

Václav Havel

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Bohemian National Hall | 321 E 73rd Street | New York, NY 10021 | info@vhlf.org | +1 212 988-1733 | www.vhlf.org

International Advisory Board

Madeleine K. Albright | Co-Chair Laura Bush | Co-Chair Dagmar Havlova | Co-Chair
Daniel Arbess | Milton Cerny | Thomas Dine | Carl Gershman | Stephen R. Grand | Vartan Gregorian
Geoffrey R. Hogue | William H. Luers | Jan Svejnar | Paul Wilson

Board of Directors

Andy Schapiro | Chair Martin Palous | President Joseph Balaz | Vice-Chair, Treasurer Lise Stone | Vice-Chair Marilyn Wyatt | Vice-Chair
Riprand Graf Arco-Zinneberg | Elliot S. Berke | William Cabaniss | Wendy Luers, Vice-Chair Emerita | John Shattuck | Bill Shipsey
Jack Stack | Craig Stapleton, Chair Emeritus | Michael Zantovsky

The Václav Havel Library Foundation is exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a charitable and educational organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Vaclav Havel Library Foundation, www.vhlf.org

Contact: Pavla Niklova, Executive Director, +1 917 847 4342, info@vhlf.org

Cuban Writer Angel Santiesteban Prats To Receive The 2020 Disturbing The Peace Award

July 30, 2020

The Vaclav Havel Library Foundation announced today that the 2020 Disturbing the Peace Award to a Courageous Writer at Risk will go to Cuban author Angel Santiesteban Prats.

Santiesteban is well known in Cuba and internationally for his short stories, social commentaries, and blogs. An ardent defender of democracy and human rights in Cuba, Santiesteban has openly denounced the country's authoritarian communist government in his blog "Los hijos que nadie quiso" ("The Children No One Wanted"), which he began in 2009.

Santiesteban's outspoken criticism of the Castro regime has resulted in years of state-sponsored harassment and intimidation. For example, on December 8, 2012, the government sentenced Santiesteban to five years in prison on trumped-up charges of trespassing and assault. While in prison, he was subjected to mistreatment and torture and refused medical treatment. He was released from prison in 2015 and since then has continued his struggle as an independent writer and dissident.

Santiesteban's best-known works of fiction include *Dichosos los que lloran* (*Happy are Those Who Mourn*), *Suerte que tienen algunos y otros cuentos* (*The Luck of Some and Other Stories*), *El verano en que Dios dormía* (*The Summer When God Slept*), and *El regreso de*

Mambrú (Mambrú's Return) (2016). He has received a host of literary awards, including the Alejo Carpentier Award (2001), Casa de las Américas Award (2006), and Franz Kafka Novels From The Drawer Prize.

The annual Disturbing the Peace Award to a Courageous Writer at Risk recognizes writers of distinguished works of fiction, literary nonfiction, biography, memoir, drama, or poetry who are courageous in dissent and have suffered unjust persecution for their beliefs. The award helps protect awardees with the shield of international attention while enriching public understanding of the power of the written word to preserve and promote humanity's highest ideals. The award comes with a \$5,000 cash prize and, for the first time in 2020, a two-week residency at the Václav Havel Library in Prague.

Previous recipients of the Disturbing the Peace Award are Turkish writer and journalist Aslı Erdoğan (2019), Chinese author and poet Liao Yiwu (2018), Kurdish novelist Burhan Sönmez (2017), and Burmese writer Ma Thida (2016).

Serving on the jury for this year's award were former Voice of America correspondent Jolyon Naegele; journalist, publisher, and philanthropist James Ottaway, Jr.; and scholar Sevinç Türkkan (representing last year's awardee, Aslı Erdoğan).

Santiesteban will receive the Disturbing the Peace Award during an online gala event on the evening of September 24, 2020.

###