

To: SA PEN Members  
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THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE OF  
PEN INTERNATIONAL

A World Association of Writers

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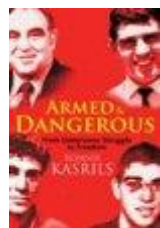
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**Book Launch – *Armed & Dangerous* by Ronnie Kasrils, 17th September, Cape Town**



Join Ronnie Kasrils in discussion with Tim Butcher at the launch of the 4th edition of Ronnie's memoir *Armed & Dangerous*, with a new Introduction - State of ANC & Government.

Where - Kalk Bay Books (124 Main Road. opposite Cape to Cuba), Kalk Bay, Cape Town.

**When – Tuesday, 17th September, 6.00 for 6.30 p.m.**

Please RSVP by 16th September to <http://www.kalkbaybooks.co.za/author-events-detail.php?id=334> or tel. (021) 788 2266

Now in its fourth edition, *Armed & Dangerous* is the first-hand account of Kasrils’s years in both the liberation struggle and in government. First published in 1993, *Armed & Dangerous* was one of the earliest struggle memoirs to deal from a personal

perspective with the formation and development of Umkhonto weSizwe, and the remarkable role it played in helping to bring about the downfall of apartheid.

Dedicated to the Born Frees, the generation born after the attainment of a democratic South Africa in 1994, to help them understand the struggle and carry on where we left off to make South Africa a better place for all who live in it, this is a story that will resonate for years to come.

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**South Africa’s President Zuma rejects ‘Secrecy Bill’; sends it back to parliament for review, by Raymond Louw, Vice-President, SA PEN, 12th September 2013**



South Africa’s President Jacob Zuma has refused to sign into law the contested Protection of State Information Bill, an official secrets class of legislation which was dubbed the ‘‘Secrecy Bill’’ and which was vigorously opposed by the media and civil rights institutions since it was introduced into parliament in 2008. The Bill, after many amendments, was passed by both Houses of Parliament and merely required President Zuma’s signature for it to become law. But President Zuma has now referred the legislation back to parliament for further review on the ground that it is unconstitutional. PEN South Africa applauds the action taken by the president.

The media whose views were expressed by the SA National Editors’ Forum (Sanef) said it welcomed President Zuma’s decision and said it would lend help in trying to craft acceptable legislation. Sanef had claimed that the Bill was unconstitutional and that if the President signed it into law it would refer it to the Constitutional Court to seek a ruling that it was unconstitutional. In the last month Sanef collaborated with representatives of the national publishers’ body in sending a letter to President Zuma urging him to refer the legislation back to parliament for review.

President Zuma issued a statement saying that after consideration of the Bill he held the view that it did not pass constitutional muster. His specific objections were that sections of the Bill ‘‘lack meaning and coherence, consequently are irrational and accordingly are unconstitutional’’. While the main objections to the Bill came from journalists and lawyers, with journalists and whistle-blowers being regarded as the most vulnerable, authors and writers were also regarded as potential victims of the legislation when enacted.

To read more go to  
<http://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2013/09/12/zuma-sends-info-bill-back-to-national-assembly>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/12/south-africa-zuma-secrecy-bill>  
<http://pen.org/blog/controversial-south-african-secrecy-bill-sent-back-parliament>  
<http://bookslive.co.za/blog/2013/04/30/secrecy-bill-south-african-civil-society-fights-back/>

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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](mailto:rudebs@icon.co.za).

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**Book Launch - *Ann and Alan: The End and the Beginning* by Ann Cluver Weinberg, 21st September, Johannesburg**

Where: At Roedean School – in what we used to call “The Reference Library”

**When: Saturday, 21st September 2013**

Tea and sandwiches and spring flowers from 10.30 to 12.30

Ann will be introduced by her sister, Helen, at 11.00 and will talk for a while about her book.

RSVP: [SAPLER.PRESS@artslink.co.za](mailto:SAPLER.PRESS@artslink.co.za)

This is an intense exploration of two South Africans who came together in winter 1958 – Ann, the exploring introvert in touch with her feelings, and Alan, the expressive extrovert with a damaged childhood and youth.

The author also tells the story of the wandering Weinbergs, who unlike Ann and Alan quite desperately wanted to fit into the society they found themselves in, whether Boer or Brit, culturally highbrow, German or Russian – but seldom Jewish.

Ann will read from a letter which Alan wrote describing his first impressions shortly after meeting her. He wrote this letter to his ex-fiancé, Ruth, who willingly and joyfully gave it to Ann for her book.

