



7th National Summit

17 - 18 March 2017, Community House, Cape Town.



SUMMIT REPORT

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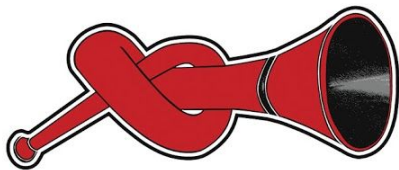
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Our Vision

“We seek a country and a world where we all have the right to know – that is to be free to access and to share information. This right is fundamental to any democracy that is open, accountable, participatory and responsive; able to deliver the social, economic and environmental justice we need. On this foundation a society and an international community can be built in which we all live free from want, in equality and in dignity.”

Our Mission

- To co-ordinate, unify, organise and activate those who share our principles to defend and advance the right to know.
- To struggle both for the widest possible recognition in law and policy of the right to know and for its implementation and practice in daily life.
- To root the struggle for the right to know in the struggles of communities demanding political, social, economic and environmental justice.
- To propagate our vision throughout society.
- To engage those with political and economic power where necessary.
- To act in concert and solidarity with like-minded people and organisations locally and internationally.



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1. Introduction

The Right2Know Campaign held its seventh National Summit at Community House in Cape Town from 17 to 18 March 2017.

The Summit comprised delegates elected at Provincial Summits held in Gauging, KwaZulu Natal and the Western Cape as well as members of the outgoing National Working Group and a number of guests from supporting organisations (see Participants List in APPENDIX 1)

Delegates considered the 2016 Organisational Report¹ and assessed the progress made since the 6th National Summit in February 2016 as well as the challenges and opportunities facing the campaign in the coming year.

Delegates accepted the 2016 Audited Financial Statements² and 2017 Budget³. They also heard Mhlobo Gunguluzi's appeal against the outcome of his Disciplinary Procedure and voted to set aside the sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Committee⁴.

Delegates then developed and adopted a set of Resolutions that will serve as the Campaign's strategic Framework for the coming year (See Section 2) and elected a 2017/18 National Working Group (See Section 3).

The Summit Programme is included as APPENDIX 2.

2. Summit Resolutions

The National Summit resolved to:

2.1 Campaign Review

2.1.1 Secrecy & Surveillance:

- Campaign against abusive surveillance laws, including demanding an end to mass surveillance, urgent reforms to RICA, and scrapping the registration of SIM cards
- Campaign for private companies such as MTN, Vodacom, Cell C and Telkom to desist from aiding surveillance.
- Organise popular education on the threats of surveillance and equip activists to defend themselves
- Produce simple pamphlets that explain how surveillance works and how to detect it
- Collect and publish stories of surveillance and harassment by intelligence structures

¹ See 2016 Organisational Report: <http://www.r2k.org.za/2016-Org-Report>

² See 2016 Audited Financial Statement: <http://www.r2k.org.za/2016-Audited-Financials>

³ See 2017 Budget: <http://www.r2k.org.za/wp-content/uploads/R2K-2017-budget.pdf>

⁴ See Disciplinary Report <http://www.r2k.org.za/Mholob-Gunguluzi-2017-Disciplinary>

- Hold the surveillance watchdogs accountable, including the Inspector General of Intelligence and Information Regulator, and demanding that the IGI investigate complaints of surveillance.
- Provide solidarity and support to students and workers on university campuses to resist surveillance, both by the state and private security
- Campaign against state surveillance of protesters, including demanding the release of footage of R2K held by SAPS

2.1.2 Right to Protest:

On the Regulation of Gatherings Act:

- Expand our popular education on the RGA with various stakeholders;
- Undertake research on abuse of the RGA and municipal bylaws to restrict the right to protest;
- Undertake research on amendments to the legislative framework, including the RGA and municipal bylaws.
- Engage targeted metropolitan/municipal structures on their restriction on the right to protest, and where appropriate to challenge current municipal practices.
- Continue to support the legal challenges to the RGA.

