

BAHRAIN

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Bahrain and Yemen will defeat Saudi, Alkhalifa criminal adventures

As the unholy alliance led by Saudi Arabia completed two years of unyielding aggression on Yemen, the people of Bahrain, like the people of Yemen, continued to bury their martyrs; the victims of the aggression of the satanic tribal forces. The world stood in agony as it counted the ever-rising costs of the counter revolution forces. The Saudis have reduced Yemen, the land of civilisation to rubble. More than 15000 civilians have been killed including over 4500 children. The statistics of the civilian targets show horrific picture. Schools were destroyed by Saudi air raids, hospitals, marriage ceremonies, funeral services and meeting halls. These attacks are faithful replica of what ISIS has been doing in Iraq. Yet the international community has miserably failed to raise an eyebrow at these war crimes. Despite the protestations from international human rights bodies like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International against these crimes, the UN Security Council and the UN Human Rights Council have failed to order impartial investigations into these crimes. The reason? Saudi Arabia has vetoed such proposal as they would expose the war crimes its forces had repeatedly committed. The Saudis undertook to do the "investigations" themselves only to absolve its forces and leaders of any responsibility or wrong-doing despite the enormous mass of evidence implicating them. The failure by the world community to observe its duties has made mockery of the basic notions of justice, human rights, the Geneva conventions regulating the conduct of war.

The pattern of regime's brutality is a sign of its despair and deep feeling that it had lost the battle. The tribal rulers know that their days in government are numbered after almost every thread of links with native Bahrainis have been severed. The presence of foreign forces to support them is evidence that they simply cannot stand on their feet. In addition to the forces from six countries (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Jordan, USA and UK) has failed to stem the people's revolution and pushed the regime to import more troops. Now there are news that Turkish troops are being imported to defend the tribal regime which is becoming more paranoid of its own security. No regime can survive long without the support of the people. Suppression of public feelings and

demands only cause more anxiety, anger and determination to achieve liberty. People cannot be defeated by tyrants whose main weapon is arms. In modern days consensus is the name of the game of nations. Without it social and political polarisation hasten the downfall of the political order. It is a historical fact that dictators had perished and that victims often prevailed. The regime's despair is evident from its insistence that no independent human rights activist is allowed to travel to Geneva to take part in the UN Human Rights Council sessions. Regime's mouthpieces are dispatched to Geneva to present the regime's propaganda statements; often causing embarrassment and ridicule of the regime.

What is next? The recent escalation of Alkhalifa attack on the natives, including executions, arbitrary detention of men, women and children, forced disappearances and Apartheid-style blockade of towns and villages especially Duraz point in one direction: the tribal rule is on its way downhill. No power in the world can save it from heading towards final and total collapse. The messaging effects of foreign support, especially from UK, cannot salvage a crumbling and outdated political structure. The total ban on travel of human rights advocates is yet another example of regime's inability to face the reality and consequences of its actions. Coupled with its confused approach to the UN Human Rights Council, the empty gestures it had forwarded to the High Commissioner of Human Rights (HCHR), only reflects weakness, confusion and lack of sincerity to uphold the values of human rights. The recent invitation to HCHR coming soon after repeated statements condemning his work and policies, can only lead to disastrous political consequences. The world continues to hear the grievances of the people of Bahrain, observe the images of regime's brutality towards the citizens and listen to the cries of the helpless as they undergo endless sessions of systematic torture. The failure of the world's community to heed the calls for help from the Bahraini people, confirms the feeling that these institutions are simply too weak to achieve any reduction in the suffering of the people.

Is there hope? Six years after the Saudi

military intervention (and virtual occupation) in Bahrain, the aggressors appear to lose the initiative to their victims. Both in Yemen and Bahrain time is running short for Saudi and Alkhalifa absolute dictatorships. The Yemenis who lost tens of thousands of civilians in addition to the massive material destruction have remained steadfast in the face of the aggressors despite their superior military superiority. The Yemen War is gradually engulfing the West as its realities are exposed to the world; destruction, mass murder, appeasing dictators, abetting in terrorism and escalating inter-communal conflicts and hatred. There are now more pressures on the US and UK to stop arming the Saudis who have escalated their war crimes in recent weeks as they tried to hasten the end of the war. But the momentum to stop it is gathering pace and the heroism of the Yemeni people is not only becoming an embarrassment to the aggressors but creating fear that Saudi collapse could be imminent.

