

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 01 2017

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PEN SA Africa Pulse #1

PEN SA Africa Pulse is a new feature that we will be running this year. It's a weekly round-up of news concerning cases of freedom of expression and the freedom of the press in Africa.

South African photojournalist kidnapped in Syria

Shiraaz Mohamed, a Johannesburg-based photojournalist, has been kidnapped in Syria. At the time of his kidnapping, Mohamed was traveling on Aljamiliye Road, close to the Turkish border, with two **Gift of the Givers** members. The armed men, after questioning the other two members about Mohamed's identity, removed Mohamed from the car at gunpoint. All three of them were then blindfolded and driven around for an hour. The two Gift of the Givers members were dropped off and were told that Mohamed would be questioned due to a "misunderstanding" and would be returned within two days. That was on 10 January, it is now 16 January, 6 days later, and Mohamed's whereabouts remain unknown.

Daily Vox, News 24, Al Jazeera.

Sunday Standard, a Botswana newspaper whose editor is currently in jail, remains resolute against government pressure to change its editorial policy

Sunday Standard newspaper's deputy editor, Spencer Mogapi has said the newspaper will not cave in to government pressure to amend its editorial policy. The newspaper's editor, Outsa Mokone, **is facing a possible two-year long jail sentence** and its senior journalist, Edgar Tsimane, has fled the country and is seeking asylum in neighbouring South Africa following threats on his life. Mogapi said despite all this, the *Sunday Standard* newspaper will not review its editorial policy to suit the conditions of the government.

Sunday Standard, Daily Maverick

...read more



Nobel prize winner Svetlana Alexievich quits 'shameful' Russian PEN

"Nobel prize winner Svetlana Alexievich has quit the Russian PEN centre to protest against the expulsion of journalist and activist Sergey Parkhomenko, joining 30 other writers including novelist Boris Akunin and poet Lev Rubinstein leaving the organisation." [...read more](#)

PEN SA is deeply concerned about the actions of Russian PEN and what these developments say about the current status of free expression globally.

(Image courtesy of Vasily Fedosenko/Reuters via [The Guardian](#))



PEN Atlas: Q&A with Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

"I reject the conception of relations among languages, cultures and literatures in terms of hierarchy. Literatures and cultures should relate on an equal give and take basis of a network. Network Not Hierarchy."

Last month, English PEN's literary blog, PEN Atlas, published Tasja Dorkofikis' interview with Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o...[read more](#)

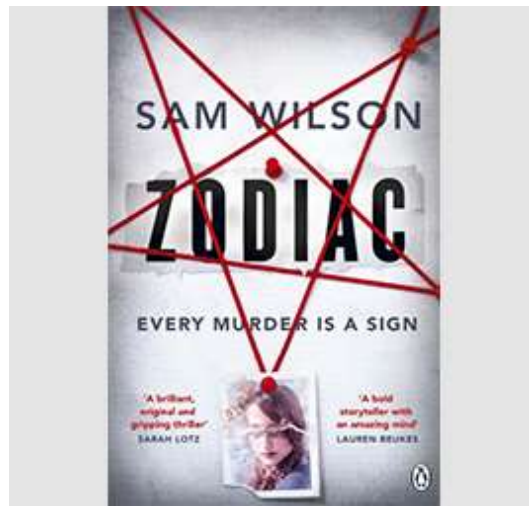
(Image courtesy of [PEN Atlas](#))

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Take a look at the literary events still coming up this month, including plays written by Mike van Graan and Siphiwo Mahala...[read more](#)

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



Take a look back through the books published by PEN SA members last year, including [Zodiac](#) by Sam Wilson...[read more](#)

WELCOME!

uHlanga is holding its first open submissions period for original chapbooks and collections of poetry from South African poets, or poets living in South Africa from 1 February to 28 February 2017...[read more](#)

Modjaji Books, which publishes southern African women writers, will be open for manuscript submissions from 1st March to the end of April 2017...[read more](#)

Adam & Rosalie Small Award for Debutant / Debutante Writers...[read more](#)

The Kalahari Review announces The Igby Prize For Nonfiction (monthly)...[read more](#)

\$50,000 St. Francis College Literary Prize for mid-career authors...[read more](#)

Realness Screenwriters Residency...[read more](#)

Prairie Schooner Book Prize...[read more](#)

Philosophy Through Fiction's Short Story Competition...[read more](#)

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional members Kholofelo Maenetsha and Buhle Ngaba.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Henrietta Rose-Innes has been longlisted for the Galley Beggar Press Short Story Prize...[read more](#)

Jacqui L'Ange has been shortlisted for the Etisalat Prize for Literature...[read more](#)

PEN SA Executive Vice-President Mandla Langa's book *The Texture of Shadows* is being published in Beijing this month...[read more](#)

2017 DISQUIET Prize for Fiction, Poetry, and Non-fiction...[read more](#)

TSSF Magazine calling for submissions...[read more](#)

Granta Magazine accepting fiction submissions...[read more](#)

CENTRE NEWS

Mike van Graan has resigned from the board as he will be out of the country for some time in 2017. PEN SA is very grateful for all the hard work and time he put in as a member of the board and wishes him the best of luck.

Send us your news

Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a festival? Won an award? Achieved a personal milestone of note? We welcome any news of your activities for future issues of the PEN SA newsletter.

Please email your contributions
to communications@pensouthafrica.co.za



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