Beyond the Regulation of Gatherings Act:

- Undertake further research and producing popular education materials on other limitations to the right to protest – especially protests on private property and in labour protests and the use of wrongful arrest as a means of criminalizing and suppressing protests.
- Produce an expanded Right to Protest handbook to include the results of the new research.
- Continue to challenge the dominant narratives in the media that cast protests as violent and seek to undermine the right of protest.

On the Protest hotline:

- Continue to support and strengthen the Protest Hotline hosted by CALS.
- Capacitate a core group of activists in provinces to coordinate a rapid response team to assist activists facing threats of arrests and in need of legal assistance (e.g. bail hearings, section 4 meetings other legal assistance) and humanitarian assistance;
- Expand the network of legal assistance in each province where R2K has a presence as a way of expanding the capacity of the Protest hotline.
- Recommend to the Protest Hotline to look at ways of extending its scope beyond urban nodes and in provinces beyond Gauteng, Kwazulu Natal and Western Cape - and to supporting activists wrongfully arrested.
- Develop protest observer/ monitoring capacity in the provinces (and nationally) to report on and document abuses of the right to protests.

On Bail:

- Explore, challenge and campaign against the use of excessively high bail amounts used to limit protest, criminalise legitimate expression and that is disproportionate to other (real) crimes.

On violence in protest:

We recognize that:

- Our society is built on violence and ‘violence’ as a phenomenon in protests is often a tactic of last resort when institutions are not responsive to people’s needs;
- The media often advances an agenda that uses isolated violence to delegitimize and even criminalize protest.

We reaffirm:

- R2K is committed to defending, practicing, and advancing the right to disruptive protest – including civil disobedience.
- R2K will not resort to violence as a tactic.
- We respect the autonomy of other organizations to determine their own tactics.
- R2K should consider whether ‘violence’ is limited to harm of humans or extends to damage to property.

2.1.3 Access to Information:

On Public Participation:

- Rooting our work in public participation, we will campaign for open meetings and open processes, at all levels of government and extend focus on local ward committees, local tender processes and budget processes, IDP processes and imbizos.
- Continue to capacitate activists to use a diverse range of access to information tools, ensuring that these tools assist to build strong links to local struggles.
- Work with organisations working to access land to submit information requests to the government to disclose land ownership information to campaign for a full land audit.

On Corporate Secrecy:

- Focus on combating corporate secrecy, including tax dodging, illicit financial flows and corporate corruption, linking these issues to local secrecy.
- In partnership with MVC we will campaign to disclose on private political party funding, including campaigning for policy change.
- Working with partner organizations, we will continue to campaign to stop the secret R1 trillion Nuclear Deal.
- We will support the campaign for the release of all apartheid secret records.
- We will continue to campaign for the findings of the Seriti Commission of Inquiry into the Arms Deal to be set aside.
- Working with Black Sash and other allies, we will continue to build the Hands Off Our Grants Campaign nationally, demanding that SASSA insource all payments, with no deductions and no delays and ensure people's privacy and personal information is protected.

2.1.4 Right to Communicate:

On Internet Freedom:

- Continue to campaign for a free and open Internet, fighting any attempt to censor free expression online, including internet shutdowns;

- Reaffirm our commitment to oppose regulatory and/or legislative attempts to censor the Internet, including the Film and Publication Board Amendment Bill, the Cybercrimes Bill and State Security Agency monitoring of online content.

On Access to Telecommunications:

- Reinvigorate the Vula'ma Connexion Campaign, to fight the high cost of data and airtime, and undertake more popular education on #DataMustFall
- In order to drive Vula'ma Connexion strategically (including formulating details and specific demands), we must engage more meaningfully with a number of our partner organisations and campaign members who possess a good collective knowledge on telecommunications;
- Campaign for and promote community-owned telecommunications (the Zenzeleni model) as a way for poor and rural communities to realise their communications rights;
- Campaign for the roll out of free broadband services, especially free Wifi, to poor and rural areas.