On their part, Bahrainis have established new standards to other Arab people who were enslaved by the counter revolution forces. Their resilience, steadfastness, awareness and persistence have enabled them to defeat the aggressors morally and politically. Today, the Saudis stand defeated, demoralised and hated by the world for their crimes in Bahrain and Yemen. Their support for terrorism is also a cause for hate by the international community which is paying the high cost of the Saudi-financed terrorism worldwide. Time is ticking in favour of the victims of state-sponsored terrorism. Aggression by states like Saudi Arabia in Bahrain and Yemen has confused the situation but also led many people to re-assess their approach to politics and adopt more inquisitive stands to discover the real culprits behind the world's security threats. Bahrainis will not succumb to the Saudi bullying or policies of certain Western governments. They know what they want and will continue to seek ways of fulfilling their ambitions. Supporting Saudi aggressors is not in the interest of the modern world. Washington and London are better advised to change their policies towards those dictators. They must support democracy and human rights activists, not the enemies of liberty and freedom.

Extra-judicial killings by Saudis & Alkhalifa; calls to stop arming them

Amnesty International (AI) has called for immediate halt of arms supplies to Saudi Arabia which has been waging aggressive war on Yemen for two years. In a statement on 23rd March to mark two years of Saudi aggression titled: "Yemen: Multibillion-dollar arms sales by USA and UK reveal shameful contradiction with aid efforts" AI said: "The USA and UK are fuelling serious violations that have caused devastating civilian suffering through multibillion-dollar arms transfers to Saudi Arabia that vastly overshadow their humanitarian efforts, said Amnesty International". It accused all parties of war crimes: "From the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas and recruitment of child soldiers by the Huthi armed group to unlawful airstrikes and repeated use of internationally banned cluster munitions by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition, all parties to the conflict in Yemen have displayed a wanton disregard for the lives of civilians and committed serious violations of international humanitarian law," said Lynn Maalouf, Deputy Director for Research at Amnesty International's Beirut Regional office. She called for independent investigations of war crimes: "The long list of appalling abuses by all parties to the conflict underscores how crucial it is for an independent, international investigation, led by the UN to investigate alleged violations by all parties to the conflict to ensure that those who have committed these reprehensible crimes are brought to justice." Emboldened by the deafening silence of the international community the Saudis have continued their killing spree in the Eastern Province. Yesterday (28th March), two young citizens were mowed down by regime's forces in the Eastern Province.

Mohammad Taher Al Nimr and Miqdad Mohammad Al Nimr, cousins of Martyr Sheikh Nimr Al Nimr were killed by Saudi forces who attacked a social gathering of the family at Al Awwamiyah Town in the Eastern Province. At least five others were injured seriously. They include: Jaffar Al Faraj, Ahmad Abu Abdullah and Safi Al Qaroos. Last week under-aged Walid Al Urayyed was martyred in a similar attack. On 9th March Mustafa Al Madad was martyred by Saudi forces who attacked Al Shuwaika district of the town. Mohammad Al Nimr was hit with live bullet that killed him instantly. The Saudis have continued killing citizens either through beheading or other forms of executions in a systematic way despite the calls to halt these killings. Meanwhile in Bahrain another martyr has joined the caravan of heroes killed by Alkhalifa tribal regime. Mustafa Hamdan died on Friday 24th March after a coma that lasted two months. On 26th January he was shot by police in his head and immediately lost consciousness. On that day masked members of Alkhalifa Death Squads raided Duraz Town and sprayed the people with shotguns and live bullets. Mustafa Hamdan received a direct hit in the brain. His funeral was attacked by regime's forces who used chemical and tear gases as well as shotguns. In the week 20-26th March the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights documented at least 23 arbitrary arrests, including six children. There were 68 anti-regime marches in 32 villages. At least 12 of them were mercilessly attacked by Alkhalifa killers. Twenty one people were sentenced to a total of 251 years in prison. Three were given death sentences. In addition to losing one of his eyes after being shot by

