

solidarity with
OTHERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

www.solidaritywithothers.com





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Solidarity With OTHERS

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Solidarity With OTHERS, a registered Belgian non-profit organization (**OTHERS AISBL**, BCE number: 0715.742.907).

For transparency purposes, Solidarity With OTHERS is listed in the **EU Transparency Register**. You can verify our registration [here](#).

Foreword

The year 2024 has once again reminded us that we live in a time when many states increasingly prioritize security concerns over the protection of fundamental human rights. In such an environment, our mission at Solidarity With OTHERS has become even more urgent. Rather than discouraging us, these challenges have strengthened our determination to stand by victims of injustice and to amplify their voices where they would otherwise go unheard. It is precisely in these difficult times that we must continue our work with greater motivation, courage, and resilience.

Throughout this year, our efforts have extended across multiple levels. At the United Nations, we participated in informal meetings with officials, made submissions, and responded to calls for input to ensure that the realities of those we represent are reflected in international human rights mechanisms. At the European Union level, we have carried on our advocacy work, engaging more closely with policymakers and contributing to their initiatives. In Brussels, we continued to build connections within the close circle of civil society organizations, including valuable engagement with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Our thematic focus has remained clear: advancing women's rights, combating hate speech, and addressing issues of migration and integration. These are not abstract priorities but pressing realities where we are actively present, both in the field and in policy discussions. Our project Turkey Rights Monitor has also reached a more solid level this year. We have built a dedicated database that documents violations systematically and provides reliable data on injustices.

As we look ahead, Solidarity With OTHERS remains committed to sustaining and expanding its work, convinced that the defense of human dignity and freedom cannot be postponed—even in times when it may seem least convenient to those in power.

Yüksel KAYA
President



About us

We are Solidarity with OTHERS, a Brussels-based non-profit organization founded in 2018 with the aim of advocating for human rights. Our name reflects our unwavering commitment to act in solidarity with those who have been subjected to injustice and violations, regardless of race, religious beliefs, social affiliation, or political views. We believe that our humanity is measured by how we stand up for the rights and liberties of OTHERS, not just ourselves.

Our Story

Solidarity with OTHERS was founded by a group of lawyers, human rights defenders, and victims of government oppression in Turkey. Driven by the ambition to shed light on human rights violations in Turkey, our mission has now expanded to being a voice for people who are not able to be heard in the EU and beyond. Together, we sought to create a platform that brings attention to the ongoing human rights abuses across borders.

Objectives

Our primary objective is to ensure that human rights violations do not go unnoticed or unrecorded. We focus on raising awareness about injustices and advocate for the rights of those affected by oppression. We also aim to contribute to the international conversation on human rights and work towards accountability for those responsible for violations.

How we work



Reporting and Documentation

We prepare and release reports, fact sheets, and newsletters on major human rights issues. These resources are designed to inform public opinion and create a documented basis for accountability.

Awareness-Raising Activities

We host and participate in exhibitions, conferences, roundtables, and demonstrations to highlight the severity of violations and to urge authorities to take decisive action.



Global Advocacy

We maintain close contact with international institutions, including the United Nations, the European Union, and the Council of Europe. By engaging with these bodies, we aim to ensure that human rights are placed at the forefront of international relations.

Highlights

March



On 8 March, we joined the International Women's Day march in Brussels, raising our banners to stand for women's rights.

June

On 18 June, we took part in the Council of Europe workshop during the No Hate Speech Week in Strasbourg.



October



In Strasbourg, we co-organized and participated in a demonstration with 3,500 people before the Council of Europe, demanding the implementation of ECtHR judgments.

December

We organized a one-day Human Rights Forum during the week of 10 December, with expert panels and workshops marking Human Rights Day.



November



We joined an informal civil society meeting with UN Human Rights Committee members during its 142nd session on Turkey's periodic review and submitted our shadow report.

October

We organized a side event on hate speech and its impacts at the 2024 OSCE Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw, with contributions from international experts.



