

# WALLS

## **SYNOPSIS**

When the Berlin Wall fell the end of History was proclaimed. And we shelved the idea of separation walls as part of the past. Reality is exactly the opposite. Never in the history of humanity have we built so many walls. There have never been so many fences, barbed wire, ditches and walls. There are miles of kilometres, in the most far off and different parts of the world. This film narrates real stories of people who live on both sides of very different walls. The one that divides South Africa and Zimbabwe, the separation wall between the United States and Mexico, the fence that in Melilla is used as a border between Spain and Morocco.

The visual and narrative approach is centred on the wall concept, not entering geopolitical analysis or the strategic or moral assessment of the situation. The fact is that the wall exists. The fact is that there are human lives on both sides. Knowing the daily life of a few personal stories, the wall lets us talk about something much deeper. The close and intense portraits of real people, approaching their real and intimate life let us see that, on both sides, we all share the same dreams, fears, thoughts and emotions. The drama represented by each wall –a drama that must be told– lets us to transmit and celebrate an emotion that has no borders and, unlike the walls, is immune to time: the absurd symmetry of each wall serves as a mirror and lets us discover that everybody shares the same essence.

## **Directors' letter. Pablo Iraburu and Miguelxo Molina.**

For over twenty years we have directed and produced documentaries. That has made us travel to very different places on the planet. We have witnessed dramatic situations and wonderful moments. We have seen and heard things incredibly diverse. On the way, we have discovered something we want to convey with this film. For many differences that people from the entire planet apparently have, in the most basic side of the human being, there is no difference. We all are part of the same; we share similar hopes, fears and dreams.

At the same time, we have discovered something and we want the world to know it too: never in the history of mankind had been built so many walls. Many fences and lines of separation. We are living a historic moment in which, for very different reasons, we impose ourselves a separation that is always dramatic.

## **Pablo Iraburu**

Co-director and executive producer. Pablo Iraburu is the founder and CEO of Arena Comunicación Audiovisual. He has devoted over 20 years to the production of documentaries. This has led him to film in places such as Guatemala, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, USA, Paraguay, Morocco, Chad, Madagascar, Malawi, Ivory Coast, India, Thailand, China and all over the European Community, from Scotland to Romania. His first full-length film as a producer, co-director and co-scriptwriter was "Nómadak TX", filmed in Lapland, India, Mongolia and Northern Africa. A winner in San Sebastian, the film had a long international tour. His second film, "Pura Vida/The Ridge", filmed in ten different countries also premiered and won a prize in San Sebastian and is currently being internationally distributed. In the last documentary produced by Arena, "Walls", Pablo has worked as a scriptwriter, codirector and producer. Apart from his documentary maker facet, Iraburu produces audiovisual works for different museums and for NGOs and non-profit making entities such as Medicus Mundi, United Nations or Oxfam and the European Commission, with whom he has produced the documentary "District Zero". He is a Documentary lecturer in the University of Navarra.

## **Miguelxo Molina**

Photography director, editor and producer in Arena Comunicación Audiovisual since 2007. Among his most recent works is the television programme "Desafío 14+1", which narrated an expedition to Everest without oxygen in ten half-hour programmes. He has been a scriptwriter, photography director and director of most of Arena's productions always working in close collaboration with Pablo Iraburu. He is the co-director and co-scriptwriter with Iraburu of "Pura Vida/The Ridge", and he has been codirector of Arena's last project, "Walls". He has particular experience in filming in complex situations, always handling characters and always in the documentary genre. His last work was a shooting in the Amazonia, for the TV Channel "Discovery Max", where he has been a camera operator and filmmaker.

## ARENA COMUNICACIÓN & TXLAP.ART

The association of our production companies, Txalap.art and Arena Comunicación Audiovisual is much more than just business. We're friends. We have worked together in multiple projects. Our first documentary feature, "Nömadak TX", taught us that we shared the same passion for telling stories with a purpose. Many years have passed since then, and that passion has grown and strengthened. After producing "Pura Vida" together once again, we found out that we complemented each other better and better. And that we both liked that thing of starting with a concrete story and then talking about something bigger that is affecting us all. Now we want to continue in this line, but to go further. We believe that the message from "Walls" is more necessary than ever. We feel the need for this film, so we couldn't help taking the leap and producing it with a shared illusion.

### Arena Comunicación ([www.arenacomunicacion.com](http://www.arenacomunicacion.com))

Arena Comunicación is a documentary production company for cinema and TV. It has been devoted for over ten years to the documentary production, having in charge all the process, from the idea to the master. Its last documentaries "Nömadak TX" and "Pura Vida" were premiered in the San Sebastián International Film Festival. In addition, the company is specialized in diverse kind of projects, such as documentary TV series, institutional videos and videoinstalations for museums.

