



YEMENIS SAY ENOUGH: Dozens of students, university faculty and activists protested outside the abandoned Saudi embassy in Sana'a Monday morning. The protesters carried banners condemning the airstrikes in Yemen carried out by the Saudi-led coalition since March 26. The protesters demanded an end to the strikes and a return to negotiations. Demonstrators threw their shoes at the gates of the embassy to show their anger about the strikes, which have killed hundreds. Adel Al-Usaimi, a student at Sana'a University and one of the organizers of the protest, said that the group does not represent any political party, group or side. Those demonstrating, he said, are united around calling for an end to the strikes. *Photos by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki*

Houthis enter Aden port

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, April 6—On Sunday, the Houthis announced they had gained full control over Aden port. Security forces in Aden deny the claim, saying the Houthis are present, but not in control.

Mohammad Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi Political Office, said that the port is under the full control of the military-backed Houthis, and that the group would expand in the governorate until it was fully under Houthi control.

Mohammad Musaed, assistant security chief in Aden city, said the Houthis, backed by forces loyal to for-

mer President Saleh, are present in the port, where they have three armored vehicles and three trucks. They are not, according to Musaed, in control of the port.

Abdu Farea, local council member and designated leader in the Al-Qalua neighborhood in Mualla district said that the Houthis are inside the port, but there is heavy resistance by Aden's locals, the popular committees and Hadi's army, adding that there have been dozens of deaths.

He confirmed to the Yemen Times that the Houthis have entered the port on Sunday evening, but they did not take full control over the port, because

they are facing intense resistance.

He acknowledged that the Houthis had made major gains in the district of Crater, Aden port, and Mualla.

"We give the Houthis and Saleh's army 24 hours to leave Aden through the coastal road overlooking the Red Sea to Hodeidah. Otherwise, we will kill them all," Musaed said.

"We are against the idiot Hadi, who extended the battle from Sana'a into Aden, but we are also against the Houthis," he added.

Aden port is one of the main seaports in the Gulf of Aden, located in Aden city and considered one of the largest natural ports in the world.

Following Operation Decisive Storm, exodus of foreign nationals from Yemen

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

Sana'a, April 6—More than 500 foreign nationals have been evacuated from Sana'a airport since Thursday, according to the manager of Sana'a International Airport.

Airport manager Khalid Al-Shaef told the Yemen Times that Indians constituted the largest foreign constituency being evacuated from Yemen, followed by Russians and the citizens of former Soviet states.

On Monday, there were two Russian and two Indian flights, Al-Shaef said. On Sunday, there were three Indian, two Pakistani and one Turkish flight. About 150 nationals were evacuated on Sunday alone, according to Al-Shaef.

Al-Shaef said the evacuations have been daily and that Yemenia was intending to evacuate foreign nationals, but that the Saudi-led coalition denied their request.

Most flights, he said, first go to Djibouti before heading to their final destinations, with the exception of the Russian flights.

Several countries have been evacuating their foreign nationals from Yemen following the start of airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition on March 26.

Foreign nationals have also been evacuated from Aden governorate. Following Hadi's escape to Aden and declaration of the city as the new capital, several embassies that had shuttered in Sana'a reopened in the port city, with an influx of foreign nationals to Aden who worked in the embassies.

A statement released by the Russian Minis-



The manager of Sana'a airport estimates that 500 foreign nationals have evacuated since Thursday.

try of Foreign Affairs on Thursday said that an evacuation process occurred in Aden port, when a Russian ship belonging to the Russian naval fleet came to the area and evacuated civilians.

Beijing had announced that a Chinese ship had evacuated 225 foreigners from Yemen and relocated them to Djibouti.

The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on its website that citizens from Pakistan, Ethiopia, Singapore, Italy, Germany, Poland, Ireland, Britain, Canada, and Yemen were among those who were evacuated on April 2 from Aden, Yemen's second largest city.

Political analyst Muhi Al-Din Al-Asbahi said that the evacuation of Indians and Russians, many of whom work in the medical field, will leave Yemen in dire need of medical staff.

Decisive storm: 875 deaths and over 1200 injuries

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

April 5—A report published Saturday by Bait Al-Hurriya organization has documented 857 deaths and 1,214 injuries of civilians since the start of Operation Decisive Storm.

Amongst the 857 civilian deaths were 160 children, according to the group, as well as 32 women and 13 senior citizens.