On Media Freedom:

- Recognizing the importance of access to public broadcasting to the right to know, we resolve to continue with advocacy around SABC governance crisis and related issues, and demand editorial independence, transparency in management and content that meets the needs of people
- We will oppose the Broadcasting Amendment Bill, the powers which it gives to the Minister, and the way in which it diminishes the oversight role of Parliament;
- Campaign against the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill (the Censorship Bill): while committed to fighting racism, misogyny, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia and other forms of prejudice speech, we nevertheless call for the hate speech provisions to be scrapped as an unnecessary threat to free political speech and media freedom.
- We call for Parliamentary TV to be accessible on a free-to-air channel now.

On Digital TV:

- We will campaign to expose the corruption and secrecy in various aspects of digital migration and digital terrestrial television, and will demand that all such cases be investigated and made public, including the Treasury probe.
- We will demand that digital TV deliver its promise of media diversity, not increased commercialisation and corporatisation.

On Community Media:

- Capacitating our own activists to perform popular education at a community level on the rights of communities to have ownership over local community media radio stations;
- We will engage with the ICASA broadcasting regulation review to promote community media that is independent, sustainable and representative of community interests.

2.2 Building the Right2Know

2.2.1 Campaign Structures, Relations, Internal Democracy:

We declare 2017 the year of walking the talk!

- Encourage provincial activists to identify popular education and mobilization needs for local communities on R2K issues
- Strengthen community mobilization by supporting activists to forward local struggles especially through access to information.
- Activists involved in local community struggles must report to provincial structures on a monthly basis
- Continue to work in solidarity with related civil society organisations towards our communal vision and missions.

We reaffirm that:

- We are a democratic organization;
- We work at a community level to advance the right to know and support local struggles and we work at city/provincial/national levels to challenge law/policy and raise public awareness.
- We value contributions of a wide range of capacities, including local community activists and activists working on national policy issues;
- We are activist led and the role of staff is to support activism and to be accountable to activists.
- National issues must be discussed in Provinces and Provincial issues discussed by the NWG. Provincial Coordinators must play a key role in linking the NWG and PWG.
- We do not work with Political Parties;

2.2.2 Rooting R2K in Local Struggles:

Emphasising the values of public participation and the free flow of information:

- Expand the reach of the R2K progressively and proactively within the metropolitan (urban) areas and rural areas;
- Strengthen our presence at sites of protests and struggles to demonstrate our support for partner organisations around common purpose
- Continue to develop leadership and skills of R2K activists
- Annually consolidate and maintain a database of support organisations, local struggles and individuals to document their respective struggles, areas of experience and expertise and their constituencies
- Undertake ongoing reflection and learning on different approaches to organising, including how we enter communities and how we sustain our engagement.
- Prioritise fewer relationships and ensure deeper and more sustained and proactive support.
- Ensure that we do not 'substitute for' or 'take over' local struggles.
- Prioritise R2K mobilisation on R2K issues that impact directly on communities
- Ensure that R2K balances support for local struggles without losing focus on R2K's own campaigns.
- Support provinces to identify two key local campaigns to support in a sustainable way.

- Each province should aim to increase the allocation of its resources to supporting local struggles. This must be reflected in monthly budgets & reports.

2.2.3 Combating Patriarchy:

- Develop a popular education tool kit to deepen our understanding of patriarchy within R2K including aspects of womxn's experience, the LGBTI experience, power dynamics, and gender oppression
- Bring a combating patriarchy lens to focus areas of the R2K campaign and develop partnerships and tools to do so.
- Work on extending the activist code of conduct to include principles for creating inclusive spaces and getting buy-in from comrades to do so.
- Integrating feminism within R2K by telling more stories of female and feminist activists, enable feminism in focus groups, and have a leadership programmes for womxn only, to build confidence and empower female activism.

2.3.4 National Solidarity Network (Outreach):

- Reaffirm our principle of struggle before structures
- Visit and keep working with all organizations that have signed MOU and also continue to mobilize new Communities.
- Prioritise areas where struggles are already taking place, with an emphasis on protest
- Continue working on building partnerships with Outreach Communities
- A comprehensive outreach strategy must be adopted at the second NWG meeting, with consultation of the provinces.

