

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 10, 2018 / The (precarious, complicated, and sometimes exasperating) State of Media Freedom in southern and South Africa; events, calls for submissions, and more.

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pen
SOUTH AFRICA

Write!
Africa,
Write!

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In our next newsletter, PEN South Africa will be officially unveiling a new logo and slogan, updated for the times and for the role we envision ourselves taking in the future. While things will be changing somewhat, we still encourage all of our members and supporters to *"Write, Africa, Write!"*



"Democracies Gone Amok": MISA's State of Media Freedom in Southern Africa Paints a

Picture of Trouble

The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) recently released their detailed and eminently readable 2017 State of Media Freedom in Southern Africa report, *So This Is Democracy?*.

The report shows, among other things, that the media landscape in southern Africa, in concomitance with its growth and diversification in platform and reach, is becoming ever more complicated – especially where it comes to media law, and the subtle suppression and outright censorship of certain media and media workers. "A landscape where," as the report mentions, "the insidious and subtle erosion of free speech rights is compounded both by the media's struggle for economic survival and its relevance to citizens who all too easily disown their media and the critical role it plays in keeping power to account."

Throughout the year, MISA issues media alerts in eleven categories, relating to the violations, impingements and victories of media freedom in the region. The 2017 MISA report catalogues these alerts for the preceding year, as well as giving more detailed views over each country in southern Africa, written by media freedom experts in or associated with the respective country.

The report on South Africa is written by PEN SA's Vice President, Raymond Louw. Louw states that, while South African journalists continue to do excellent investigative work in 2017, "conditions for media freedom in South Africa [have] deteriorated", with particular regard to the government's consideration of "a range of measures that would intimidate the press, promote self-censorship and silence criticism."

In pursuit of media freedom in southern Africa, PEN SA is today posting both **MISA's regional overview** and **overview of South Africa** on our site.

We are also hosting the report for all to download and read. ***To download and read the full report, please click here.***

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Yale Drama Series Award for Emerging Playwrights Seeks Entries (Opens worldwide 1 June; deadline 15 August)

***Ons Klyntji* Calls for Submissions for their 2018 Edition (Deadline 31 May)**

The Poetry in McGregor Festival's Poetry Competition is Open For Entries (Deadline 31 May)

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

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

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

Austrian Haiku Association Seeks Haiku from Africa (Deadline 15 July)

Click here to view all calls for submissions

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check our calendar of literary events in what's left of May by clicking **here**.

We have also started populating our June calendar, which you can access **here**.

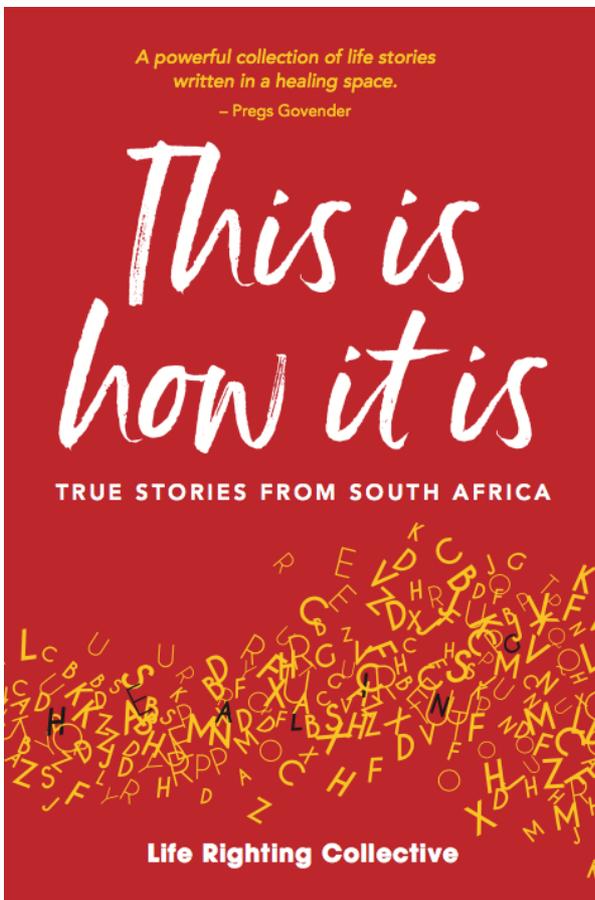
Please submit your literary events for conclusion on our events calendar by e-mailing newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za.

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to PEN SA members Jolyn Phillips, Ken Barris, Qarnita Loxton, and Michiel Heyns, whose books have been shortlisted in the 2018 Media24 Books Awards. **[Read more](#)**

Congratulations to PEN SA Board Member Sisonke Msimang, whose



New and upcoming releases from PEN SA members include [This Is How It Is: True Stories from South Africa](#) by the [Life Righting Collective](#) (ed. Dawn Garisch), [Epiphanies](#) by [Chris Mann](#), [The Last Book on Earth](#) by [Catriona Ross](#), and [The Murder of Vincent van Gogh](#) by [Nick van der Leek](#).

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

book *Always Another Country: A Memoir of Exile and Home* has been shortlisted for the 2018 Alan Paton Award. [Read more](#)

Sisonke has also won has been named one of four winners of the prestigious Africa Centre AIR Bellagio residencies. [Read more](#)

WELCOME

A very belated welcome to a (relatively) new PEN SA Professional Member, Ester Levinrad.

A more timely welcome to new PEN SA Professional Member Carien Smith!

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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