGAL

An honorary doctorate degree from Lehigh College in Cambridge during her visit to the United States. She has received decorations from the highest levels of society in countries for her many accomplishments and will be awarded through the rehabilitation of addicts. As First Lady, Maria Barroso has represented Portugal with distinction throughout the world for the rights of the children. A defender of Mozambique.

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BENVINDA À NOSSA COMUNIDADE!

Maria de Jesus Barroso Soares was born on May 2, 1925 in the Algarve to a family of seven children. Her mother was a school teacher and her father, Captain Barroso, was active in the politics of his day. He opposed the Salazar dictatorship and at one point was even exiled to the Azores. Maria Barroso was just one year old when her family moved to Lisbon where she grew up and was educated. It was at the University of Lisbon that she first met her future husband, Maria Soares. Both Maria Barroso and Maria Soares were raised in families harassed and harassed by political oppression. It is perhaps ironic that Soares was later imprisoned in the same cell with his father. It was in that cell that he married Maria Barroso in 1948. While attending the University of Lisbon, Maria Barroso also studied at the National Conservatory where she graduated with a degree in Dramatic Art. Although she was a dedicated stage actress during her four years as a student, she was eventually banned from the Theater because of her political activities. Maria Barroso became a political activist and joined the "Movimento de Unidade Democrática (MUD)", an opposition party founded by Maria Soares. She took controversial positions and openly participated in political meetings and led revolutionary parties. During her husband's exile, Maria Barroso assumed administration of the family business in her hometown of Colégio. Modern, a private school, was founded by Maria Barroso. During her husband's absence, she managed to visit her husband frequently. In recent years, she has been active in the most important political and cultural organizations in Portugal's recent history. Maria Barroso was not a special interest in the Arts, dedicated herself equally to many humanitarian causes, including the presidency of Portugal of the Special Olympics, as well as the presidency of Portugal's United Chapter. Maria Barroso has also been actively active for the rights of children in Portugal as well as internationally with particular interest in the children of Mozambique. A defender of Mozambique.

Maria de Jesus Barroso Soares was born on May 2, 1925 in the Algarve, to a family of seven children. Her mother was a school teacher and her father, Capitao Barroso, was active in the politics of his day. He opposed the Salazar dictatorship and, at one point, was even exiled to the Azores.

Maria Barroso was just one year old when her family moved to Lisbon where she grew up and was educated. It was at the University of Lisbon that she first met her future husband, Mario Soares. Both Maria Barroso and Mario Soares were raised in families immersed and seasoned by political oppression. It is perhaps ironic that Soares was later imprisoned in the same cell with his father. It was in that cell that he married Maria Barroso in 1948.

While attending the University of Lisbon, Maria Barroso also studied at the National Conservatory where she graduated with a degree in Dramatic Art. Although she was a dedicated stage actress during her four years as a student, she was eventually banned from the Theater because of her political activities. Maria Barroso became a political activist and joined the "Movimento de Unidade Democratica (MUD)", an opposition party, founded by Mario Soares. She took controversial positions and openly participated in political meetings and recited revolutionary poetry.

During her husband's exile Maria Barroso assumed administration of the family business as headmistress of Colegio Moderno, a private prep-school. Through all the adversities, Mrs. Soares singlehandedly reared their two children, Joao and Isabel. During her administration of the Colegio Moderno, enrollment jumped from 400 to 1,400 students. She also managed to visit her husband frequently in Sao Tome where he had been exiled.

In recent years, Maria Barroso has experienced some of the most significant historical moments while alongside her husband, one of the most influential agents of change of the last 20 years in Portugal. She was always by her husband's side during several political campaigns, many stints as Prime Minister and during his victorious campaign in 1986, that made him the first democratically elected President in Portugal's recent history.

Maria Barroso, who has a special interest in the Arts, dedicated herself equally to many humanitarian causes, including the presidency in Portugal of the Special Olympics, as well as the presidency of Portugal's Unicef chapter. Maria Barroso has also been extremely active for the rights of children in Portugal as well as internationally with particular interest in the children of Mozambique.

