**Alma Kadragic Biography**

Dr. Alma Kadragic has been a journalist, researcher, media specialist, and entrepreneur in the US, Europe, and the Middle East. Based in Miami since 2013 she is a freelance journalist and media consultant, often writing on international real estate, investment, business, media, and the arts for global and local magazines.

During 16 years with ABC News in New York, Washington D.C., London, and Warsaw as writer, producer, and bureau chief, she organized the network’s television coverage of major international stories, culminating in the years 1983-90 in Central and Eastern Europe.

Arriving in Warsaw initially in June 1983 for Pope John Paul II’s second visit to Poland, Kadragic returned in October as bureau producer, later bureau chief. Coverage included significant stories like the killing of priest Jerzy Popielusko and the trial of the accused murderers; numerous demonstrations roughly put down by the military ZOMO police; the continued harassment of Lech Walesa by government agents; the 40tth anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz; the Pope’s 1987 visit to Poland; and the Round Table talks beginning in February 1989 and leading to the first free elections on June 4, 1989.

Regionally, the ABC Warsaw bureau covered developing events in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Romania, and Yugoslavia as well as in Lithuania, Latvia, and the Soviet Union.

In early 1990 when ABC News closed the Warsaw bureau but kept its outstanding Polish producers, cameramen, and editors working in the Soviet Union and its rapidly separating parts, Kadragic left the network to become an entrepreneur, starting Alcat Communications International sp. z o.o., a PR company.

For several years, Alcat was a leader in the communications industry in Poland while Kadragic became a co-founder of Polskie Stowarzyczenie Public Relations – the first PR association in the country – and its first president.

In the late 1990s the European Commission and USAID contracted Dr. Kadragic several times to evaluate the readiness of radio and television stations in the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Republika Srbska, Serbia) to develop independent broadcasting.

After closing Alcat’s Warsaw office in 2003, Kadragic taught journalism and PR at the national Zayed University in Abu Dhabi and later created master’s programs in media studies and international studies at the University of Wollongong in Dubai.

In 2013 Alma Kadragic was awarded the Officer’s Cross for Service by the President of Poland for her journalistic work. In 2015 she received the Amicus Poloniae award from Poland’s Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Ryszard Schnepf.

Publications include two books: *Public Relations or Promoting Reputations* (1997, 1998), the first PR handbook in Polish,and *Globalization and Human Rights* (2006)*.* She has contributed chapters to books on family business in the Middle East and sports journalism in the US. Author of articles and columns on media, press freedom, entrepreneurship, and the arts, she often speaks at international conferences on media topics.

Dr. Kadragic has served on many boards including American Women in Radio and Television (President, New York City, Orlando chapters), Middle East PR Association, American Chamber of Commerce in Poland, Fulbright Commission in Poland, National Association of Women Business Owners (President, Miami chapter), and Entrepreneur Advisory Board of the Disney/SBA National Entrepreneur Center).

She holds a B.A. and M.A. from the City College of New York and a Ph.D. in English literature from the City University of New York.