

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 11, 2018 / PEN South Africa has a new look; Oppression and collusion: PEN International's 2017 Case List released; events, calls for submissions, and more

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Update on Ramón Esono Ebalé

Further to our statement on May 7 2018, we are happy to note that Esono Ebalé has been allowed to leave, and has left Equatorial Guinea. We express our hope that his movement is no longer restricted and his right to criticise his government is no longer impinged upon.



PEN South Africa Has a New Logo and Slogan

PEN South Africa is proud to unveil our new logo and slogan, updated to better reflect and represent our role in southern African society.

Designed by PEN SA Head of Communications Nick Mulgrew, the new logo and accompanying logotype is based in colour on the old PEN SA logo (which in turn was based in form on the logo of PEN International.) Although we don't want to be too prescriptive about what people see in it, the logo references three images: a fountain pen nib, a human figure, and the central "Y" band of the South African flag.

Paired with bold, modern and clean type, the new logo distinguishes the South African PEN Centre from other centres, while retaining a link to our parent

Conceived by the PEN SA Board, our new slogan, "Free Writing", constitutes PEN SA's mission as an imperative – to free writing and writers – as well as the ideal it stands for in South Africa and beyond: for writing to be a liberating and empowering act. While PEN SA's ambit is broad – from advising lawmakers to maintaining a database of opportunities for writers – our new identity re-affirms our advocacy work on behalf of writers and our celebration of literature in our country.



"A Year of Oppression, Collusion and Lethal Threats": the 2017 PEN International Case List

Following up on the Media Institute of Southern Africa's State of Media Freedom report, which we shared last month, PEN International has released its 2017 Case List, in which our colleagues have detailed threats to freedom of expression worldwide over the last calendar year, including attacks, harassment and murders of writers and journalists.

"The statistics for 2017 are numbing enough," writes Salil Tripathi, the Chair of PEN International's Writers in Prison Committee in her introduction to the report. No less than "218 attacks on freedom of expression [were] documented by PEN in a year". Two of these attacks took place in South Africa, with death threats leveled toward

In the interest of increasing accessibility to the report, **we're reproducing Tripathi's introduction on our website**. The full report may be downloaded [here](#), while a shorter summary may be downloaded [at this link](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check our calendar of literary events – including dozens of events throughout SA for Exclusive Books' Homebru campaign – throughout June by clicking [here](#).

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to PEN SA member Fred Khumalo, whose story "Talk of the Town" has been shortlisted for the 2018 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. [Read more](#)

Congratulations to PEN SA members Francine Simon, Christine Coates, Jim Pascual Agustin, Athol Williams, and Mark de Wet, whose poems have been longlisted for the 2018 Sol Plaatje EU Poetry Award, and will be published in this year's anthology. (A special congratulations to Coates, who has been longlisted for the award for the

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

[The SABC Board Seeks New Members](#) (Deadline for nominations 15 June)

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

[Enter the University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor's International Poetry Prize](#) (Deadline 30 June)

[Austrian Haiku Association Seeks Haiku from Africa](#) (Deadline 15 July)

[The Oxford Brookes Poetry Centre's 2018 International Poetry Competition is Open to Entries](#) (Deadline 6 August)

[The Yale Drama Series Award for Emerging Playwrights Seeks Entries](#) (Deadline 15 August)

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

WELCOME

A warm welcome to new PEN SA

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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PEN South Africa · P O Box 30327 · Tokai, Western Cape 7966 · South Africa

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