

To: SA PEN Members

E-Newsletter No. 1/2013 – 18/01/2013



THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE OF

PEN INTERNATIONAL

A World Association of Writers

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Call For Applications for Residency: African Literary Writers

The Sylt Foundation calls all Writers of contemporary African literature to apply for the two month African Writer's Residency, offered as part of the Sylt Foundation Residency Programme. One residency is awarded annually to Africa writers who have published poetry, prose, plays and novels.

The Foundation is located on the island of Sylt, off the coast of Hamburg, Germany. The Foundation's residency programme has been running for several years offering opportunities to South African and international visual artists, writers and photographers. It is managed under the directorship of literary scholar and curator Indra Wussow.

The winning applicant will be selected by an experienced and credible selection panel of literary professionals and invited to take up this exciting opportunity to enjoy creative writing time on the island at the Foundation Kunst: Raum Sylt Quelle. The writer is expected to work on or complete the writing project proposed in their application.

Application requirements:

- a project proposal of the project the writer wishes to work on while in residence
- it can be a current or proposed literary project
- a synopsis of the novel, short story or poetry project

Key Dates:

- **Deadline for application submission is by 4 pm Friday, 15 February 2013**
- Announcement and notification of 5 shortlisted finalists 1 April 2013
- Announcement of Residency Award Winner 1 June 2013
- Residency to be taken up from June 2013 – 2014

For additional information: www.artsourcesouthafrica.co.za, email: info@artsourcesouthafrica.co.za or Art Source South Africa's Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/AfricanWritersResidency?fref=ts>)

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Small Publishers' Catalogue – Africa 2013

<http://www.indiegogo.com/smallpublisherscatalogue2013Africa>

Due to popular demand Modjaji Books is producing an updated *Small Publishers' Catalogue – Africa* for 2013. **We have an intern for December and January who is working on it.** Email me (Colleen Higgs - cdhiggs@gmail.com) if you are interested in being listed in the catalogue. Listings cost R250 for South Africans or USD28 (via paypal) which will include one copy of the catalogue posted to you wherever you are in the world. The rate card for sponsorship or advertising is available on request.

If you look at the online version of 2010 catalogue – you will see it has had over 4 300 visits. We sold and distributed 500 printed copies of the 2010 catalogue at the Cape Town Book Fair, at the Frankfurt Book Fair, and in South African book stores and by post.

We've set up a campaign to raise funds to publish an updated and much more comprehensive edition of the *Small Publishers' Catalogue Africa 2013*. Funds have started coming in from those who support the campaign. Please check it out, especially if you have ever been published by a small publisher, a literary magazine, an online zine, or been given advice, suggestions, input, feedback or anything else similar.

The Catalogue is a showcase for small and indie publishers, and having them all in a catalogue is an incredibly useful way for librarians, bookstores, bibliophiles, researchers, students of Africana, you name it to have the information in one place.

While working at the Centre for the Book, I was involved in the first *Small Publishers' Catalogue* which only featured South African publishers. University librarians from the British Library, Harvard, Yale and Stanford were at the Cape Town Book Fair, and they all eagerly snapped the Catalogue up, as did stores like Clarke's and local university librarians. We printed 500 copies and now sadly it is out of print.

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Press release from Swedish PEN January 9, 2013
New issue out now—Twelve Texts About Turkey
<http://www.dissidentblog.org>

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN TURKEY?

Turkey has now surpassed both Iran and China as the one country in the world that is holding the most journalists and writers imprisoned. Vaguely phrased anti-terrorist laws make it possible for the government to stifle critical voices from all spheres of society. This seventh issue of the Dissident Blog is wholly dedicated to presenting recent political developments in the country. People whose voices we share here have paid a high price for maintaining the struggle to both reveal and to discuss the Turkish regime’s lack of respect for democracy and for the freedom of speech. In his introductory note Ola Larsmo writes:

“It is therefore of vital importance that we understand how the movement towards democracy in Turkey is being threatened. Those who are best at explaining the situation are of course the country’s own authors and writers. In this issue of the Dissident Blog we have tried to collect a spectra of different perspectives on the situation in Turkey: from Muhsin Kizilkaya’s eagle-eyed overview of the modern history of the freedom of speech in the country to the young film director Mizgin Mújde Arslan’s own testimony of the consequences of dealing with sensitive topics in film.”

Contact us for more information: Ola Larsmo Elnaz Baghlanian, Publisher and Associated Editor. E-mail: ola.larsmo@svenskapen.se or elnaz.baghlanian@svenskapen.se. *Swedish PEN’s Dissident Blog wants to present the forbidden texts—the texts that can neither be written nor published in the writers’ own countries. We want to give these texts both a Swedish and an international audience. We want to function as a link between writers in crisis zones and the established media. The Dissident Blog is regularly published since 2011 by Swedish PEN with the support of SIDA and Statens Kulturråd (the Swedish Arts Council).*

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Monthly Letter to the Members of PEN International, from Executive Director Laura McVeigh, 11th January 2013

Dear Friends,

As we begin 2013, I wish you all every success for the year ahead.