regime's forces, Mohammad Abu Sa'ada has been severely tortured recently. Today, regime's court issued execution verdict on two natives: Mohammad Ibrahim Tawq and Mohammad Radhi Abdulla. The sentences were based on trumpeted charges. The regime also issued a ten year prison verdict on former MP, Sheikh Hassan Isa. Alkhalifa hate gang decided today to revoke the citizenship of ten more natives. On Thursday 23rd March Alkhalifa court sentenced three people to death and 14 others to lengthy prison terms on unfounded allegations that they established a terrorist cell with the intent of killing policemen. The three are: Maithan Omran Hussain Omran, Abdul Mohsin Sabah Mohammad and his brother Mohammad Ali. The first two are at large. It also sentenced four others to life in prison in the same case. Eight more defendants in the case were handed 15-year sentences and two were sentenced to 10 years. The group was charged on the basis of confessions extracted under extreme forms of torture. Agence France-Presse reported that a former photographer for the news agency was released in Bahrain after being held for more than 24 hours. AFP said Mohammed al-Shaikh is not facing charges, but that he was being held for his work for the news agency. It says the government declined to renew his press credentials in August. Al-Shaikh was taken into custody at Bahrain International Airport on 22nd March, following a trip abroad. His passport has been confiscated. Another native, Khalil Al Halwachi has been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for opposing Alkhalifa tribal rule. He has been behind years for 4 years.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
29th March 2017

Jasta activated against Saudis in US, as two Bahrainis die of torture

accountable for the devastation of 9/11 after the families of 800 victims and 1,500 first responders, filed a lawsuit accusing the country of involvement in the terror attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. Out of the 19 hijackers of 9/11, 15 of them were from Saudi and three of them had worked for the kingdom previously. The lawsuit, which was filed in federal court in Manhattan this week, says Saudi officials are believed to have aided some of the hijackers before the attacks. In the lawsuit, officials of Saudi embassies are accused of helping hijackers Salem Al-Hazmi and Khalid Al-Mihdhar more than a year before the tragedy. According to PIX 11, the officials allegedly helped Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar learn English and obtain credit cards and cash, as well as taught them how to blend in with the American culture. Officials at the Saudi embassy in Germany reportedly supported the lead hijacker Mohamed Atta. The lawsuit, which was filed by aviation law firm Kreindler & Kreindler, alleges that a

Saudi official was even in the same hotel in Virginia with hijackers the night before the attacks, according to the station. The lawsuit is the first activation of the Jasta law passed by Congress last year allowing families of 9/11 victims to claim compensations from the Saudi government. On Monday 20th March the Saudi activist Raif Badawi was informed by prison authorities that the verdict against him was confirmed and he had to pay a fine of one million Saudi Rials (about \$350,000). Two years ago he was lashed for his activism. In UAE human rights activist, Ahmad Mansoor was arrested on 20th March for his tweets and other activities. His detention followed signing a petition calling on Arab regimes to respect the human rights of their citizens. "The UAE government's continued targeting of Ahmed Mansoor for his human rights work throughout the years speaks volumes of how restricted freedom of expression is in the UAE," said ADHRB Executive Director Husain Abdulla. "Arresting internationally-

acclaimed human rights defenders like Ahmed Mansoor shows that Gulf countries have no respect for human rights. Mansoor must immediately be released." Two of Alkhalifa torture victims died in the past week. Mohammad Sahwan, 45, who has been languishing behind bars for the past four years, died as a result of extensive torture that added to his pain he has endured since he was hit by police using shotgun. He had 80 pellets in his head. His X-rays show his head full of pellets resembling a clear sky full of stars. He was tortured repeatedly for his activism before his arrest. Despite pleas from his family and human rights NGOs he did not receive proper medical care. His funeral became another flashpoint for anti-regime slogans calling for an end to Alkhalifa black era. Poet and Electrical Engineer, Mansoor Al Mubarak, 45, also died as a result of severe wounds resulting from torture he had endured in his several detentions. He was arrested and severely tortured during martial law period in 2011. *Cont on Page 4*

