

## Dear Friends,

BRON: Brief van Ariel Dorfman naar aanleiding van de presentatie van *Koers Zuid, richting Noord*, 27 september 2019 in boekhandel Het Fort van Sjakoo, Amsterdam

I am sorry that Angelica and I cannot be present at this event that celebrates the republication of *Heading South, Looking North* in Holland. This is a particularly significant event, as that memoir – like so many other books – only exists due to the solidarity and love we received in our four years of exile in Holland, a welcome from so many of you that allowed us to survive and, therefore, of course, allowed this book to be written. You gave us refuge and helped us to heal when we were most in need of solace, coming from the sorrow and terror of the coup that is described in the book. I can safely say that the friendship and care, the breathing space that Holland afforded us, was essential to a deeper knowledge of myself (and one would hope, some wisdom), that would later create the conditions that led me to write *Heading South, Looking North*. In that sense, the fact that this memoir is again circulating in our beloved Holland is like a new homecoming for Angélica and me and, of course, for Rodrigo and Joaquín.

Because the book is the product of a wanderer, someone who himself and whose family and ancestors were forced into multiple migrations, and because it rejoices in biculturalism and bilingualism and bi-everything, and because it speaks of a time in history when hope and justice and resistance flourished, perhaps it may remind people today of the need to fight hatred and intolerance, especially towards those who come from afar and are different and challenging. These are dire times and Angelica and I and our family that you welcomed so warmly, are very glad that you are now able to enjoy our story all over again, the story that we started to tell you so many decades ago when we lived in your wondrous city, *compañeros* and *compañeras*. A special thanks to our dear Max, for writing such a moving and affectionate afterword, and to Nils, for believing in the book, and, of course, to Amsterdam, for making it possible.



Max Arian, met rechts van hem Jan van der Putten, tijdens zijn redevoering bij de boekpresentatie.  
Foto: Adinda Arian