

A.C. Frieden Meets Chilean Author Alejandra Matus

SANTIAGO, Chile (Oct. 6, 2008) – Author A.C. Frieden traveled to Santiago, Chile, to continue to research for his upcoming political thriller set in Latin America. His research in Chile adds to his extensive travels to Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Uruguay, for the same novel.



Above: Frieden meeting with the controversial Chilean author Alejandra Matus.

During his visit, Frieden met with Alejandra Matus, the Chilean author of *El Libro Negro de la Justicia Chilena* (“The Black Book of Chilean Justice”, published in 1999 by Planeta Publishing Company; cover pictured below), a controversial chronicle of corruption in Chile’s judiciary. In response to the book, Chile’s Supreme Court Judge Servando Jordán commenced legal action based on the State Security Law, which makes it a crime to insult high level officials. The book’s entire print run was immediately seized from the publisher, and Alejandra was charged along with Planeta’s president and chief editor. Facing five years in jail if convicted, Alejandra fled to Miami and soon received political asylum. Only after legislation was introduced to repeal the law in 2001 was she permitted to return to Chile. However, her fight for press freedom is not over. In 2003, Alejandra resigned from the newspaper *La Nación* when it refused to run her story about alleged corruption involving the government’s Institute of Agricultural and Livestock Development. Today, she is a freelance journalist working for various publications, including the satirical paper *The Clinic*, Chile’s equivalent of the *The Onion*. Frieden’s discussions with Alejandra focused on the control of print and television media by wealthy families and powerful political figures in Chile, and the continuing challenges facing journalists.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is a Swiss-Brazilian mystery novelist and lawyer living in Chicago. For more information, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his literary travel blog.

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