



JURY'S DECISION

The jury of the **XI TUSQUETS EDITORES PRIZE FOR NOVEL**, made up by Juan Marsé (chairman), Almudena Grandes, Juan Gabriel Vásquez, Juan Trejo, winner of the previous edition, and Juan Cerezo, in representation of the publishing house, has agreed by a majority to award

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Patria o muerte

by

Alberto Barrera Tyszka

The jury members have noted the courage to narrate everything from the everyday life of a series of characters to Venezuelan reality in a non-indulgent manner, as well as the author's absorbing narrative pace that reflects the increasing anxiety and complications of such lives, conditioned by hysteria and the strains of a country dependent on a charismatic leader.

Barcelona, 29 September 2015



Work awarded the XI TUSQUETS EDITORES
PRIZE FOR NOVEL

Patria o muerte (Homeland or Death)

Doctor Miguel Sanabria suffers from insomnia and is persistently concerned ever since he has retired. He feels that the political situation has poisoned his country, Venezuela, as well as his life, affected by the anti-Chávez extremism of his wife and the Bolivarian radicalism of his brother. The situation is aggravated when his nephew Vladimir, just arrived from Havana, asks him to hide a cell phone containing a compromising and secret recording of Hugo Chávez in an advanced stage of his illness. At the same time, Fredy Lacuna, an unemployed journalist attempting to investigate the president's disease, is reluctant to leave his apartment claimed by its owner, a woman who has just returned from Miami; Madelaine, an American scholar, obtains an important contact for her essay on charisma. And María, a nine year-old girl who lives locked up at home with her mother due to their fear of the street violence, has finally made a friend online.

Alberto Barrera Tyszka

Alberto Barrera was born in Caracas in 1960. He is the author of the novels *También el corazón es un descuido* (2001), *La enfermedad* (Premio Herralde, 2006) and *Rating* (2011); the books of short stories *Edición de lujo* (1990), *Perros* (2006) and *Crímenes* (2009); as well as the poetry collections *Coyote de ventanas* (1993) and *Tal vez el frío* (2000). He wrote, along with the journalist, Cristina Marcano, the first documented biography of the Venezuelan president: *Hugo Chávez sin uniforme. Una historia personal* (2005). He graduated from the School of Literature of the Universidad Central de Venezuela, where he currently works as a professor. For years he worked as a television script writer for soap-operas in Venezuela, Argentina, Colombia and Mexico. He is a regular contributor to several Venezuelan and international printed media such as *El País*, *Letras Libres*, *Etiqueta Negra*, *Gatopardo* and others. Since 1996, he is a columnist of the newspaper *El Nacional*.

