

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 14 2017

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SOUTH AFRICA

**Write!**  
Africa,  
**Write!**

Issue 14  
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### **Nadia Davids and Members of the Board Thank Margie Orford**

*New PEN SA President Nadia Davids has written a letter of thanks [\[LINK\]](#) to Margie Orford, click through to read the full letter as well as Mandla Langa, Raymond Louw and Nooshin Erfani-Ghadimi's memories of working with Margie.*

Dear Friends,

It has been a profound pleasure and a privilege to reflect on Margie Orford's tenure

as President of PEN South Africa. As I sifted through the various reports and documents that detailed her years of commitment, I was struck, continually, not only by the sheer range of work she presided over, but by the depth of investment and care she showed each project. Margie came to PEN SA in 2010 when the Secrecy Bill was being tabled; it is impossible to overstate how important the fight against that bill was, or how corrosive its implementation would have been to our democracy. Under Margie's leadership, PEN SA mobilised against the bill, both engaging parliamentarians and alerting the public to the grave and long-lasting impact it could have on a free and fair press. Her focus on the Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Bill has been similarly clear-eyed, politically alert and strategic....[read more](#)

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## ***FX IN SA: A Review of Freedom Of Expression In South Africa, 2016***

"Freedom of expression is the oxygen that makes a democracy dynamic, sometimes fractious but it is essential for growth, for equity and a society that does good for all its members. A society in which freedom of expression is protected and where people can think, and say and write what they like is a healthy one. This report takes the social pulse of South Africa by assessing the current status of freedom of expression." Margie Orford, *FX in SA*

The *FX in SA* report, produced by PEN South Africa, is a review of freedom of expression in South Africa in the year 2016. Focusing on the burning FX issues that happened last year, the report interrogates what constitutes freedom of speech, its limits and what it means to be in violation of freedom of speech...[read more](#)

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### **Carole Bloch on Children's Literacy and Literature Development**

Former PEN SA Board Member Carole Bloch has written a column for the *Sunday Times* with a focus on the recent seminar that PRAESA held with support from PEN SA and IBBY SA, which reflected on the intersecting domains of children's literacy and literature development...[read more](#)

### **PEN SA PULSE**

South Sudan's National Security Service arrested the Director of the state-run South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation, Adil Faris Mayat for



### **PEN Community Pays Tribute to Liu Xiaobo**

PEN International has paid tribute to dissident writer and Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo who passed away earlier this month. Read the tribute [here](#) and Chair of the Writers in Prison Committee, Salil Tripathi's, poem "[How to erase a man \(for Liu Xiaobo\)](#)". They have also [shared their concerns](#) for the well being of Xiaobo's wife, the poet and artist Liu Xia. Messages can be left in tribute to Liu Xiaobo [here](#).

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

### **CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS**

allegedly failing to broadcast President Kiir's state of the nation address and the ANC has continued to push for the media appeals tribunal...[read more](#)

The Committee to Protect Journalists has urged Nigerian authorities to drop all charges against a journalist facing a false reporting charge and Somalia's amended Media Law still restricts freedom of speech...[read more](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

See what's coming up in [August](#), including *Daily Maverick's* The Gathering, UCT Winter School, Lowveld Book Festival, Poetry in McGregor and the Jozi Book Fair as well as book launches for PEN SA Board Member Karina M. Szczurek, Helen Moffett, Hedley Twidle, Pieter Scholtz and Douglas Reid Skinner.

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## NEW MEMBERS' TITLES

JIAS Writing Fellowships...[read more](#)

ANFASA Grant Scheme for Authors...[read more](#)

Poetry in McGregor Poetry Competition...[read more](#)

International Poetry Competition  
Castello Di Duino – XIV Edition...[read more](#)

Bloody Parchment Short Story Competition...[read more](#)

African Literature Association Awards...[read more](#)

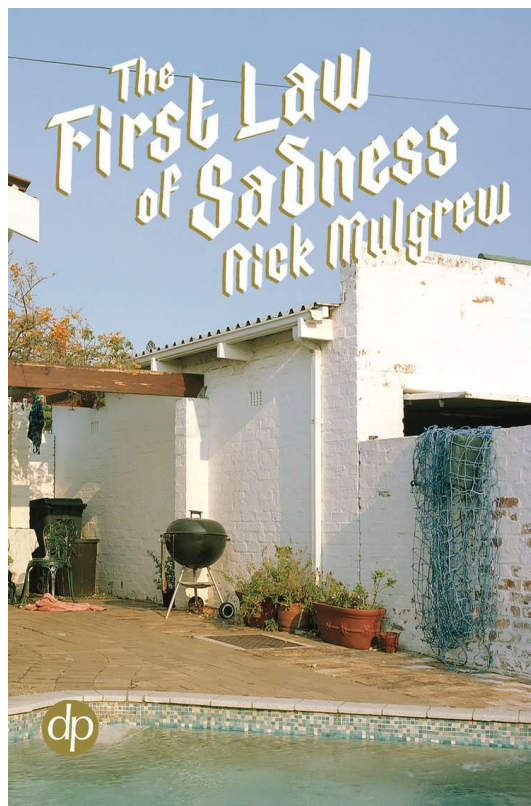
XPRIZE's Seat 14C Sci-Fi Anthology and Short Story Contest...[read more](#)

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

Lauren Jacobs-Beukman won the 2017 Desmond Tutu-Gerrit Brand Prize...[read more](#)

Nakhane Touré won the Best Actor Award at the Durban International Film Festival...[read more](#)



New titles by PEN SA members include Nick Mugrew's new collection [The First Law of Sadness](#), which will be published in September, Siphiwo Mahala's play *The House of Truth* is [set to be published in book form](#) soon and Abigail George's poem "The volcano parliament" was included in [Dying Dahlia Review: Winter 2017](#). An older title from a new PEN SA member is [Delilah Now Trending](#) by Pamela Power...[read more](#)

## CENTRE NEWS

Myolisi Sikupela will be leaving his position as PEN SA Centre Co-ordinator as of August so we are looking for someone to take on the role. Please share our job ad with anyone who might be interested...[read more](#)

## AWARDS NEWS

The Man Booker Prize 2017 longlist has been announced...[read more](#)

Colson Whitehead has won the 31st Arthur C. Clarke Award...[read more](#)

The Writivism Prize shortlists have been announced...[read more](#)

## WELCOME

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional member Pamela Power.

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



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