Saudi war crimes mount, Alkhalifa wage all-out war on Bahrainis

As the pressure mounts on both Washington and London to stop supplying arms to Saudi Arabia, Human Rights Watch has renewed its call for a freeze on these arms. On Sunday 12th March Ahmed Benchemsi, communications and advocacy director at Human Rights Watch's Middle East & North Africa, told *Russia Today* (RT): "The country (Yemen) has plunged into a deep humanitarian catastrophe" and called on the US, UK and France to stop selling weapons to Riyadh. The humanitarian situation in Yemen is "increasingly unsustainable" and urgent action must be taken by both sides in the conflict, he said, adding that the situation is turning into a "deep humanitarian catastrophe." He added: "We ourselves, at Human Rights Watch, were able to document 61 apparent unlawful airstrikes, all conducted by the coalition, some of which may amount indeed to war crimes and that have killed nearly 900 civilians and have hit civilian areas, including markets, schools, hospitals and private homes." On 11th March an airstrike by Saudi forces on an open market in western Yemen killed at least 16 people, United Nations and local officials said. The attack late Friday hit a market setting off a fire and leaving the dead and wounded scattered in the wreckage. The strike came as aid organizations are struggling to draw attention to the plight of Yemen, where years of war have created the "largest humanitarian crisis in the world," according to Stephen O'Brien, the UN undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator.

Also, Amnesty International has urged the British people to petition their lawmakers to pressure the government to immediately halt arms transfers to Saudi Arabia. The rights group says Riyadh is launching in-

discriminate attacks on Yemen and the UK may be complicit in those acts amounting to war crimes. Amnesty added that UK-made weapons were among those killing Yemenis and Saudi bombing of schools, hospitals and funeral halls had been well documented. The prominent rights organization says the UK is still licensing arms worth billions of pounds to Riyadh despite damning evidence of atrocities being committed. Since Saudi Arabia started the war on its neighbor almost two years ago, over 12-thousand people have been killed, many of them women and children.

Foreign Policy has published an article titled: "Saudi Arabia's failed oil war: Why its days of market dominance are over" written by Nicholas Borroz and Brendan Meighan. This situation, the authors argue is "a result of failed policies from 2014 to 2016 that forced Riyadh to accept the fact that its days of dominating oil markets are over." They argued that "Saudi overproduction might have been worth it if it had knocked out Iran or the United States, but instead, Saudi Arabia was the main victim." In another criminal attack on the people of the Eastern Province the Saudi forces killed under-aged Walid AlUrayeredh. The town of Awamiya was attacked on 13th March for no obvious reason. The heavily-armed forces fired on civilians and hit the boy in his head. He was martyred on the spot.

In Bahrain the dictator has refrained from issuing his decision on the fate of the highest religious and political authority in the country, Sheikh Isa Qasim. He was supposed to announce his decision yesterday through one of his courts. But the popular mobilisation by the people inside the country and the outcry by the religious scholars in Najaf and Qom, forced Alkhalifa backers to stop the dictator from announcing his decision. He deferred it until 8th May.

In the week 6-12th March the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights documented at least 32 arrests including 5 children. There were 69 protests in 28 towns and villages, nine of which were attacked by regime's mercenary forces. Four brothers of Martyr Ali AlMo'min were detained in the early hours of Monday 13th March from their home in Sitra. Ammar, Hussain, Abdulla and Yasser. Other arrests include Sayed Hassan Sayed Hashim, Ali Ahmed Ebrahim, Ali Jaffar AlMo'min, Sadiq Jafar Salil and Abbas Ali Salil. From Ma'amir town arrests included: Abdul Aleem Haram, Mohammad Makki Miqdad, Qassim Ahmed AlMaliki, Ahmed Abdulla Aljadid, Ali Abdulrasool, Sayed Ali Mohammed Majed. From Jabalat Habshi town Orator Ali Jffar Radhi was arrested in a dawn raid on his home. Hassan Ali Abdul Jabbar was detained from Maqsha Town. From Sanabis several people were detained in home raids in the early hours of Monday 13th March: under-aged Mahmood Sabt, Nader Shakir Al Sajjad, Hussain Talib Al Sheikh, 17, Ahmad AlQallaf and Sayed Radhi Al-Sharakhat. From Kawara Town, Hassan AlUraibi and Sadiq AlShawfa were arrested from their homes. Arrests include Mohammad Fayez from Duraz, Sadiq Makki from Bani Jamra, Jassim Makki AlSumoom from Tashan. From Iskan Aali, Hussain Ali was arrested at a check point and taken to torture dungeons. From Bilad Al Qadeen Hussain Abbas Habib was detained and transferred to notorious Jaw prison. From Maqsha town; Hassan Ali Abdul Jabbar, from Kawara Sadiq Al Shawfa. On 9th March young native Hassan Mansoor AlNasser was snatched from his home at Barbar Town by masked members of Alkhalifa Death Squads.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
15th March 2017