Roedean comes into the book when the author tells how her previous boyfriend, Mark, wanted to burn it down; but also in her adventures at the school with her friend Tooty when they were both carefree 13-year-olds.

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**Forthcoming events**

- ❖ **International Translation Day** – 30th September 2013
- ❖ **Frankfurt Book Fair** – 9th to 13th October 2013. [www.buchmesse.de/en/xbf/](http://www.buchmesse.de/en/xbf/)
- ❖ **Poetry Africa Festival** - 14th to 19th October 2013, Durban. [www.cca.ukzn.ac.za/index.php/festivals](http://www.cca.ukzn.ac.za/index.php/festivals)
- ❖ **BookBedonned Literary Festival** – 24th to 26th October 2013, Richmond. [www.richmondnc.co.za](http://www.richmondnc.co.za)
- ❖ **PEN International Day of the Imprisoned Writer** – 15th November 2013

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**Junkets Publication Competition – deadline 22nd September 2013**

As you know, in partnership with the National Arts Festival, we are about to publish two groundbreaking books: ‘Now I am alone’ 1 – SA Monologues F & M 16+ and ‘Now I am alone’ 2 – SA Monologues F & M 16+ both compiled by Robin Malan, Diana Wilson and David Fick.

You can buy the **two books** for the Early-Bird **price of one** – if your entry wins this first-of-three competitions. You will also be invited to attend the Launch on Thursday 30 January 2014.

What you have to do is:

Read the three extracts from monologues (available on request), and tell us in each case what led to this, what happened to cause the character to speak these words? You have to get all three right to win the prize.

Email your entry to [info.junkets@iafrica.com](mailto:info.junkets@iafrica.com), with your name, email address and postal address, to reach us by noon on **Sunday, 22nd September 2013**.

Robin Malan

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**Winner of City Press Nonfiction Award 2013 announced at Cape Town’s Open Book Festival**

Popular travel writer and former editor of *Getaway*, Don Pinnock, is the winner of the City Press Non-Fiction Award 2013. Ferial Haffajee, editor-in-chief of *City Press*, made the announcement on Sunday, 8th September, at the Open Book Festival in Cape Town. On the shortlist with Pinnock were Kagisho Montshabatho and Christelle Terreblanche.

Pinnock received a prize of R60 000 to fund the research and writing of his book that will be published by Tafelberg in 2015. In his book Pinnock will explore the underbelly of the Cape’s gang culture. He will look at how apartheid social engineering destroyed extended families, how poverty damaged nuclear families and how corruption unzipped the police. Central to this investigation is how and why young people, left to themselves and lured by wealth through crime and drugs, are holding one of the world's most beautiful cities to ransom.

Pinnock said: “The award is a wonderful boost to my work with young people at risk. It will give me the time and space to pull together 30 years of research into the causes of crime and violence among youth in Cape Town and to work on solutions. I am deeply grateful to *City Press* and Tafelberg for having the confidence in me to do this. The kids are in crisis, their support systems are broken and they get the blame when they lash out. It’s an injustice this beautiful, wealthy city needs to acknowledge...and fix.”

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**Reddits Poetry event, Grahamstown, 27th September 2013**

Reddits Poetry, the monthly open-floor poetry event in Grahamstown, begins its sixth year on Friday, 27th September 2013, in unprecented style with a themed evening in prospect.

The international movement called 100 Thousand Poets for Change (100TPC) holds its annual events across the globe on Saturday, 28th September. This is "a grassroots organization that brings communities together to call for environmental, social and political change within the framework of peace and sustainability" and I feel that this is an opportunity for us, whose senses of both the injustices and the possibilities of South Africa seem in keeping with the stated aims of 100TPC, to join in a worldwide peaceful, even joyous, call for (or acknowledgement of) change in the world.

So everyone is invited to join us at Cafe D'Vine, 31 New Street, Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape, at 18h00 for 18h15, to share in what promises to be a wonderful evening. We are hopeful that the event will be filmed so that our contribution to 100TPC 2013 can be shared and archived.

The theme of 'change' may be interpreted in any way the contributors wish - personal, familial, social, environmental, political etc - and all are welcome - but please respect the guidelines above.