Combatting Hate Speech

What is Hate Speech ?

Hate speech refers to any form of communication, whether spoken, written, or behavioural, that uses derogatory or discriminatory language to target individuals or groups based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, or other identity factors. It promotes intolerance, generates hatred, and can be demeaning and divisive.

Why hate speech matters?

Hate speech matters because it is an attack on individuals, and also a threat to social cohesion, democracy, and human rights. By targeting people based on identity, beliefs, or affiliations, it fuels discrimination, exclusion, and violence, often normalizing intolerance in society. Left unchallenged, hate speech silences voices, marginalizes vulnerable groups, and creates an environment where violations of fundamental rights become justified. Addressing hate speech is therefore essential to protect dignity, foster inclusive communities, and safeguard democratic values.

OTHERS' against Hate speech

We have been actively working to combat hate speech by monitoring its manifestations, advocating for stronger protections, and producing detailed reports. We also raised awareness through campaigns, events, and outreach to promote tolerance and inclusion.

Combatting Hate Speech

1 Monitor & Report

Through our “Hatemonitoring Project,” we monitor and report hate speech using an interdisciplinary methodology and international standards, classifying cases as “hate speech” or “hate crimes.” Since 2023, we have analyzed media and social media sources, mapping these cases over time and space to provide constantly updated visualizations and comprehensive datasets.

HATE MONITORING



2 Advocacy

We carry out advocacy work at the EU, UN, OSCE, and Council of Europe, engaging directly with policymakers and contributing to policy processes. In parallel, we maintain close contact with social media platforms to address online hate speech and promote responsible practices.

Combatting Hate Speech

3 Raising awareness

We raise awareness through hashtag campaigns and engaging social media content, reaching a wide audience and amplifying our message against hate speech.

Hate speech normalizes and legitimizes discrimination, harassment and even physical attacks.

#NoToHateSpeech



4 Events

We organize panels that bring together experts to share knowledge and perspectives on hate speech and its impacts. These events foster dialogue, raise awareness, and strengthen advocacy efforts against intolerance and discrimination.

OTHERS Social Media



+1K followers



+5K followers



+1K followers



+6K unique visitors

FOLLOW US !

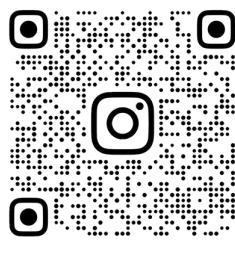
Linkedin
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X
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Turkey Rights Monitor



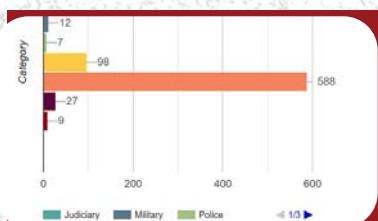
Our work began with efforts to expose human rights violations in Turkey after 2016. Initially providing legal assistance to arbitrarily prosecuted individuals, we have since expanded into a structured and methodological approach to human rights monitoring. We document and compile violations, produce thematic reports, and issue weekly bulletins to track ongoing abuses. Our advocacy extends to international platforms, contributing to global reviews of Turkey's human rights landscape. Through these efforts, we aim to ensure that violations are recorded, acknowledged, and addressed.

Database

In 2024, we created a database to compile documented human rights violations on a structured platform. While most categories focus on rights violations as part of the government crackdown on the Gülen movement, the database also covers global issues related to judicial independence and prison conditions.

- Tortures
- Right to Life Violations
- Vulnerable Groups
- Dismissals
- Illegal Extradition and Deportations

The database is structured into **12 categories**, providing a reliable and **verifiable reference** source for international organizations, academics, legal professionals, and human rights defenders reporting or assessing human rights in Turkey.



Each category includes its own methodology, transparently explaining the criteria used for data collection. **Data is visualized** through easy-to-understand tables, graphs, and maps, ensuring clarity and accessibility. Additionally, users can perform **retrospective searches** within each category to track past records and trends.