Six years of Saudi occupation led Alkhalifa to commit HR atrocities

As the 6th anniversary of Saudi invasion of Bahrain approaches (14th March), preparations are being made to mark that black day which heralded the end of the Arab Spring. Saudi troops crossed the causeway and helped restore Alkhalifa hereditary dictatorship which was on the verge of collapse. Six years on, the ruling tribe has failed to restore law and order, and has requested more help from Turkey. This adds to the troops from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan, Pakistan and the two US and UK bases. Bahrainis want those foreign troops to leave the country so that people assume their sovereignty rights and build their political system.

In his address to the current 34th session of the Human Rights Council today (8th March), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussain, said: "In Bahrain, the Government has imposed increasing restrictions on civil society and political groups since June 2016, including intimidation, arrests

and interrogations, travel bans and closure orders. I repeat that this repression will not eliminate people's grievances; it will increase them. I am deeply concerned over the increasing levels of human rights violations in the Kingdom. I call on the Government of Bahrain to undertake concrete confidence building measures, including allowing my Office and Special Procedures mandate holders to swiftly conduct visits."

In the week 25th February to 5th March the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights documented at least 28 arbitrary arrests including one woman and five children. At least 47 native Bahrainis were tried by Alkhalifa kangaroo courts. They were falsely accused of involvement in 17 cases. They received jail terms totalling 177 years. There were 53 protests in 24 towns and villages. At least 7 were attacked by regime's mercenary forces. On 2nd March Alkhalifa forces raided the town of Aali and arrested two young citi-

zens: Mahmood Marzooq and under-aged Nazar Al Wadaei. From Sanabis, Ahmad Fadhel Abbas was detained in a house raid on Thursday 2nd March. The Bahraini authorities are targeting the family members of a prominent Bahraini activist in retribution for his human rights work, Human Rights Watch said yesterday. Since March 2, 2017, authorities have detained the brother-in-law and mother-in-law of Sayed al-Wadaei, a UK-based Bahraini human rights activist who has accused the Bahraini authorities, including senior members of the ruling Al Khalifa family, of serious human rights abuses. Sayed al-Wadaei's wife, Duaa, told Human Rights Watch in October that a senior official had referred to her husband as "an animal" and asked, menacingly during an interrogation at Bahrain airport, "Where shall I go first, shall I go to his family or your family?"

Bahrain Freedom Movement
8 March 2017

Bahrain's Image Hurt by Prison Reality

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Jailed in 1849 for four years for discussing peaceful political reform by a tsarist elite fearful of change, Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky said "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."

Jailed in 2011 for life for discussing peaceful political reform by a monarchist elite fearful of change, Bahraini dissident Abdul Al Khawaja is living the brutality of Bahrain's Jau Prison.

He is one of a dozen or so leading dissidents held together in the notorious jail which houses hundreds more prisoners. Jau witnessed widespread rioting in March 2015 and an escape earlier this year in which a security officer was killed. Jau has long had an appalling record over overcrowding and abuse.

Recent reports emerging from Jau detail the targeting of prominent dissidents, including Al Khawaja. His family say he has been having serious problems with his right eye for over three weeks, but is being denied adequate medical care. "After daylight he loses complete vision, and during the day he can't see well. He has headaches on the right side of his head and behind his right eye," they said.