### Txalap.art ([www.txalapart.com](http://www.txalapart.com))

The production company Txalap.art was born at the end of 2004, with the entrance of the couple of musicians "Oreka Tx" in the world of audiovisual production. This couple of txalapartaris formed by Igor Ochoa and Harkaitz Martínez de San Vicente created this company whose first work was the audiovisual project called "Nömadak Tx". Nowadays, Txalap.art is a recognized multimedia company, placed in San Sebastián, and dedicated to artists' representation, shows production, events organization and music and audiovisual production.



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SUPPORTED BY: **ICAA** (Spanish Ministry of Culture), **INAAC** (Government of Navarre), **Basque Government**, **MEDIA Program** (EU), **Etxepare Basque Institute** (Basque Government).

### BROADCASTERS:



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### OTHER DATA

Filmed in Spain, Morocco, United States, Mexico, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Palestine.  
Production: 2013/14 / Postproduction: 2015 Spanish premiere: October 2015  
Length: 80' Shooting format: 4K Subtitles: English, Spanish, Basque.  
Screening format: DCP Screening ratio: 1.90: 1 Languages: English, Spanish, Arabic.

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### TECHNICAL DATA

**DIRECTION:** PABLO IRABURU AND MIGUELTXO MOLINA

**ORIGINAL IDEA AND SCRIPT:** PABLO IRABURU

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:** PABLO IRABURU, IGOR OTXOA AND HARKAITZ MARTÍNEZ DE SAN VICENTE

**PRODUCTION MANAGERS:** ITZIAR GARCÍA ZUBIRI AND MARGA GUTIÉRREZ

**PHOTOGRAPHY DIRECTOR:** PABLO IRABURU

**DIRECT SOUND:** MIGUELTXO MOLINA

**PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR:** ITZIAR GARCÍA ZUBIRI

**MUSIC:** MIKEL SALAS

**EDITING:** MIGUELTXO MOLINA AND PABLO IRABURU

**POSTPRODUCTION:** NURIA PÉREZ, MIGUEL GARCÍA AND NATXO LEUZA

**SOUND DESIGNER AND MIXER:** ERNESTO SANTANA MOLINERO

**MUSIC COMPOSED AND PERFORMED BY:** MIKEL SALAS

## CAST

Caren Hernández	Mexico	Meza Weza	South Africa
Ghariba el Bokhari	Morocco	Izak Johannes Meyer Nel	South Africa
Al Enciso	United States	Iván García Lázaro	Mexico
Jaime Mimún	Melilla (Spain)	Bokhar Brício	Morocco

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## QUOTES FROM THE FILM:

*"That wall is my obstacle. My kids are on the other side".* Caren Hernández (Mexico).

*"Wars and walls are the same thing."* Meza Weza (Zimbabwe).

*"We would have to build a new big and tall wall. And I would electrify it".* Izak Nel (South Africa).

*"We try to keep them out. We can't let them in, it's the law."* Jaime Mimún (Spain).

*"Some believe that immigration is illegal. Some believe it is the right thing to do. I don't care about those things. I just want to make sure that they don't die out there".* Al Enciso (United States).

*"We all share the same basic emotions, no matter where you are in this world".* Al Enciso (United States).

*"A friend of mine used to say that we have to pray for people, that we have to ask God to help them. But God is not going to help these people; we got to do it ourselves".* Al Enciso (United States).

*"The person on the other side knows we're doing our duty".* Jaime Mimún (Spain).

*"This is Limpopo river. Now you will have to cross it".* Meza Weza (Zimbabwe).

*"I feel sorry for them, but they've got no right to cross".* Jaime Mimún (Spain).

*"We told him we wanted to go on. We escaped.*

*Then they killed two passengers in front of me. We just wanted to escape".* Bokhar (Morocco).

*"Every border must have a fence. A proper fence.*

*And the Army's job is to patrol this fence".* Izak Nel (South Africa).

*"Every artifact that you find on the trail has a story to tell.*

*A backpack, a shoe, a blanket...every item has a story behind it.*

*We don't know what the story is. But it's a story that should be told somehow".* Al Enciso (United States).

*"Every time I see the wall, I see things like: "Keep away", "Stay out", "Don't come in"*

*When you go to Mexico, you have this big sign that says "Welcome."*

*There's no sign here that says "Welcome".* Al Enciso (United States).

*"My life would be meaningless without my kids. I would have probably left this place".* Ghariba El Bokhari (Morocco).

## PRESS CONTACT:

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## ARENA COMUNICACIÓN

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