Decisions from the **European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)** and the **United Nations (UN)** regarding human rights violations against Gülen Movement volunteers since 2013 have also been collected and integrated into the website.

Turkey Rights Monitor



Weekly newsletter

Our team monitors human rights violations across Turkey, compiling incidents from the past week under 16 categories with verified media sources. We document all violations regardless of victims' race, religion, ideology, or political views.

236 Weeks of continuous work

4 Language **EN, FR, NL, TR**

1123 Subscriptions on **Email**

275 Subscriptions on **LinkedIn**

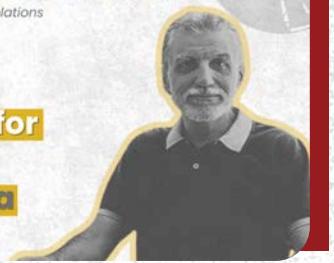
Turkey Rights Monitor

Weekly roundup of human rights violations

Issue 235

16-22 December 2024

10 Years in jail for Free Speech: Hidayet Karaca



TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR

Issue No. 209 | Date 17-23 June



ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 26 people over alleged links to the Gülen movement. In October 2020, a UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) opinion said that widespread or systematic imprisonment of individuals with alleged links to the group amount to crimes against humanity. Solidarity with OTHERS has compiled a detailed [database](#) to monitor the Gülen-linked mass detentions since a failed coup in July 2016.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

20 June: Yıldırım Han, an inmate from Şırnak Type-I Prison, [died](#) Wednesday night after being transferred to a hospital in Ankara due to deteriorating health, having voiced concerns two weeks prior about extreme isolation, lack of hot water, and arbitrary punishments by guards.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

No news has emerged of [Yusuf Bilge Tunc](#), a former public sector worker who was sacked from his job by a decree-law during the 2016-2018 state of emergency and who was reported missing as of August 6, 2019, in what appears to be one of the latest cases in a string of suspected [enforced disappearance](#) of government critics since 2016.

exchange for his father and later sent images of him being tortured.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

18 June: Turkish Justice Minister Yılmaz Tunç has announced the issuance of an arrest warrant for a popular YouTuber whose remarks on Islam and the Prophet Muhammad during a recent interview on the platform have sparked criticism for being "insulting."

22 June: A Turkish court has [blocked](#) access to news reports about Judge Gülden A., who was dismissed following a number of allegations including threats, blackmail, bribery and substance abuse, on the grounds that the articles contained "non-objective and accusatory" language.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

18 June: Stefan Schemm, one of the co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) for the monitoring of Turkey's obligations and commitments, once again [called](#) on Turkish authorities to implement the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), following a fact-finding visit to the country.

18 June: A group of 115 individuals, including writers, artists, and journalists, issued a joint written [statement](#) condemning the decision to appoint a 'trustee' to Hakkari.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

19 June: A total of 701 [convictions](#) brought assistance in 2023.

Turkey Rights Monitor



Reports

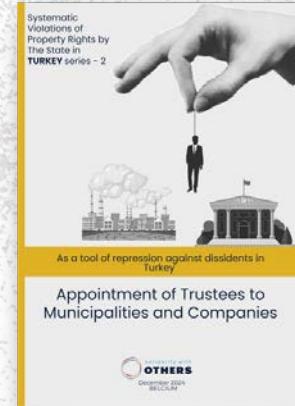
1 Chained by Injustice: Politically Imprisoned the Elderly, the Sick and Parents

In this report, the profound human suffering within the Turkish penal system is explained through the lens of unjust imprisonment, which tears families apart and deprives individuals of their fundamental bonds. Our report highlights the struggles of those facing separation, inadequate medical care, and systemic neglect, emphasizing the urgent need for justice and reform.



2 As a tool of repression against dissidents in Turkey: Appointment of Trustees to Municipalities and Companies

This report examines the systematic use of trustee appointments in Turkey as a tool for suppressing dissent, targeting both municipalities and companies. Our report shows how legal amendments and emergency decrees have enabled the government to seize opposition-controlled assets, undermining local governance while causing significant economic harm, legal violations, and human rights abuses.



