

## PRESS RELEASE

# Building a South Africa that provides the opportunity for all to be creative, productive and free human beings

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### NEW TITLE

South Africa's hard-won democracy, symbolised by the late liberation hero Nelson Mandela, was the main victim of the chaos in parliament during President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation Address. In *Recovering Democracy in South Africa*, Raymond Suttner brings together the best of his recent writings and essays; he offers a fresh look at the wide range of contentious issues that currently preoccupy South Africans, from the threat to constitutionalism to problems with leadership and questions of ethics. The book is as much an in-depth engagement with our difficult present as it is a damning account of the politics of the Zuma era.

*It is illogical to think that the chaos of last week, which first saw cellphone signals jammed and then later witnessed security personnel rushing into the National Assembly to evict members of the EFF, represented anything good about our democracy. If anything, the soft underbelly of our democratic experiment was laid bare for all to see.*

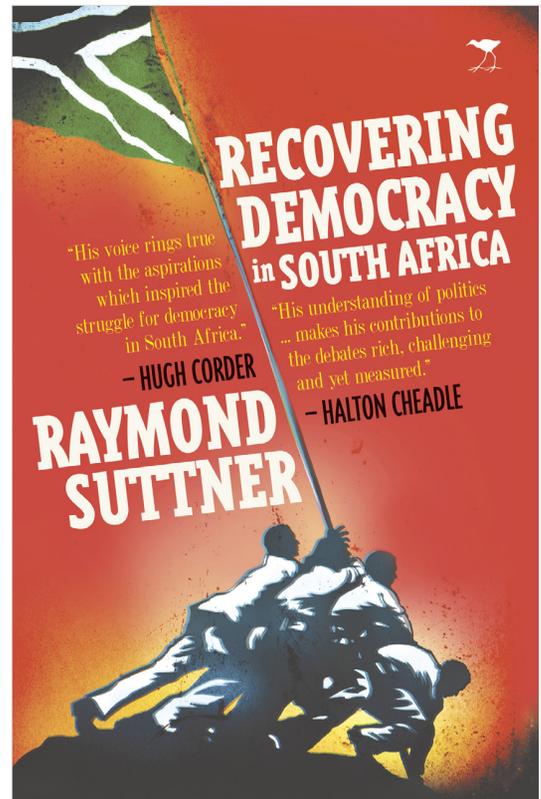
– Ellis Mnyandu: editor of *Business Report*

Despite his strongly argued criticism of the present political order, Suttner does not leave the reader with a sense of powerlessness or pessimism. Much of the book is devoted to uncovering the strengths and fundamental values of our democracy and envisioning ways by which South Africans can recover and build on the promise of 1994.

*In Recovering Democracy, I wrestle with, and try to capture, the sense that something is missing in the existence of many South Africans, something they thought was theirs, which is now under threat, slipping away or even no longer there. That 'something' is democracy ...*

*Consequently, in speaking of recovering democracy now, it may mean more than returning to the promise of 1994, protecting the Constitution from the various ways it has been undermined, and ending corruption, illegality and violence. It may also mean, if we become more actively involved in our own emancipation and more self-empowered, that we expect more from democracy, that we invest greater efforts in creative ways of building democracy and institutions that go beyond and augment what is found in the Constitution.*

– Raymond Suttner: Introduction



Price and cover subject to change.

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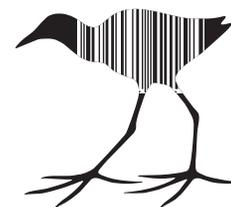
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## CONTINUED

This book comes out at a time when South Africa faces its own challenges. What the future holds for South Africa depends on what each of us puts into reclaiming our democracy and the values that underpin our country.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Raymond Suttner**, who lives in Johannesburg, is a part-time professor at Rhodes University and an Emeritus Professor at the University of South Africa. Initially a legal academic, he later obtained an interdisciplinary PHD in history, political studies and sociology. During the apartheid era he was jailed for his activities as an ANC underground operative, as described in one of his earlier works, *Inside Apartheid's Prison* (2001). More recently, his book *The ANC Underground* was published by Jacana (2008).

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