2.3.5 Media, communication and popular education:

- Spread our messages and information by going back to basics, including door to door and community meetings.
- Encourage community members to write press statements relating to actions in their own communities and the links to R2K focuses.
- Popularise community stories so that community struggles become more visible.
- Actively engage youth, including learners and students.
- Actively engage community media to tell the stories of the successes and lessons of community actions.
- Undertake induction for all new members of R2K and engage in information sharing and understanding practices amongst our activists.
- Undertake R2K Leadership Development based on local needs.
- Insure each Province will create spaces for political discussion on a regular basis, including discussions around our internal political nature, such as the walk the talk workshop
- Focus on material that is accessible and can enable local struggles – this should include translations.

2.3.6 Finance & Staffing:

Noting that R2K's Human Resource & Finance systems are well developed and strong and reaffirming our commitment to fair labour practices:

- Administrators must have skills to administer and account for funds.
- PWGs and provincial staff must develop the capacity to engage monthly financial reports.
- Mandate the NWG's Fin Team to explore the possibility of reducing salaries.
- PWGs and Provincial Co-ordinators should workshop staff conditions of employment and staff job descriptions to develop greater management capacity.
- Support the appointment of an Operations Coordinator to give greater support to provincial administrators and Provincial Coordinators.
- Explore establishing an 'activist solidarity fund', to be discussed at the NWG's first meeting.
- Provinces should continue to discuss questions of expanding staffing and paying activists – and feedback to the NWG within 2 months, and study and learn from other organisations that have paid activists.

3. Elected National Working Group (NWG)

The Summit elected the following comrades to serve on the 2017/8 National Working Group:

1. Cleo Shezi
2. Dale Mckinley
3. Ghalib Galant
4. Jacob Dube
5. Karabo Rajuli
6. Mhlobo Gunguluzi
7. Nomfundo Sibiyi
8. Peter Zulu
9. Sinenhlanhla Manqele
10. Siviwe Mdoda
11. Sthembiso Khuluse

ENDS###

APPENDIX 1: Summit Participants

The summit was attended by the following 98 participants. 35 apologies were tabled.

KwaZulu Natal Delegates (12)

1. Bridget Manqele
2. Jacob Dube
3. Ngazini Ngidi
4. Nomfundo Sibiyi
5. Sandile Khwela
6. Sibusiso Nzama
7. Sihle Dladla
8. Sindiswa Dlamini
9. Sithembiso Khuluse
10. Thabo Maile
11. Thembile Buthelezi

Gauteng Delegates (12)

1. Albert Moleme
2. Alfred Tshabalala
3. Aulbry Lengane
4. Eunice Manzini
5. General Moyo
6. Julie Reid
7. Margaret Mabala
8. Moeketsi Monaheng
9. Noluthando Lebaka
10. Sabatini Motloun
11. Sandile Nombeni
12. Sikhungu Jebe

Western Cape Delegates (12)

1. Ashley Louw
2. Jane Roberts
3. Joyce Malebu
4. Karabo Rajuli
5. Khaya Xintolo
6. Nokuthejwa Bulana
7. Pupa Fumba
8. Roegchanda Pascoe

9. Siphokazi Pangalele
10. Siviwe Mdoda
11. Tholakele Sikhosana
12. Vusi Mpu

Outgoing National Working Groups (9)

1. Alison Tilley
2. Asha Moodley
3. Cloe Shezi
4. Dale McKinley
5. Ghalib Galant
6. Mhlobo Gunguluzi
7. Nonhlanhla Chaza
8. Peter Zulu
9. Precious Mazibuko

Right2Know Staff (12)

1. Bongani Xezwi
2. Carina Conradie
3. Jayshree Pather
4. Busi Mtabane
5. Janine Julisen
6. Mark Weinberg
7. Murray Hunter
8. Ntombi Tshabalala
9. Palesa Kunene
10. Phezu Ntetha
11. Thabane Miya
12. Vainola Makan

National Guests (33)

1. Alan Storey, Central Methodist
2. Ameck Ayong, NPA
3. Ashley Green-Thompson, ACT Alliance
4. Avani Singh, Legal Resources Centre
5. Azhar Desai, digital security
6. Carlos Reymoreno, Zenzeleni
7. Cathy Masters, CMDS
8. Chennai Chair, Research ICT Africa