3 Forced Returns and Broken Protections: The Kenyan-Turkish Crackdown on Refugees

Turkish nationals were abducted and forcibly repatriated from Kenya on 18 October 2024, marking a serious violation of international refugee protections. Turkey's growing transnational repression campaign has leveraged diplomatic influence over host countries like Kenya, leading to the deportation of four individuals despite their UN protection status, breaching the 1951 Refugee Convention's nonrefoulement principle.



Turkey Rights Monitor



Reports

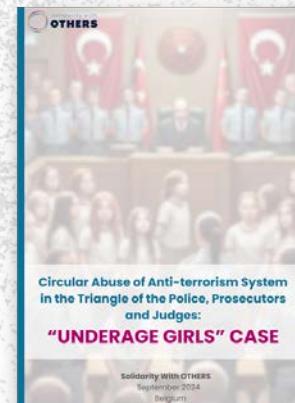
4 Appointment of Trustees to Companies

Our report examines the arbitrary appointment of trustees to 1,371 companies in Turkey, resulting in the loss of \$8 billion in economic value and the dismissal of over 10,000 employees. Analyzing its legal, economic, and social consequences, the report highlights the politically motivated nature of these appointments and calls for urgent reforms to restore the rule of law and protect property rights.



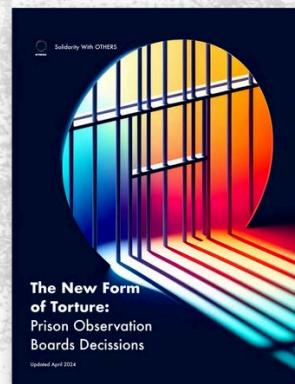
5 Circular Abuse of Anti-terrorism System in the Triangle of the Police, Prosecutors and Judges: "UNDERAGE GIRLS" CASE

The report examines the systematic abuse of anti-terror laws in Turkey, focusing on the May 2024 arrest and prosecution of 48 individuals, including underage girls, based on fabricated evidence. It highlights how routine social activities were criminalized under politically motivated charges, resulting in the continued detention of eight individuals despite the lack of legitimate legal grounds.



6 The New Form of Torture: Prison Observation Board Decisions

Prison observation board decisions in Turkey have become a systematic tool to arbitrarily extend the imprisonment of political detainees, amounting to a new form of psychological torture. Our report analyzes legal frameworks and case studies, revealing how parole and conditional release denials disproportionately target opposition-linked individuals in violation of international human rights standards.



Turkey Rights Monitor



International Advocacy

United Nations

This year we have:

- Attended and made a presentation at the informal meeting in Geneva with members of the **UN Committee Against Torture** for the consideration of Turkey's 5th periodic review under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in July 2024,
- Attended and made a presentation at the informal meeting in Geneva with members of the **UN Human Rights Committee** for the consideration of Turkey's 2nd periodic review under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in October 2024,
- Submitted **4 joint reports** concerning Turkey's 4th cycle **Universal Periodic Review** (UPR), providing evidence-based recommendations to UN Human Rights Council member states for their review of Turkey's human rights record.
- Attended the Human Rights Council **56th and 57th sessions** in Geneva, where we engaged in discussions on Turkey's human rights situation and held direct meetings with UN Special Procedure mandate holders to present documented cases,
- Submitted **4 shadow reports** on the subjects of torture and ill-treatment, the rights of the child, hate speech, and the arbitrary denial of probation and conditional release.



Turkey Rights Monitor



International Advocacy

European Union

This year we have

- Held a meeting with the European Commission's External Service Turkey Desk in preparation for the upcoming Turkey Report for the section on fundamental rights and democracy. During this meeting, we presented our work and shared our reports to contribute to the process.



- Had meetings with candidates from different parties during the European Parliament elections in June 2024 to share our expectations and concerns. Following the elections, we congratulated the newly elected MEPs.