A defender of Human Rights, she has fought on behalf of the Maubere people of East Timor, and with particular energy for the rights of Women. She has also worked closely with Portugal's younger generation, supporting the battle against drug abuse through the rehabilitation of addicts. As First Lady, Maria Barroso has represented Portugal with distinction throughout the world. She has received decorations from the highest levels of society in countries for her many accomplishments and will be awarded an honorary doctoral degree from Lesley College in Cambridge during her visit to the United States.

Maria de Jesus Barroso Soares nasceu à 2 de Maio de 1925, na Fuzeta, Algarve, numa família de sete irmãos. A mãe era professora e o pai, o Capitão Barroso, era um homem muito envolvido na política do seu tempo. Foi opositor à ditadura de Oliveira Salazar, foi preso e deportado para os Açores.

Maria Barroso tinha um ano de idade quando a família se mudou para Lisboa onde foi educada. Quando entra para a Universidade de Lisboa, para o curso de Ciências Histórico-Filosóficas, Maria Barroso convive com o futuro marido, Mário Soares colega de curso. Tal como Maria Barroso, Mário Soares cresceu numa família rodeada de um ambiente de repressão política. A vida de Mário Soares foi, por isso também marcada pelas visitas ao pai na prisão, onde, ironicamente, um dia se lhe haveria de juntar, na mesma cela em 1948, e onde casaria com Maria Barroso.

Maria Barroso, ao mesmo tempo que frequentava a faculdade, estudava no Conservatório Nacional onde concluiria o Curso de Arte Dramática. Durante quatro anos representou no Teatro Nacional D. Maria II mas, depois de ter demonstrado grandes talentos como actriz viria a ser afastada do Teatro Nacional por razões políticas. Maria Barroso tinha-se revelado também uma activista. Juntara-se ao Movimento de Unidade Democrática (MUD), fundado por Mário Soares. Toma posições controversas, participa abertamente em reuniões políticas e faz recitais de poesia revolucionária.

Durante o exílio do seu marido em São Tomé, Maria Barroso assume a direcção do Colégio Moderno, actividade que manteve durante 20 anos. Frequentemente, Maria Barroso vai com os seus filhos, João e Isabel visitar o marido. Maria Barroso e os filhos vivem num ambiente de medo e repressão. Passam dias muitos difíceis e Maria Barroso assume todas as responsabilidades da família.

Mario Soares regressa a Portugal definitivamente, depois do 25 de Abril de 1974. Nos últimos anos, Maria Barroso têm vivido momentos de grande significado histórico ao lado do marido que foi um dos agentes mais decisivos na História de Portugal dos últimos 20 anos. Maria Barroso acompanhou sempre Mário Soares nas suas muitas campanhas eleitorais que foi primeiro-ministro de várias vezes e que em 1986 seria o primeiro Presidente da República, civil, directamente eleito pelo povo. Maria Barroso que tem um grande carinho pelas artes, dedica-se igualmente a várias causas humanitárias nomeadamente como presidente, em Portugal, do Special Olympics Movement e como presidente delegação Portuguesa da UNICEF.

Maria Barroso tem também desenvolvido grande actividade em prol da defesa da criança, não só a nível nacional como internacional. Defensora dos direitos humanos tem lutado, com grande energia, pelo Direito de Igualdade da Mulher. Maria Barroso tem desenvolvido também uma grande actividade junto dos jovens, promovendo o combate contra a droga e apoiando aos serviços de recuperação de drogados.

Como Primeira Dama, Maria Barroso tem representado Portugal com grande dignidade em todo o mundo, tendo recebido condecorações ao mais alto nível por governos de 14 países pelas acções humanitárias e vai receber um doutoramento "honoris causa" pelo Lesley College em Cambridge durante a sua visita aos Estados Unidos da America.