A Norwegian doctor familiar with the symptoms said what he's experiencing is "consistent with severe eye disease that needs immediate attention by an ophthalmologist."

Families of the leading dissidents also say that all medical appointments and hospital visits have been cancelled despite some prisoners having waited a long time to see medics, that all spousal visits have been cancelled, all higher officers to the prison have been completely stopped, and letters of complaint are no longer answered. In a sharp deterioration of conditions, say the families, the prisoners are now no longer allowed access to pencils or paper, and are only allowed outside their cells if they are handcuffed and chained from their wrists to their ankles.

Even Dostoyevsky was allowed to write in his prison cell, and you have to wonder at the insecurity of the Bahrain regime that it remains so fearful of the dissidents in Jau and their ideas. Al Khawaja is in danger of losing sight in his eye but the authorities seem determined to punish him further. In 2011 he was tortured and his jaw fractured.

Since then virtually all other leading political opposition figures and human rights activists have either been forced out of Bahrain or sent to prison. Those who continue to speak up against the repressive regime, even from outside the country, risk having their families targeted in reprisals.

Washington's ally tries to represent itself as a modern, reliable, business-friendly state. This week Bahrain's Foreign Minister was in the U.S. meeting with top executives from Lockheed Martin. But not everyone is fooled.

The truth is that Bahrain remains an unsteady, erratic monarchy ruled by a family that shuts its political opposition in jail and prevents peaceful activists from getting decent medical care. Al Khawaja is a Danish citizen, and the Danish Foreign Minister was grilled by Danish MPs this week unhappy at the failure to secure Al Khawaja's release, with questions about the future of Danish trade with Bahrain if he stays in jail. "What if Al Khawaja dies?...We know they are torturing our citizen," said MP Lars Rasmussen bluntly.

Official Bahrain state media does its best to mask the reality. Its news agency featured a story this week about an art exhibi-

tion in the Gulf monarchy opened by "Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King." The BAB2017 art show apparently "includes a number of masterpieces created by Her Royal Highness." Tellingly headlined "Princess Sabeeka: BAB2017 showcases Bahrain's civilised image, progress" it reveals Bahrain's craving for international acceptance.

It must be frustrating for the regime when its society's civilization isn't judged by its lavish art shows but by Dostoyevsky's measurement of prison conditions. Yet it's something it can easily fix - release Al Khawaja and all those wrongfully detained and immediately provide all prisoners with adequate medical care.



Jasta activated against Saudis, *Continued from Page 2*

He had also been detained during the uprising of the nineties. He told his lawyer that he suffered most in 2011.

In the week 13-19th March the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights documented at least 62 arrests including 11 children. There were 112 protests in towns and villages, 25 of which were attacked by regime's forces. Five native Bahrainis received serious shotgun wounds. Yesterday Photojournalist, Mohammed Al-shaikh, who also worked for AFP was arrested at Bahrain Airport on his way back from a vacation in India. Ibtisam Al Sa'yegh, a human rights activist was detained at the airport upon her return from Geneva on Monday. She was questioned for six hours about her work in Geneva, her passport was seized and was told that she would not be allowed to travel back to Geneva in Many for Bahrain's Universal Periodic Review.

Bahraini liberal opposition figure Ibrahim Sharif was charged on Monday with "inciting hatred" against the regime with his tweets. He was questioned by Alkhalifa

public prosecution about comments he had tweeted. Apart from voicing support for detained rights activists, Sharif questioned moves by the justice ministry to dissolve the secular, opposition National Democratic Action Society (Wa'ad) of which he was a founding member. "What remains of the decor of the democratic state?" Sharif asked in a tweet. Amnesty International condemned the charge against Sharif, who it said had been "in and out of prison as a prisoner of conscience" over the past six years, and called for it to be dropped. "Once again Ibrahim Sharif is being unjustly punished simply for exercising his right to freedom of expression. The charge against him is ludicrous and must be dropped immediately," the rights group said. "The Bahraini authorities have repeatedly sought to harass and intimidate anyone who dares to speak out about human rights violations in Bahrain," said Lynn Maalouf, a deputy director at Amnesty's office in Beirut.

Bahrain Freedom Movement
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