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Demetria Martinez Biography

Demetria Martinez is a poet, writer and activist based in La Cienega, New Mexico. Her books include *The Block Captain's Daughter* (University of Oklahoma Press), a novella about Albuquerque, New Mexico activists, and winner of an American Book Award. Her widely translated novel, *Mother Tongue* (Ballantine), was inspired by Martinez's 1988 federal trial in connection with allegedly transporting Salvadoran women refugees into the country; she faced a potential 25-year prison sentence. In the course of the trial, the US government attempted to use her poem, "Nativity," against her..A reporter on topics related to religion who was covering the faith-based Sanctuary Movement, she was acquitted on First Amendment grounds. Other books include two poetry collections (University of Arizona Press); *Confessions of a Berlitz-Tape Chicana* (University of Oklahoma Press); a children's book, *Grandpa's Magic Tortilla*, co-authored with Rosalee Montoya Read (University of New Mexico Press); and *Let Them Work*, an ebook co-authored with former Oklahoma Senator Fred Harris. Demetria Martinez received the 2011 Luis Leal Award for Distinction in Chicano/Latino Literature. Her forthcoming book, coauthored with Susan Sherman and titled Poetry in Dangerous Times, will be out in the fall.