

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 11.

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Issue 11  
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Books are to education what oxygen is to life. Without books there is no learning, no knowledge, no understanding, no empathy. A book is a wonder – it is the distillation of what we know and how we live together. It is outrageous to think that just because a child is poor they should be cut off from books – the lifeblood of our shared community.

A book – and this includes the textbooks which are for so many millions of South African children the only books they will possess – is companion, guide and freedom. A book – a textbook – gives a child the autonomy they need to study and read at their own pace. This is not a luxury. Books and the hands that hold them give the shape of our shared futures. To deprive children of books – to which they have a right – is tantamount to depriving those same children of food.

With this in mind PEN South Africa supports SECTION27 and Better Education for All (BEFA)'s #TextbooksMatter Campaign. SECTION27 is a public interest law centre that seeks to influence, develop and use the law to protect, promote and advance human rights. BEFA is a community based organisation made up of parents, school governing bodies, learners, educators and other community members in Limpopo. ...[read more](#)

*Writers add your name to this call by clicking [here](#) and filling in the form.*



### **Reflections on the PEN International 81st Congress**

The 81st PEN International Congress was held in Quebec City, Canada from October 13 – 16. PEN SA Vice-President Raymond Louw and his wife Jean, as well as PEN SA Centre Co-ordinator Lindsay Callaghan, attended.



### **Read Bheki Makhubu's Carlos Cardoso Memorial Lecture**

Bheki Makhubu, columnist and Editor-in-Chief of *The Nation* in Swaziland was in South Africa this week to give the Carlos Cardoso Memorial Lecture at Wits. In March 2014 Bheki was jailed on charges of contempt of court following the publication of articles criticising the

Raymond has written about the Resolutions put forward by the Centre that were approved at Congress...[read more](#)

Jean has reflected on her impression of the event...[read more](#)

Lindsay visited the PEN America Centre following Congress and has written about both experiences...[read more](#)

## NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



PEN SA members with new books out include Zakes Mda, Imraan Coovadia, Joanne Hichens and Justice

judicial system. He was released in July of this year.

Read the lecture that Bheki gave and listen to an interview he and PEN SA Vice-President Raymond Louw took part in on media freedom in Africa...[read more](#)



## On the Twentieth Anniversary of the Execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa

Ken Saro-Wiwa was born in October 1941 in Bori, Nigeria. After graduating from the University of Ibadan he worked briefly as a teacher before his best

[Malala...read more](#)

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

Mark Winkler has been shortlisted for the 2015 Short Story Day Africa Prize...[read more](#)

Zukiswa Wanner, Charl-Pierre Naudé, Edwin Cameron, Michele Magwood and Achmat Dangor won South African Literat Awards...[read more](#)

PEN South Africa's Executive Vice-President Mandla Langa and members Zakes Mda and Imraan Coovadia have been nominated for the 2016 International Dublin Literary Award...[read more](#)

Sarah Lotz has been nominated for a 2015 Goodreads Choice Award and you can vote for her to get through to the next round until 15 November...[read more](#)

Masande Ntshanga and ZP Dala have been longlisted for the 2015 Etisalat

known novel, *Sozaboy: A Novel In Rotten English*, an anti-war satire, was published in 1985 [...read more](#)

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## Join us in Commemorating the Day of the Imprisoned Writer

Join master of ceremonies Finuala Dowling as she hosts an event that will include award-winning writers Sindiwe Magona, Claire Robertson and Jim Pascual Agustin. Famous freedom songs will be performed by prizewinning songwriter and vocalist Emma Rycroft together with Nielan Prinsloo of the band Blacksmith.

Prize for Literature...[read more](#)

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## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Sunday Times Literary Awards open for submissions from publishers...[read more](#)

The University of Johannesburg Prize for South African Writing in English...[read more](#)

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

BK Publishers Looking for Children's Short Story Writers...[read more](#)

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When: Monday 16 November at 6 for 6.30pm

Where: Kalk Bay Books, 124 Main Road, Kalk Bay, Cape Town

RSVP: 021 788 2266 or

[events@kalkbaybooks.co.za](mailto:events@kalkbaybooks.co.za) ...[read more](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Take a look at what's happening in November...[read more](#)

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## WELCOME

Professional members Simone Haysom and Tiah Beautement, as well as our first Supporter, Roland Langley.

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[Send us your news](#)

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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](mailto:communications@pensouthafrica.co.za)



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Website

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