9. Chumile Sali, SJC
10. Claudio Feo, Norwegian Peoples Aid
11. Elroy Paulus, Black Sash
12. Faith Shabangu, PACSA
13. Jane Duncan, MPDP
14. Janine Ogle, MVC
15. Kholiswa Tyiki, SWEAT
16. Linda Daniels, Childrens Radio Foundation
17. Mahmood Sanglay, Muslim Views
18. Michael Marchant, Open Secrets
19. Michael Graaf, Zenzeleni
20. Ronald Menoe, Corruption Watch
21. Roy Chetty, R2K vetran
22. Thoko Madonko, HBS
23. Trygve Augestad, NPA
24. Vivienne Lalu, Dullar Omar Institute
25. Willie Currie, Telecoms Vetran
26. Nombulelo Shange, groundWork
27. Ralph Madlalate, LRC
28. Adi Mistryfrost, CIVICUS
29. Caroline ntaopane, Womin
30. Lunga Guza, Workers World Media Productions
31. Mzimasi Mngeni, ILRIG
32. Marie Knauss, Lawyers for Human Rights
33. Thoko Matshe, Olof Palme International Center

Western Cape Guests (8)

1. Ann October
2. Levona Carstens,
3. Nowie Mdayi
4. Felicia Solomons
5. Mama Njana
6. Karabo Klass
7. Thembanani Lawdy
8. Shimone Valentine

Apologies

1. Abahlali
2. Amandla Mobi
3. Assocaiaation Of Progressive Communicators
4. Center for Applied Legal Studie
5. Children's Resource Centre
6. CIVICUS
7. CLF
8. Community Media Trust
9. COPAC
10. CPJ
11. Democracy Works
12. Diakonia Council of Churches
13. Dullah Omar Institute
14. DUT media studies
15. FES
16. Ford Foundation
17. FXI
18. FXN
19. Khanya College
20. Local Government Action
21. MAVC
22. Media Monitoring Africa
23. NUMSA
24. OSF-SA
25. Oxfam South Africa
26. PEP
27. Protest Hotline project
28. Raith Foundation
29. SAFCIE
30. SCLC
31. SOS Coalition
32. SWEAT
33. TAC
34. The People's Health Movement South Africa
35. Webber Wentzel

APPENDIX 2: Summit Programme

Friday 17 March: Formalities & Confronting Challenges

900 Registration

930 **Welcome, Ground Rules & Programme**

1010 **Organisational Reports**

1140 TEA

1200 **Commissions: Consolidating Provincial Resolutions (See NOTE 1)**

1300 LUNCH

1340 **Presentation of IEC & Electoral Process**

1400 **Diciplary Appeal**

1600 TEA

1740 **Election of 2017/8 National Working Group**

1800 DINNER

1845 **World Cafe: Difficult Discussions (See NOTE 2)**

2040 CLOSE FOR DAY

Saturday 18 March: Deepening Strategy & Ready for Action

900 **Plenary reflection on 'Difficult Discussions'**

1100 TEA

1130 **Strategy Workshops (See NOTE 3)**

1300 LUNCH

1400 **Adoption of 2017/8 Resolutions**

1800 **Acknowledgements**

1830 CLOSURE

1900 DINNER & SOCIAL

PROGRAMME NOTE 1: Commissions: Consolidate Provincial Resolution

Commission's review Provincial Summit resolutions, discuss additional issues and prepare a report on (1) consolidated draft National Resolutions where there is already consensus and (2) issues where there is no consensus that need further discussion.