There is no entry fee but space is limited so please endeavour to be on time. For your information, here are links to the press release giving further details about 100TPC:

[http://100tpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/100TPC.Release.FINAL\\_.09.18.2013-.pdf](http://100tpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/100TPC.Release.FINAL_.09.18.2013-.pdf),

[http://100tpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/100TPC.Release.FINAL\\_.09.18.2013-.docx](http://100tpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/100TPC.Release.FINAL_.09.18.2013-.docx)

Please feel free to contact me if you require further information on my cell: 082 259 2651. **Harry Owen**

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**July/August letter from John Ralston Saul, International President, to the PEN membership**

3rd September, 2013

Dear PEN members, Dear friends,

In a few days, many of us will meet in Reykjavik for the 79th PEN International Congress. Many things will happen there. When it comes to rights, we are faced today by a curiously old fashioned situation – that is, there are serious freedom of expression issues in all of the world's

great powers. A troika of unacceptable laws in Russia. The United States leading in an explosion of surveillance systems that are overwhelming two centuries of privacy and free expression progress and rules. And then there is the continuing situation in China.

There will of course be many other issues. This will be an opportunity to broaden and strengthen the work of our Digital Declaration, with writers like Douglas Coupland taking part. On another front, Iceland is one of the great success stories of a language spoken by few and yet growing ever stronger. Reykjavik will be a logical place to expand the role of the Girona Manifesto and of our work supporting languages in danger.

Because of the close partnership between our International Congress and the Reykjavik International Literary Festival, the role of literature will be front and central in everything we do. This is a very good model for us to follow in the future.

On the exact 40th Anniversary of the Pinochet Coup in Chile, Antonio Skarmeta of Chilean PEN will be joining us. And Kiran Desai will be asking the Assembly to accept a new PEN Centre based in New Delhi.

We will also be asked to approve a new centre in Myanmar. This is a truly historic event, as for decades we have worked on prisoner cases in Myanmar.

In late July, our Publishers Circle held an event in Yangon– the first of its kind for PEN. It was a publisher’s workshop to help emerging publishing firms learn how to organize themselves professionally. After all, PEN is a movement of literature and freedom of expression. Without a publishing system neither can function.

Ronald Blunden, senior Vice-President of Hachette Livre, Jo Lusby, Managing Director of Penguin North Asia and Ola Wallin, publisher of Ersatz and part of the Swedish small publishers collective De Oberoende (and a Board member of Swedish PEN), spent three

days with 15 Myanmar publishers. They talked about the state of local publishing and worked through their professional needs.

At one point, Ola explained how money could be saved by small publishers using cooperative methods. He gave the example of sharing a single locale for warehousing books. The same day, the local publishers went out and rented a shared warehouse. The point is: these sorts of workshops can help put literature and free expression on a solid, practical footing.

During the same week, meetings took place with writers and publishers, in order to finalize the details for the creation of a Myanmar PEN Centre. Our international Secretary, Hori Takeaki and our Executive Director, Laura McVeigh took part.

We must now ask how we will follow-up on this Publishers Circle work and where we will hold the next workshop. We can talk about all of this in Reykjavik, but also at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

This will be the last Congress for Eric Lax as International Treasurer. He has done an amazing job in every kind of situation and as an officer of PEN, has contributed to every part of our work, whether on Missions or in developing strategy.

This will also be Haroon Siddiqui’s last Congress as a Board member. He has been a real force on the Board and a tireless worker on the Finance Committee. His analytic strengths have been incredibly valuable.

And finally, this will be Edvard Kovač’s last Congress as Chair of the Peace Committee. He has devoted

himself to expanding the Committees role and finding its place for the next decade.

I hope you will have a chance to thank them in person.

The last words of this letter go to Iceland's great novelist, Halldór Laxness:

.... *books are the nation's most precious possession, books have*

*preserved the nation's life through monopoly, pestilence, and volcanic eruption, not to mention the tons of snow that have lain over the country's widely scattered homesteads for the major part of every one of its thousand years.*



Best wishes to you all,  
John Ralston Saul

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### **Chinese poet Shi Tao released**

10th September 2013 - PEN International, meeting at the 79th Congress in Reykjavik, Iceland 9-12th September, is delighted to announce the release of Chinese poet, journalist and member of the Independent Chinese PEN Centre (ICPC) Shi Tao, fifteen months before the end of his ten-year sentence. PEN reiterates its call for the immediate and unconditional release of all others currently detained in the P.R.China for peacefully expressing their views.

