

# *Martín Espada becomes first Latino poet to win prestigious Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize*

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New York, May 7 (RHC)-- Martín Espada, known as the “People’s Poet,” has won the prestigious 2018 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, which honors a living U.S. poet for outstanding lifetime achievement.

Espada is the first Latino poet to win the award since its inception in 1986. It comes with a \$100,000 prize. The editor of Poetry Magazine said: “Martín Espada’s work and life tell the real and lived story of America, in which the importance of poems and legal rights go hand in hand.”

Martín Espada recently wrote the poem “How We Could Have Lived or Died This Way,” about resistance to police brutality in the United States.

“I see the rebels marching, hands upraised before the riot squads,  
faces in bandannas against the tear gas, and I walk beside them unseen.

I see the poets, who will write the songs of insurrection generations unborn will read or hear a century  
from now,

Words that make them wonder how we could have lived or died this way, how the descendants of slaves still fled and the descendants of slave-catchers still shot them,

How we awoke every morning without the blood of the dead sweating from every pore.”

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<https://www.radiohc.cu/index.php/en/noticias/cultura/161725-martin-espada-becomes-first-latino-poet-to-win-prestigious-ruth-lilly-poetry-prize>



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