CAMPAIGN REVIEW

1. Secrecy & Surveillance
2. Right to Protest
3. Information Access
4. Right to Communicate

INTERNAL REVIEW

5. Campaign Structures, Relations, Internal Democracy
6. Local Struggles & Rooting Campaign
7. Combating Patriarchy
8. National Solidarity Network (Outreach)
9. Media and Communication & Popular Education
10. Finances & Staffing

PROGRAMME NOTE 2: World Cafe: Difficult Discussions

Session aims to air contentious issues. Establish where there is consensus, what the differences are, and what (if any) resolutions can be reached - responding to the provocative questions below (this topics will be revived depending on contentious issues identified at the Summit when Provincial Resolutions are consolidated:

1. ***The Organisational Character of Right2Know:*** Is R2K a NGO, network, coalition, or social movement? Can we have more than one of these forms, and what are the contradictions? Are we unitary national organisation or a loose coalition of autonomous provinces? When, if ever, are R2K supporters (activists and organisations) bound by decisions of the Campaign? Are we really democratic and activist driven, or do a few people hold all the power and staff do all the work? Why have we decided to take on the legal & bureaucratic obligations required to accept donor funds, employ staff, etc? What impact do these 'obligations' have on our independence, internal democracy, and activism?
2. ***The Political Character of Right2Know:*** Is R2K political? Do we have an ideology? If we are a 'board church', just how 'broad', what are our limits? How do we relate liberal/socialist democratic traditions and other liberatory ideologies (nationalism, feminism, intersectionality, etc)? Practically, how do we relate to other political currents in civil society from the United Front, Movement for Socialism, #feesmustfall (decolonisation), to Save SA? More practically, what position should R2K take on the demand for Free Decolonised Education?
3. ***Challenges of Local Organising:*** What is the real state of community organisations and struggles? Are community organisations largely weak or dormant? Are communities largely demobilised and divided? What should local activists be doing to build organisations/struggles in this period? What can more resourced organisations outside communities (like NGOs) do that is supportive and not unhelpful or harmful?
4. ***Violence in Protest:*** What is violence, does it include disruption and/or damage to property? Is violence inevitable for in the struggle for socio-economic justice? If so, how should activists respond to violence? Under what circumstances, if ever, should activists turn to violence? How should R2K respond to protest violence?
5. ***Limits on Freedom of Expression:*** What, if any, are acceptable limits on Freedom of Expression? Should limits protect dignity, culture, social cohesion? Should limits protect everyone, marginal groups, minority groups, and/or people in positions of 'respect'? How should activists and organisations engage journalists that are hostile to struggle?
6. ***Equals in an Unequal World:*** How do we relate to each other as equals (equally human, with equal potential at birth and equal rights in law) in the lived reality of gross inequality and injustice? Can

comrades of different genders, race classifications, and classes work together in the context of unequal and contested access to social power, resources, education, etc? How can we work together? When do we 'celebrate our diversity' and when do we take a stand against injustice?

7. **Expanding Staff & Paying Activism:** Should R2K appoint a 2nd set of Provincial Organisers as currently budgeted? If yes, what different roles will the two Organisers play? Will this support more activism or undermine/substitute for activism? If we don't appoint a 2nd set of Provincial Organisers, what should we use the additional funds for? Should we consider paying activists for their contributions? If yes, how will we decide who should be paid, for what, and how much? How would this impact the quality of our activism? Will this encourage comrades to do R2K work for money and not political commitment? What impact will this have on the democratic & activist lead nature of R2K? Will it weaken local struggles if comrades put R2K action ahead of community work? How would we hold paid comrades accountable? What are the legal/tax implications of paying activists & does R2K have the administrative capacity to manage payments and ensure financial accountability. Beyond a 2nd Provincial Organiser, should we plan to hire a National Organiser and/or a Protest Rights Organiser, and/or an Access to Telecoms Organiser and/or a Feminist Organiser?

PROGRAMME NOTE 3: Workshops on Campaign Strategy

Develop and deepen strategy on key advocacy campaigns.

Workshop questions: What are R2K's specific demands? Do we know enough or need more research? Who has the power to deliver on demands? How do we put pressure on them (tactics, alliances, etc)? Does issue resonate in communities? How? What are key messages/ slogans?

1. Hate Speech
2. Mass Surveillance
3. Protest
4. Engaging Local Government
5. Commodification of Broadcasting (SABC & Community Media)
6. Cost of Communication

ENDS