My thanks to all PEN centres who have already sent in details of your centre’s activity for 2012 – this is greatly appreciated as we compile the annual review for 2012 this month.

January and February are busy handover months in the international secretariat as we look to recruit a new Writers in Prison Committee Programme Director as Sara Whyatt now steps down from the role. We will also be wishing Frank Geary well in his new role with a development organisation in Ireland. Both Frank

and Sara have made a tremendous contribution to PEN International's work and we thank them for all they have done for PEN.

I am delighted to share latest news of the New Voices Award which was announced at the PEN International Congress in Korea – this award will connect and highlight young writers of talent to PEN internationally. Full details can be found online at www.pen-international.org and James Tennant, Literary Manager, can answer any additional queries your centre may have regarding participation. We hope as many centres as possible will take up this opportunity.

This year, as we continue the focus on Impunity – see the second of our publications in the PEN International Publishers Circle Collection, the new Write Against Impunity anthology <http://www.pen-international.org/write-against-impunity-2012-2/> – we will also be launching a new global focus on digital freedom. The PEN Declaration on Digital Freedom can be downloaded here: <http://www.pen-international.org/themes/pen-declaration-on-digital-freedom/>.

Campaign information will be circulated to all centres later this month. We will be focusing on this key issue through 2013 and hope to work with many centres on this global campaign throughout the year. Please share your thoughts and suggestions with us – contact Sahar Halaimzai who is coordinating the campaign:

Sahar.halaimzai@pen-international.org.

See the new calendar of key PEN International events and dates for all centres for the year ahead – it can be viewed online at www.pen-international.org. If you feel an event should be added please let Sahar know. We are also keen to feature as many PEN events online as possible – do send details of events your centre is planning and we can include them.

We are developing an online bookshop for the website and invite all centres which would like to feature PEN publications to contact Sahar or James for more details (Sahar.halaimzai@pen-international.org / James.tennant@pen-international.org).

This month PEN is participating in Hay Festival Cartagena in Columbia – a copy of the full programme can be downloaded at <http://www.hayfestival.com/cartagena/en-index.aspx?skinid=5>. We'll be tweeting from the event (@pen_int) and sharing photographs, interviews and news throughout the festival.

On 21 Feb PEN International will be celebrating International Mother Tongue Day and we invite all centres to participate – details will be circulated in advance by Sarah Clarke, Policy Officer.

All best wishes,
Laura McVeigh
Executive Director

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A warm **welcome to new members:** Athini Watu and Raenette Taljaard.



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PEN International condemns investigation against PEN Turkey for criticizing the State, 10th January 2013

PEN International strongly condemns the investigation launched by the Istanbul Public Prosecutor's Office today against the PEN Turkey Board for insulting the State under the controversial Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code.

The investigation is being made as a result of an article posted on PEN Turkey's website on 3 June 2012 protesting the trial of composer and writer Fazıl Say, who is charged with insulting 'religious values' on social media. His trial is currently under way. The article in question refers to "fascist developments" in Turkey. Article 301 makes it illegal to insult the Turkish Republic, the Turkish ethnicity, or Turkish government institutions.

On 25 December 2012, a police officer visited PEN Turkey offices in Istanbul and demanded the contact details of all the Centre's board members. If the investigation is granted approval from the Justice Minister, PEN Turkey's President Tarık Günersel, Vice-President Halil İbrahim Özcan, General Secretary Sabri Kuşkonmaz, International Relations Secretary Ahmet Erözenci, Treasurer Tülin Dursun, board members Zeynep Oral and Mario Levi, as well as poet and critic Nihat Ateş (who uploaded the content to the PEN website) will join scores of writers who have been brought before the courts under a law that is entirely at odds with the principle of freedom of expression and one that is widely condemned both in Turkey and around the world.

John Ralston Saul, PEN International president said: *'This extraordinary attack is aimed at the entire Board of Directors of PEN Turkey, elected by their colleagues around the country. What is more, this charge is a misuse of a law which, in the context of international freedom of expression standards, itself should not exist. The President of PEN Turkey was an official member of the recent PEN International Delegation to Turkey which raised its concerns regarding the state of freedom of expression with both the head of state Abdullah Gül and the minister for EU Affairs, Egemen Bağış.'*

In an official statement submitted to the court the board of Turkish PEN said: *'As a result of an announcement constituting support for Fazıl Say that we gave as the PEN Board on 3 June [2012], we were called to the prosecutor's office to submit an official statement under Article 301. On 10 January 2013, we submitted an official statement. In the announcement that is the subject of the complaint, we said the following:*

As the Turkey Centre of the international writers association PEN, we strongly condemn and meet with consternation the [news] that our esteemed composer and pianist Fazıl Say has been called up to court. The international community has been put on alert in the face of fascist developments in Turkey.