The group said 111 residential areas in 13 governorates have been hit in the airstrikes. The group said that 936 homes have been damaged. Four factories, four civilian airports, 14 educational facilities, three mosques and three health facilities are amongst the institutions and buildings that have been struck. Bait Al-Hurriya estimates that between ten and 15 thousand families have been displaced nationwide.

The data, which includes statistics but also photos and videos, was gathered by field teams, volunteers and organizations nationwide, Bait Al-Hurriya's head, Bassem Al-Ra'di, said in a press conference.

Al-Ra'di emphasized the importance of forming an independent, international committee by the UN and Human Rights Council to conduct a fair investigation to ascertain the types of weapons used by the Saudi-led coalition in the airstrikes. Valerie Amos, the coordinator for the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, said in a press release Thursday that there were thus far 519 deaths and 1700 injuries.

"Those engaged in fighting must ensure that hospitals, schools, camps for refugees and those internally displaced and civilian infrastructure, especially in populated areas, are not targeted or used for military purposes," the statement said.


"Tens of thousands of people have fled their homes, some by crossing the sea to Djibouti and Somalia. Electricity, water and essential medicines are in short supply."

Salah Al-Ezzi, head of the Media De-

partment for the Houthis, said that the figures in the reports are too low.

He added that the group does not, "fear Saudi Arabia, we will last longer and survive because we are righteous. Saudi Arabia is shelling everything to destroy Yemen's infrastructure and its army, their claims that we are hiding weapons in civilian areas are false."

Saudi Arabia is leading a coalition of forces that has engaged in airstrikes on Yemen since March 26 in an operation called Decisive Storm.



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Houthis claim to seize arms intended for popular committees in Aden

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, April 5—Weapons dropped from the air by the Saudi-led coalition for popular committees fighting the Houthis in Aden have fallen into Houthi hands, according to the Houthis. The claim is denied by a member of the Southern Movement, who claims all weapons are the hands of the group and the popular committees.

Major General Ahmad Asiri, the official spokesperson for Operation Decisive Storm, said in a daily briefing Saturday evening that the popular committees have started using the weapons that were dropped off Friday evening.

The weapons, he said, were provided to the committees to help them drive the military-backed Houthis out of Aden.

Sheikh Mohammad Baqahoum, a popular committee fighter in Aden city, said that the popular committees started using the weapons provided by the coalition on Saturday morning.

He claimed that a large number of Houthis were killed as a result, and that the additional arms have shifted the balance of power towards the committees and against the Houthis and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Salah Al-Ezzi, head of the media department for the Houthis, said that a large number of arms intended for the popular committees were seized by the Saleh-allied Houthis.

He said the weapons were very modern, but declined to comment on the types of weapons the group allegedly seized.

"The modern weapons are in our control. We will free Aden from Hadi and his group by through the weapons that were intended for

them," Al-Ezzi said.

"I want to tell the world: if see us with advanced, modern weaponry, do not accuse us have smuggling it from the outside. These weapons are from the coalition, we seized them from Hadi's popular committees," he added.

Majed Al-Shuiabi, a journalist and member of the Southern Movement, denied claims that any of the arms intended for the popular committee made their way to the Houthis. The weapons, he said, reached the Fourth Military Command's headquarters and were distributed on Friday evening after they were counted.

Al-Shuiabi said all the weapons were, "light weapons, but very advanced. There were sniper rifles and AKs," he said, declining to provide any further information regarding the nature of weapons delivered by the coalition.

Fierce clashes are ongoing in Aden governorate, which is witnessing street battles between President Hadi's popular committees and Houthi fighters backed by army forces loyal to Saleh. According to a statement released Saturday evening by Al-Khader Laswar, director of the Ministry of Health's office in Aden, 182 people are confirmed dead and 1258 have been injured in the governorate from both sides as of Saturday.

Naif Haidan, a correspondent in Aden with the Lebanese Al-Mayadeen Channel, said the figures released by Laswar were low, and that hundreds more have died in the fighting. The ongoing street battles have made it difficult for first-responders to collect the hundreds of bodies that have piled up on the streets of Aden. On Friday, two brothers with the Red Crescent were shot dead in Aden while evacuating wounded people, according



Popular committees loyal to President Hadi and the Houthis both presented different versions of what happened to weapons air dropped into Aden. Houthis claim they have seized some of the weapons, while those fighting the Houthis insist all weapons are accounted for.

to the organization.

