

# Remember Andre Brink's call to cancel the Secrecy Bill

At an historic Right2Know Campaign march to Parliament, the late Andre Brink delivered a petition against the secrecy bill, signed by a wide range of writers, including Zakes Mda and Nadine Gordimer.



Brink wrote at the time, "Mr Zuma has ushered in a new kind of silence that is threatening to take the place of ordinary communication. His proposed legislation betrays a dangerous attitude toward the word, written or spoken. It has been said that the prime function of the word is to interrogate silence; but if silence becomes sequestered beyond the reach of words, of language, of the press, of literature, that space becomes inhabited by lies and distortions, pretences and subterfuges and inadequacies of all kinds."

The Secrecy Bill has now been sitting on President Zuma's desk for over a year awaiting his signature. The Secrecy Bill therefore still represents a real threat to our freedom. The R2K

Campaign remains committed to challenging the President to scrap it.

The R2K calls on everyone living in South Africa to honour Andre Brink by demanding that the President scrap the Secrecy Bill. Zuma must close this chapter and call on parliament to prepare a democratic classification law that advances our constitutional right to a transparent and accountable government.

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