In the official statement we submitted as the board, we outlined that the above words were an expression of thought and a criticism, that they were

not intended as being aimed as an insult. We emphasised that the right to criticise, a constitutional and legal right, was being exercised. As a result, it was requested that a decision not to prosecute would be given.'

PEN International strongly condemns this violation against freedom of expression and calls on the Turkish government to terminate without delay any prosecutions currently under way against PEN Turkey and to abolish Article 301 in its entirety.

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Mondays at St. Clements - Short Story Competition 2013

Precisely 100 words (no more, no less)

Our short-story competitions in 2011 and 2012 attracted over 100 submissions each year. We have therefore decided to make this an annual event to coincide with the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere.

In celebration of the shortest day of the year which falls on 21st June in 2013, Mondays at St. Clements is celebrating National Short Story Day. We follow the lead of a UK-wide celebration with the same name, an initiative aimed at promoting fiction in its succinct form, focusing on South African writing that lends itself to this tradition.

GUIDELINES:

- length: 100 words (excluding title). Stories of more or less than 100 words will be disqualified
- entries by email to kwasuka1@mweb.co.za
- state author's name and word count
- use large font: e.g. Times New Roman, 14 pt
- author of winning story will receive a presentation box of wine or electric coffee percolator
- stories will be adjudicated by David Basckin
- author's names will be deleted for adjudication
- a maximum number of 5 submissions per person is permitted
- stories submitted for previous competitions will not be considered
- **closing date: Monday, 3rd June, 2013**
- the top ten stories will be published in *le petit déjeuner 3*, comprising a selection of 50 short stories
- all stories will be read at St. Clements on the two Mondays following the presentation.

NOTE: Each year a different judge is invited to adjudicate the stories: 2011: Kobus Moolman; 2012: Graham Linscott, Carolyn Howie and Richard Finch; 2013: David Basckin

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2014 edition of The Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa

The Board of Trustees of The Lumina Foundation and Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa are calling for entries for the 2014 edition of The Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa.

Only works in the prose category will be considered for the 2014 Prize. The prose works to be considered must be either published full length novels or published collections of short stories by the same author.

The Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa was established by the Lumina Foundation in 2005 as a Biennial Award for the best literary work produced by an African. The prize is intended to serve as an African equivalent of the Nobel Prize, particularly in recognizing and encouraging professional and personal excellence.

The judges for the 2014 Award are:

NO.	ZONE	NAME	NATIONALITY
1	NORTH AFRICA	Eid Shabbir	SOUTHERN SUDANESE
2	WEST AFRICA	Dr. Awo Asiedu	GHANAIAN
3	WEST AFRICA	Jonathan Moshal	IVORIEN
4	WEST AFRICA	Prof. Olu Obafemi	NIGERIAN
5	SOUTHERN AFRICA	Liesl Louw	SOUTH AFRICAN

The submission deadline is 10th August 2013. For full entry details go to: <http://luminafoundationsoyinkaprize.com/> or email enquiry@luminafoundationsoyinkaprize.com or info@luminafoundationsoyinkaprize.com.

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Publications received

SA PEN has received the following publications. Should you wish to read any of them please contact Deborah on rudebs@icon.co.za

- *In Focus* – Quarterly magazine on literature, culture and the arts in Cyprus, Volume 9, No. 4: December 2012
- *Japanese Book News*, No. 74, Winter 2012
- *The Taipei Chinese PEN* – A quarterly journal of contemporary Chinese literature from Taiwan, No. 161, Autumn 2012

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Forthcoming events

- ❖ Die Suidoosterfees – 29th January to 3rd February 2013, Cape Town. <http://www.suidoosterfees.co.za/>
- ❖ International Mother Tongue Day – 21st February 2013

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Kindly note that **SA PEN's Facebook address has changed** to:
<http://www.facebook.com/southafricanpen>. SA PEN's website address is
www.sapen.co.za.

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Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a Festival? Won an award? Achieved a personal milestone of note? The compiler would welcome any news of your activities for future issues of the SA PEN e-newsletter. Please e-mail your contributions to rudebs@icon.co.za.

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All information regarding awards/competitions, residencies, festivals, etc., included in this newsletter is passed on to you as a service to SA PEN members. Any questions regarding entry rules, entry processes, festival programmes, etc., should be forwarded direct to the relevant organisers. SA PEN 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.

