MASS MEETING



DATE: Thurs 19 Feb 2015

TIME: 18h00

VENUE: Central Methodist Church, Longmarket Street, Cape Town

Organised by the RICHTERNOW

For more info: Vainaola@r2k.org.za, 0214471000

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Defend Democracy! Hands off Parliament!

Last Thursday, an attack was launched on South Africa's democracy. During the State of the Nation Address, the military was used to surround Parliament, security was used to violently suppress dissent inside Parliament, and internet and cellphone signals within Parliament were jammed. An event which should have been open and inclusive was marred by attempts at secrecy.

Thursday's events add to growing evidence that the flow of information in Parliament is being controlled to restrict dissent, and to protect the President from having to account for his misuse of millions in public funds. Clearly, our State is prepared to govern by increasingly authoritarian means.

Worryingly, these attacks on our democracy have been tolerated by the presiding officers in Parliament, who are meant to protect the democratic space of Parliament.

Too many people sacrificed too much for our democracy. We owe it to them to defend the democratic spaces they opened up in 1994. We call on everyone in South Africa to unite and defend Parliament against these attacks.

We call on the people of Cape Town to come in your numbers and send a clear message to those that aim to undermine our hard-won democracy.

Speakers have been invited from the National Editors Forum, United Front, Religious Leaders Forum, and communities around Cape Town. Jane Duncan, author of Rise of the Securocrats, will also make an input.

For more information, or to arrange transport contact vainola@r2k.org.za, 0214471000.

Anyone wearing political party t-shirts will be asked to leave.



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