According to Haidan, each time popular committees regain control over an area, fresh clashes break out between the committees and the Houthis.

Abdu Farea Al-Wesabi, a member of the local council in the Al-Qalu'a area in Aden and a designated community leader for ten

neighborhoods in the same area, said that the area is witnessing the most violent clashes since the start of clashes on March 26. The hospitals and streets are filled with corpses, he added.

Al-Wesabi said that dozens of houses in the Al-Qalu'a area have been destroyed from shelling and return artillery fire.

AQAP continues to hold Mukalla, tribesmen unable to enter city

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, April 5—Armed tribesmen are pouring into Hadramout, where some have surrounded Mukalla city in hopes of forcing their way through the Al-Qaeda-controlled checkpoints and re-taking the city, which fell into the hands of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) on Thursday.

So far, the tribesmen have not been able to make their way through the checkpoints, according to Aymen Bahumaid, a radio journalist at Mukalla Radio.

The group consolidated its control over Mukalla with the takeover of the Second Military Region Command in Khalaf, east of Mukalla city, on Friday afternoon.

"Armed men belonging to Al-Qaeda gave Friday's sermon and led Friday's prayers and said that they will leave the city in the coming days," said Ubaid Bin Dahan, a resident in Al-Dis area in Mukalla.

Those prayers came after the group had released 300 prisoners, including AQAP leaders Khaled Batarfi and Ibrahim Al-Abyani, from Mukalla's central prison. Following the raid, AQAP set the general prosecution department on fire and ransacked a number of government buildings in the city.

Mukalla's fall

According to Hussein Baalawi, the manager of Mukalla's central prison, "dozens of armed AQAP men attacked at around 2:00 p.m. on Thursday and were able to take control over the prison, subsequently releasing all the prisoners." AQAP exchanged fire with

prison guards for an hour, Baalawi said, killing five guards during the raid and causing the rest of the guards to abandon the area.

Following the release of the prisoners, AQAP and the escapees set fire not only to the general prosecution building, but a radio station as well, before robbing the central bank in the city, according to Baalawi.

Hadba Al-Yazidi, a correspondent for the Al-Saeeda channel, lives near the prison.

"The clashes started at multiple locations at the same time, including the governorate's headquarters. [AQAP] used IEDs and RPGs. While the attack on the governorate's headquarters was underway, there was a simultaneous attack against the central prison, with similar weapons," Al-Yazidi said.

Clashes also took place at the Presidential Palace, which AQAP seized on Thursday.

In addition to the Presidential Palace, the central prison, and the Central Bank, other buildings taken include the Police Camp, the Coastal Defense Camp, the GPC headquarters and the Federation of Yemeni women.

AQAP now controls the five entrances to the city, where they have set up check-points.

Abdulla Al-Bahsani, part of the security forces in Mukalla city, said that five security forces were killed during the fighting, and four others were injured. He claimed one member of AQAP was killed and two others injured, as well as two civilians who died in the crossfire and four civilians injured.

About 100 Islah members remain in detention



■ Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, April 5—Around 100 leading figures in the Islah party remained in detention Sunday, following the party's declaration of support for the Saudi-led airstrikes against Yemen on Thursday evening.

Houthi gunmen stormed the headquarters of the party in Sana'a,

arresting the leading figures, as well as 39 other members of Islah.

A prominent member of the party, who spoke to Yemen Times on condition of anonymity because he feared arrest, said that Houthi gunmen stormed a number of department buildings of Islah, as well as some of the party's charities and private homes of Islah members on Sunday. On Saturday, the Houthis

arrested 122 members of the party in various governorates, the source said.

"Five people were arrested in Dhamar, three in Ibb and the rest in the capital Sana'a. Among those arrested from Islah are Ahmed Sharaf Al-Deen, Fathi Al-Azab, Abdulla Satara and Hamud Al-Tharhi. They are all top leaders of the party," he said.

The Islahi source believes that the Houthis are leading the campaign against Islah along with former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

In a statement released Thursday, Islah thanked Yemen's "brotherly countries [who are] participating in the Saudi-led coalition for their response to the request of the legitimate president, Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi."

The statement also said that the Houthis and their allies shoulder all responsibility for the consequences of the operation, and that the party hopes the strikes will help bring things back on the "right track," and away from the "crisis caused by the Houthis."

Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi Political Office, told the Yemen Times that the stance of Islah is against the interests of Yemen.

"Islah supports the air strikes against Yemen and will soon pay the price when these countries request Islah's support for ground

troops to Yemen in the upcoming period," he said.

Regarding the arrest of prominent leaders of Islah, Al-Bukhaiti denied that they were arrested because of the stance of their party.

"Those leaders weren't arrested because Islah supported the air strikes but because we have confirmed information that the coalition countries requested that Islah participate directly in the ongoing

battles in Yemen," he added.

Saudi Arabia and nine other countries began air raids against military targets and airports in Yemen on March 26 after a request by Hadi for these countries to intervene and stop the Houthi expansion to Aden and the south. The airstrikes have also struck a number of civilian targets, including a dairy factory, a cement factory, a refugee camp and a number of homes.

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Grocery stores running out of flour as public hoards basic goods



Residents in Sana'a have spent days trying to find flour in the capital city. Stocking up on basic goods has resulted in shortages in the market.

Khalid Al-Karimi

Salah Ahmed, a 50 year-old taxi driver, went from supermarket to supermarket to find flour. When he did locate it, he found that the price of a 50 kilo sack of flour had shot up from YR 5500 (\$25) to YR 6200 (\$28) since the beginning of the Saudi-led coalition strikes in Yemen.

"Like others, I never imagined flour would be so difficult to find," he said.

The increase of \$3 per 50 kilos of flour may seem modest, but for the half of Yemenis who live on less than \$2 a day, the rising cost of flour coincides with rising costs of fuel and the diminishing value of the rial, which has gone from about 214 Yemeni Riyal per dollar to 220.

Driving up prices is fear that the market will run out of such essentials as flour. Yemen imports 90 percent of its food, according to Salah Al-Maqtari, a professor of economics at Sana'a University. Coalition forces have imposed both

an air and naval blockade, leaving residents with the means to do so to stock up on food and basic supplies.

Food insecurity is a chronic problem, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with half of Yemenis suffering from food insecurity. Humanitarian organizations warn that the latest conflict risks exacerbating what is already a dire humanitarian situation.

"Importation has stopped in Yemen. The air and naval routes are now under the control of the coalition forces," Al-Maqtari said. "Not

only will this have tremendous consequences for Yemen's economy, but it makes people fearful, encouraging them to hoard food."

The Chamber of Commerce issued a statement last week seeking to reassure the population about the food supply. According to the commerce, there is enough food in the market for the coming six months in all governorates. The statement did little to reassure the public.

Al-Maqtari seemed skeptical of the commerce's claim. "The purpose of the statement was likely to reassure the public," he said. He added that it was possible that there was a reserve of food that he did not know about. Coalition forces have acknowledged the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. On April 4, the spokesperson for Operation Decisive Storm, Ahmed Asiri, said the Saudi-led coalition has formed a coordinating committee to evacuate foreign nationals and provide aid.

On Saturday, April 4, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) issued a statement calling for a humanitarian ceasefire.

"All air, land and sea routes must be opened without delay for at least 24 hours to enable help to reach people cut off after more than a week of intense airstrikes and fierce ground fighting nationwide," the ICRC said in a statement.

On April 5, the Saudi-led coalition agreed to the ICRC's call to allow supplies and aid workers to Yemen.

"We have received permission from the coalition for two planes now, one carrying supplies and one with staff," ICRC spokeswoman Sitara Jabeen told Reuters on Sun-

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day, hoping that that the two planes could arrive on Monday in the capital Sana'a.

For Ahmed, it took two days of searching before finding a sack of flour. "I only bought one sack, unlike many others who are storing food to prepare for the war," Ahmed said.

Ali Mohsen, a local resident of the Shumaila neighborhood of Sana'a, said he also spent days looking for flour.

"I searched for two days and found nothing. On the third day, I found a half sack of flour in a supermarket. It was the last one," Mohsen said.

Dhaif Allah Abdullah, an employee at the Al-Sadaqa grocery store in Sana'a, said that fear was disrupting the market, with some customers buying upwards of 20 sacks of flour

at a time.

"On the second day of Decisive Storm, we had 300 sacks of flour. We sold them all," he said.

Abdulrahman Ali, a resident in the Hadda neighborhood of the capital, said his family has about 15 sacks of wheat as well as two sacks of white flour in storage. "Now we feel secure. This amount of wheat will last us a long time," Ali said.

