PRESS RELEASE

**Songs and Secrets**

*South Africa from Liberation to Governance*

Barry Gilder

978-1-4314-0436-0 • Trade Paperback • 235x155mm • 320pp • R240.00 • June 2012 • Southern African Rights

NEW TITLE

If you picked up this book in the expectation of revelling in the true confessions of a disaffected spy-master – put it back.

If you opened this book in the hope of enjoying the confidences of a disillusioned cadre of the South African liberation movement – close it, put it down.

If you bought this book in anticipation of a grandparents-to-grave biography of a white man in a black man’s army – shut it now, wrap it up, give it to a friend.

(From the Author’s Note)

*Songs and Secrets* is a personal exploration of the ANC from liberation movement to government. It follows the author into the ANC’s military camps in Angola; to Moscow for intelligence training; to the underground in Botswana and into leadership positions in the intelligence services and administration of the new government. It unpacks the oft-ignored conditions in which the ANC government had to try to turn apartheid around.

The book investigates the personal, political, psychological and historical realities that gave birth to the new South Africa.

*Songs and Secrets* is written in an anecdotal, cinematic style – providing glimpses into the small and big events that marked the author’s journey through the three decades of history that led South Africa and the ANC to the challenges they face today.

**Barry Gilder** was born in South Africa in 1950. He went into exile in 1976, composed and sang struggle songs, underwent military and intelligence training with the ANC, and served in the ANC’s intelligence structures until his return to South Africa in 1991. After 1994 he served as deputy head of the South African Secret Service, as deputy head of the National Intelligence Agency, as director-general of the Department of Home Affairs and as South Africa’s co-ordinator of intelligence until his retirement in 2007. He is currently Director Operations at the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection.

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