



Issue 9
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World Press Freedom Day 2018: PEN Shines Light on Malta

May 3 marked World Press Freedom Day, and for 2018, PEN SA – along with PEN International and other PEN Centres worldwide – is focusing our attention on disturbing ongoing in Malta.

Six months ago, Daphne Caruana Galizia, a renowned journalist was killed in Malta in a targeted car bomb attack. Caruana Galizia spent much of her work in recent years exposing government corruption – most recently reporting on the Panama Papers, which exposed the offshore activities of powerful officials and companies

around the world. Her blog, Running Commentary, which included investigative reports on Maltese politicians, was one of the most widely read websites in Malta.

To mark the six-month anniversary of her killing, PEN members worldwide signed an open letter, which was published widely. The government of Malta issued a response to PEN's letter with their own letter in the Guardian, which accuses PEN International of misleading its members. PEN International says the Maltese response "distorts the meaning of PEN's letter and fails to address PEN's legitimate, well-founded concerns regarding the investigation into Caruana Galizia's murder."

Read our full statement here

(Image from the Guardian by Matthew Mirabelli/AFP/Getty Images)

PEN SA Concerned at Blocking of Cartoonist Ramón Esono Ebalé's Movement from Equatorial Guinea

PEN SA expresses concern about reports from **human rights groups**, including PEN International, that the Equatoguinean cartoonist Ramón Esono Ebalé has not been allowed to leave the country since his release from prison this March. Esono Ebalé, whose case was featured by PEN SA **during the 2017 Day of the Imprisoned Writer**, has not been re-issued his renewed passport by authorities. As such, he cannot return to his family in El Salvador, where he lives.

The original charges brought against Esono Ebalé, for which he has since been acquitted, appeared to have been in retaliation for his editorial and creative cartoons, which unflatteringly depicted members of the Equatoguinean government, including the country's president since 1979, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

Read our full statement here

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check our calendar of literary events in May – including festivals, poetry

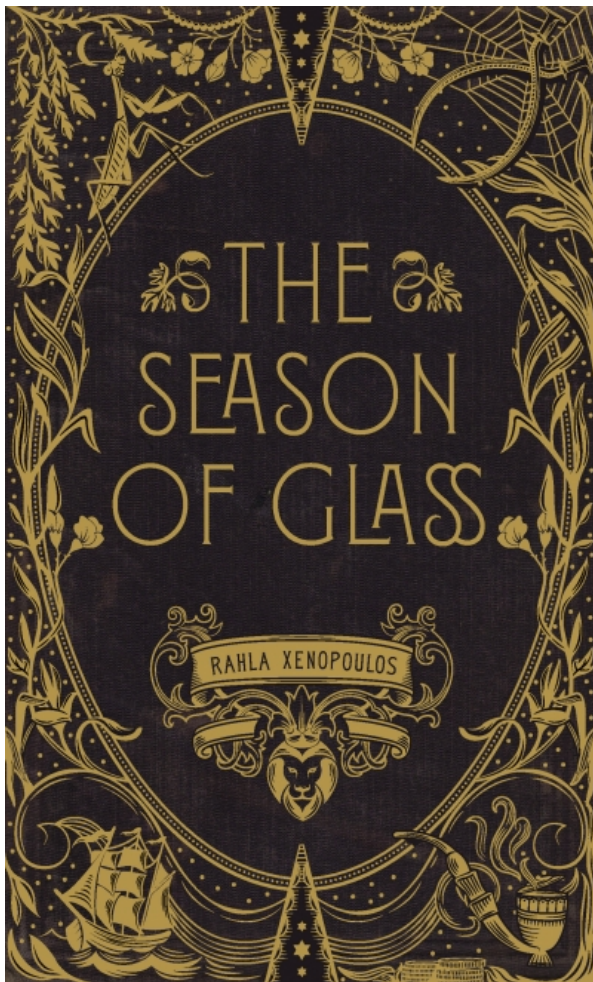
CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

[Enter the 2018 South African Literary Awards](#) (Deadline 31 May)

readings and tons of launches – by clicking [here](#).

Please submit your literary events for conclusion on our events calendar by e-mailing newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za.

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



New and upcoming releases from PEN SA members include [The Season of Glass by Rahla Xenopoulos](#), [Space Inhabited by Echoes by Karen Jennings](#), and [Patagonia by Maya Fowler](#).

Please send new releases to newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za.

[The Bodley Head/FT Essay Prize 2018](#) (Deadline 31 May)

[Lemon Curd Seeks Submissions for Online and Zine](#) (ongoing)

[The 2018 Dinaane Debut Fiction Award is Open for Submissions](#) (Open to all SADC Citizens; Deadline 30 June)

[Stellenbosch University Museum Calls for Creative Submissions on the Future of Universities](#) (Deadline 16 July)

[Entries Open for SCrIBE Scriptwriting Competition](#) (Deadline 31 July)

[Click here to view all calls for submissions](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to PEN SA member Albie Sachs, who has been awarded an honorary doctorate from Michigan State University in the USA. [Read more](#)

WELCOME

Warm welcomes to our latest PEN SA Professional Members: Carien Smith, Francine Simon, Wamuwi Mbao, and Qarnita Loxton!

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 newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za

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