The European Commission and European Parliament each publish annual reports on Turkey as part of the EU's enlargement and foreign policy framework. The Commission's Turkey Report, prepared by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) with input from the EU Delegation in Ankara and other stakeholders, offers a comprehensive assessment of Turkey's political, economic, and legal alignment with EU standards. From a human rights and democracy perspective, it identifies areas of concern such as rule of law, judicial independence, and fundamental freedoms, providing an evidence-based foundation for the EU's policy decisions and financial assistance. The European Parliament's Turkey Report, drafted by the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and its rapporteur, serves as a political response to the Commission's findings. It expresses the Parliament's position on democratic backsliding, human rights violations, and civic space restrictions in Turkey, influencing EU policy direction, shaping public debate, and reinforcing conditionality in the Union's engagement with the Turkish authorities.

Turkey Rights Monitor

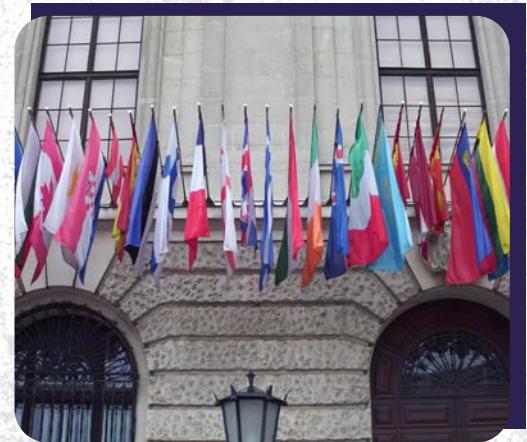


International Advocacy

OSCE

This year we have

- Participated in the 2024 Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw, where our representative delivered a speech at the main conference. The intervention highlighted the non-implementation of the Yalçınkaya judgment of the ECtHR in Turkey.



- Organized a side event that brought together experts to share knowledge and perspectives on hate speech and its impacts across countries. The panel was also broadcasted on our social media accounts.



Council of Europe

- Held meetings with PACE members from the Monitoring Committee to discuss the non-implementation of the ECtHR Yalçınkaya judgment in Turkey. In addition, we submitted a Rule 9.2 application as an NGO working on these issues, focusing on the same judgment's non-implementation.

- Took part in the Council of Europe workshop on 18 June, during the No Hate Speech Week in Strasbourg.

EVENTS

Our Flagship Event

Human Rights Forum

On December 11, the Human Rights Forum was held at Free University of Brussels (VUB) to mark Human Rights Day, bringing together human rights defenders, academics, civil society representatives, and students to discuss key human rights challenges through three thematic panels and a workshop.

The panels explored the UN's role in preventing violations, women's empowerment against violence, and refugee rights in Europe, concluding with a Microaggressions Workshop to raise awareness of unconscious biases.



The event was also broadcast live on YouTube and remains available for public viewing.



EVENTS

OSCE Side Event

Addressing Hate Speech



On 9 October 2024, during the OSCE Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw, Solidarity with OTHERS organized a panel titled "Addressing Hate Speech: Empowering Youth, Protecting Minorities, and Countering Online Abuse," featuring three expert speakers and moderated by human rights lawyer Coskun Yorulmaz. The event brought together participants from across Europe to discuss the systemic and digital aspects of hate speech.

Strasbourg Demonstration in front of Council of Europe

On 2 October 2024, during the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, we co-organized a demonstration calling for the implementation of the ECtHR Yüksel Yalçınkaya judgment. The event, symbolized by an alarm clock under the slogan "It is time to act!", drew attention to the ongoing violations of human rights and judicial independence in Turkey. With strong participation from human rights defenders and civil society representatives across Europe, the demonstration sent a powerful message to PACE members and European institutions.