Al-Maqtari said the responsible course of action is to buy only what one needs, and to resist the urge to stock up on food. Doing so disturbs the market, drives up prices, and hits the most vulnerable hardest.

"In such a situation, everyone is thinking about themselves and their families. The citizens feel the absence of the state, and this is a natural reaction," he said, but a harmful one.

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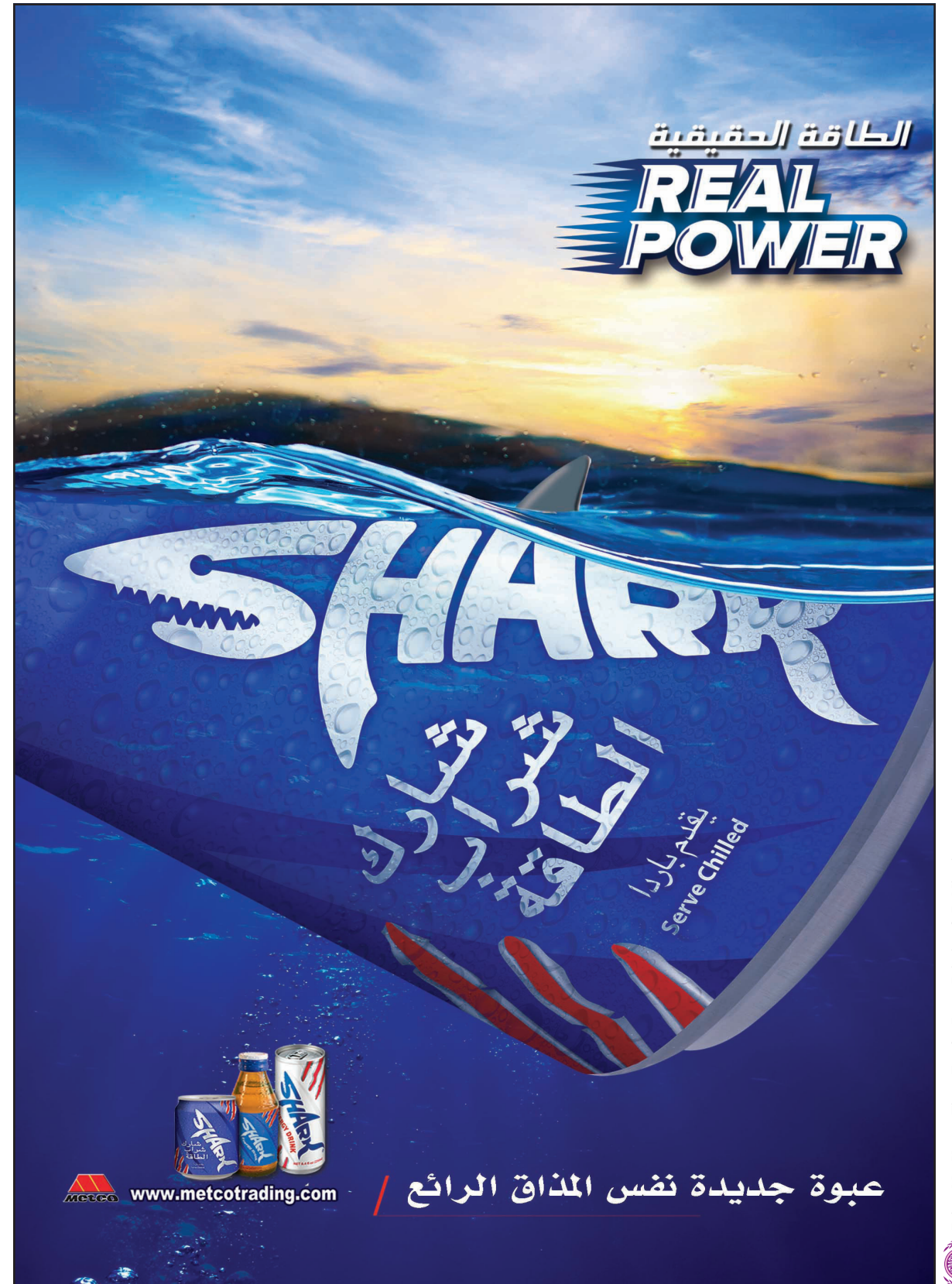
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