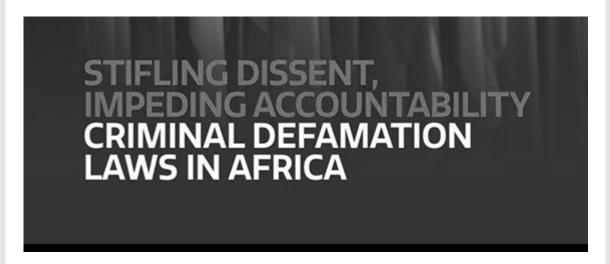
PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 23 2017

View this email in your browser



Issue 23 6 December 2017 ISSN 2410-2210



PEN Report on Criminal Defamation Laws in Africa

A new report by PEN has found that many governments in Africa retain criminal defamation laws that make it a crime to say, write or publish anything that they consider defamatory or insulting. The result is a restriction of freedom of expression, open debate, political criticism and media reporting.

The report, Stifling Dissent Impeding Accountability Criminal Defamation Laws in Africa, focuses on the continued retention of such laws in Uganda, Zambia, South

Africa and Sierra Leone and examines the impact of the repeal of criminal defamation laws in Ghana in 2001.

PEN's research reveals that the threat of criminal sanctions deters media investigations into, and reporting of, issues considered by governments to be sensitive or embarrassing, such as high-level corruption, official malpractice or law-breaking, thereby facilitating official secrecy and undermining accountability. In many cases, where journalists, editors or publishers have refused to be cowed into self-censorship by these laws, they have been subject to arrest, detention, prosecution and long drawn out trials, and sometimes imprisonment for months or even years, leading to a culture of fear...read more

(Image courtesy of PEN International)



Raymond Louw: Criminal Defamation Laws Have No Place in Democracy

"Global writers' group PEN International is vigorously stepping up



Nooshin Erfani-Ghadimi: South Africa's Long Walk to Freedom of Expression

"In South Africa and throughout the world, the internet has allowed many

its campaign against the use of criminal defamation and "insult" laws in Africa.

The campaign, which is a few years old, is being waged by PEN SA, PEN International and PEN centres in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia."...read more

(Image courtesy of <u>Times LIVE</u>)

people to reassert their freedom from the powerful and to shape cultural, historical and political contexts and conversations for themselves. The freedoms of South Africans are protected under the 1996 Constitution."...read more

(Image courtesy of Nooshin Erfani-Ghadimi)

UPCOMING EVENTS

See what literary events are still coming up this year, including the Abantu Book Festival which starts tomorrow.

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Ingrid Jonker Prize for English Poetry...read more

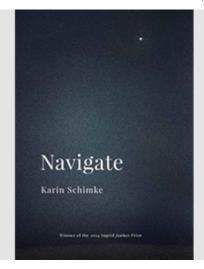
Caine Prize for African Writing...read more

Realness Screenwriters
Residency...read more

Africa Centre's Artists In Residency (AIR) Programme...read more

CONGRATULATIONS!

Pan Macmillan South Africa have sold the Italian rights to Gail Schimmel's



Recently published books by PEN SA members include *Navigate* by Karin Schimke, *Indefensible: Van Breda* by Nick van der Leek, *Letters to My Comrades* which Keorapetse Kgositsile co-compiled and *Cutting Carrots the Wrong Way* which was edited by Kobus Moolman and features writing by Kerry Hammerton...read more

WELCOME

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional member Imran Garda and Supporter member Rachel Holmes.

AWARDS NEWS

novel, The Park...read more

Fred Khumalo, Palesa Deejay Manaleng and Megan Ross have been shortlisted for the 2017 Morland Writing Scholarship...read more

Evadeen Brickwood's book *Children of* the Moon has won the Science Fiction category in the 2017 Book Talk Radio Club Awards...read more

Zukiswa Wanner and Niq Mhlongo have been selected as JIAS Writing Fellows 2018...read more

Megan Ross will be publishing her debut poetry collection with uHlanga Press next year...read more

Ellipsis Zine have selected Richard de Nooy's flash piece "Spring Cleaning" as one of their five nominees for the Pushcart Prize...read more

Efemia Chela was a finalist for the Iceland Writers Retreat Alumni Award...read more

Mike Nicol's Revenge trilogy has been optioned for television...read more

Anirood Singh's short story "Passage

The finalists of the ImpACT Award have been announced...read more

The winners of the Morland Writing Scholarships 2017 were announced...read more

The Jacana Literary Foundation have announced the winner of the Kraak Writing Grant and explained that there won't be a Dinaane Debut Fiction Award winner this year...read more

from India" has been accepted for publication by the University of London's SAS and Commonwealth Writers for an anthology commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the end of indentured labour.

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 let us know if your email changes so we can update our mailing list.

Please email your contributions

to communications@pensouthafrica.co.za



Copyright © 2017 PEN South Africa, all rights reserved. All information regarding awards/competitions, residencies, festivals, etc., included in this newsletter is passed on to you as a service to PEN SA

members. Any questions regarding entry rules, entry processes, festival programmes, etc., should be sent directly to the relevant organisers. PEN SA attempts to establish that the information received is genuine before passing this on to our members, but we cannot be held responsible should that not be the case.

unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences

This email was sent to << Email Address>>

why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences

PEN South Africa · Tokai · Tokai , Western Cape 7966 · South Africa