Our Team



Yüksel KAYA
President



Nurşah TUTAR
Vice-President



Nurullah ALBAYRAK
Vice-President



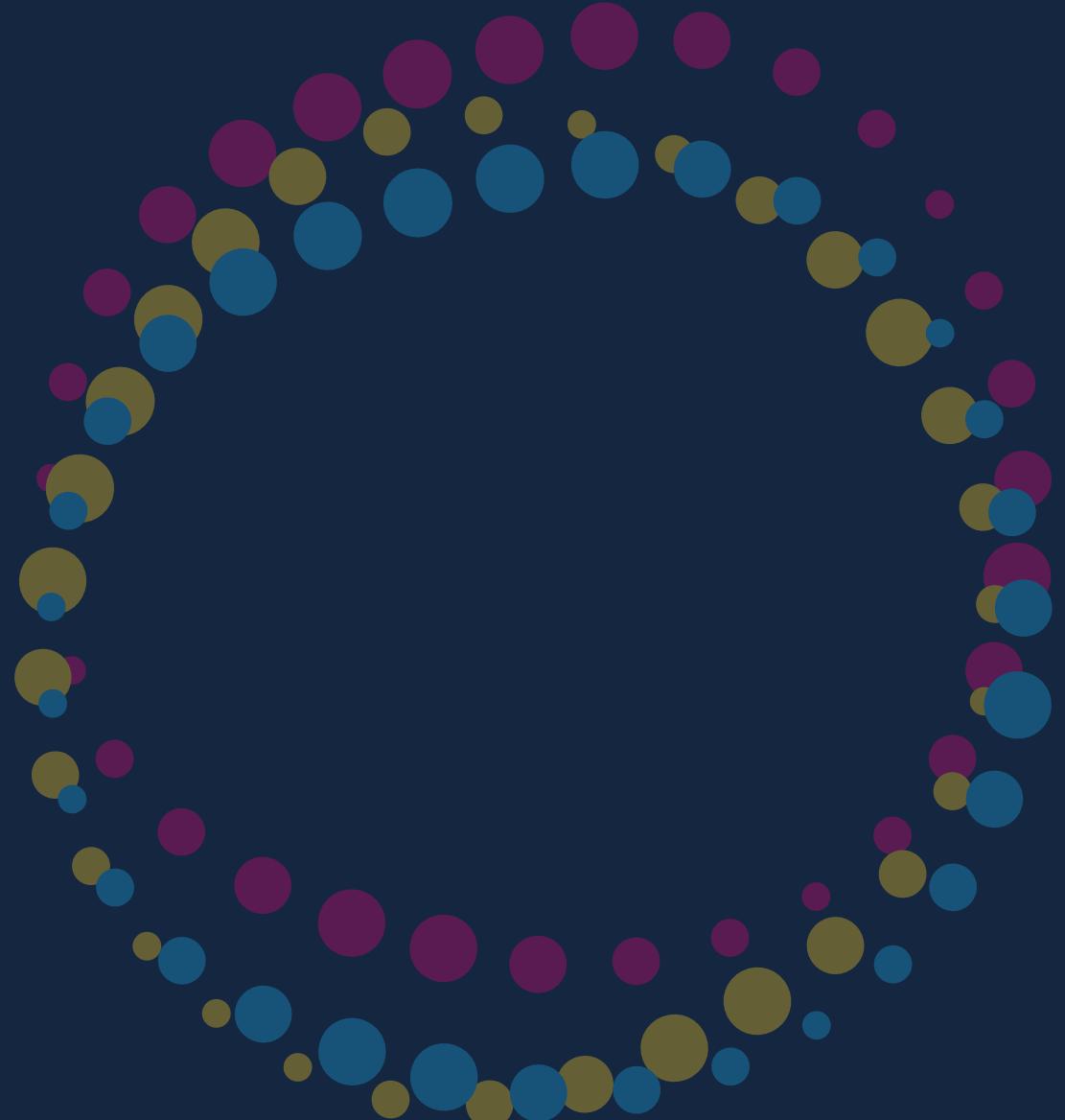
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Expression and
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Legal Advisor



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