

PASA Media Statement

Events at the launch of the book, *Gangster State*, by Pieter-Louis Myburgh

12 April 2019

It is with tremendous distress that the Publishers' Association of South Africa has noted the events at the launch of *Gangster State* (Pieter-Louis Myburgh) on Tuesday night in Johannesburg.

The destruction of books and the disruption of the launch runs against the grain of everything that we as South Africans and as an Industry body stand for. Our right to free speech is enshrined in the constitution. Freedom of Speech is to be respected and disagreement should take the form of robust debate rather than the destruction and intimidation perpetrated. We also subscribe to the principle of "Freedom to Publish" that publishers around the world under the banner of the International Publishers Association identify with.

We categorically condemn the recent events and call on those involved to respect the rights of the author, of the public, and that which is protected by our constitution. Censorship, in whatever form it takes, cannot be tolerated.

Publishers Association of South Africa