"We welcome news of Shi Tao's early release, at a time when there seem to be increasingly long shadows over freedom of expression in China," said Marian Botsford Fraser, Chair, PEN International Writers in Prison Committee. "Shi Tao has been one of our main cases since his arrest in 2004. He is an Honorary Member of almost a dozen PEN centres, and he was one of the WiPC's first and most significant digital media cases. Shi Tao's arrest and imprisonment, because of the actions of Yahoo China, signalled a decade ago the challenges to freedom of expression of internet surveillance and privacy that we are now dealing with."

Shi Tao was arrested on 24th November 2004 and sentenced on 27th April 2005 to ten years in prison for "leaking state secrets abroad". The prosecution of Shi Tao was based on an email he sent to the editor of a New York-based website detailing media restrictions imposed by the Chinese authorities prior to the fifteenth anniversary of the 3rd June 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy protests. Information supplied by the Internet Service Provider Yahoo! Inc. was used to convict him.

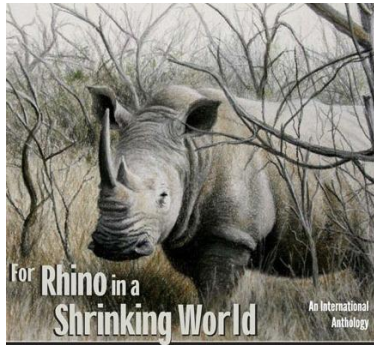
Shi Tao worked for the Changsha-based daily *Dangdai Shang Bao* (*Contemporary Business News*) until May 2004, when he became a freelance journalist and writer. He is a published poet, and is known for his social commentaries published on overseas Chinese language media such as Democracy Forum ([www.boxun.com](http://www.boxun.com)). In 2008 his poem 'June' was the focus of the PEN Poem Relay, a campaign to raise awareness about freedom of expression in China in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics. Writers and poets around the world produced 127 translations of the poem in 100 languages which were published via a specialist website.

Shi Tao extends his thanks to all PEN colleagues who supported him during his long detention. He reports that he was treated relatively well in prison during the last few years, and wrote many poems, including ‘Song of October’ written from prison after he learned that Liu Xiaobo had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

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## **Members’ Publications**

### **For Rhino in a Shrinking World, edited by Harry Owen**



In early 2012, as part of a rapidly growing criminal poaching campaign in Africa and Asia, three white rhinos were attacked and brutally mutilated for their horn at Kariega Game Reserve, near Grahamstown in South Africa’s Eastern Cape. The animals suffered appalling injuries and were left to bleed slowly to death.

Dr William Fowlds, a noted wildlife veterinarian, was called to treat them but one rhino died at the scene and there was little hope extended for the other two. As a result, however, of Dr Fowlds’s care and professional attention, one animal survived for three weeks before tragically drowning in a water hole, and the other – Thandi, whose name means ‘Love’ in isiXhosa – miraculously still lives more than a year later and is recovering from her trauma.

This international poetry anthology, *For Rhino in a Shrinking World*, is editor and poet Harry Owen’s attempt to raise awareness of the horror that is rhino poaching through the words of some of the world’s best and most generous-spirited poets. It is illustrated by renowned South African artist Sally Scott, whose specially commissioned work, like that of the poets, is contributed entirely free of charge.

Some of the international poets whose work is represented include (amongst many others): Shabbir Banoobhai, Kerry Hammerton, Lesego Rampolokeng, Mxolisi Nyezwa, Rosemund Handler, Geoffrey Haresnape, Chris Mann, Dan Wylie, Phillippa Yaa de Villiers & Joan Metelerkamp (South Africa); Geraldine Green, Sheenagh Pugh, John Lindley, Pascale Petit, Pippa Little, Kate Noakes & Jennifer Wong (UK); Adam Tavel, J.D. Smith, Veronica Golos, David Mallett, Alfred Corn & H el ene Cardona (USA); Chlo e Callistemon, Nola Firth, Lorne Johnson, Andy Kissane & Philip Neilsen (Australia); as well as superb poets from Ireland, Canada, India, Zimbabwe, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, Germany, Botswana, Nigeria, France and The Netherlands.

All proceeds from the sale of this beautiful volume go, via the Chipembere Rhino Foundation ([www.chipembere.org](http://www.chipembere.org)), to support the work of fighting poaching and protecting our gravely threatened natural heritage. The book is available to purchase via the publisher's website or through the official blog (<http://rhinoanthology.wordpress.com>) or, alternatively, enquiries may be made directly to Harry Owen: [heo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:heo@hotmail.co.uk).

