

# **History of the committee**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established in 1946, with its first session held on January 17th at Church House, Westminster, London. Since then, it has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The Security Council's primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security. Originally, the Security Council consisted of 11 members: five permanent members (the Republic of China [Taiwan], France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and six nonpermanent members elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms. An amendment to the UN Charter in 1965 increased council membership to 15, including the original five permanent members and 10 nonpermanent members. Among the permanent members, the People's Republic of China replaced the Republic of China in 1971, and the Russian Federation succeeded the Soviet Union in 1991.

# Voting and Veto Power

The UN Charter requires all substantive matters the Security Council proposes to pass on a three-fifths majority (i.e., 9 of the 15 must agree). However, the five permanent members hold veto power, which can strike down an otherwise approved proposal. This veto power has occasionally proven controversial. For instance, since the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, China and Russia have vetoed together more than a quarter of the time. In contrast, France and the United Kingdom have not exercised their veto power since 1989 and have advocated for other P5 members to use it less.



# Role and Responsibilities

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

# Membership and Impact

Elections to the Security Council take into account "the contribution of Members...to the maintenance of international peace and security". Many nations, small or otherwise, have never been on the Security Council. Elected members hold their place on the council for a two-year term, with five seats contested in even years and five seats contested in odd years. One study found that membership on the Security Council correlates with reduced economic growth for a given country over the course of its two-year term, and elected members also experience a reduction in democracy and freedom of the press.

# TOPIC A: THE CIVIL CONFLICT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

# Introduction

The Sudanese civil conflict, which began in 2023 during Ramadan, has had a significant impact on the country's economy and international relations. The conflict erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, leading to hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries. The violence has escalated to such an extent that it could potentially morph into a full-scale civil war.

The conflict escalated when the RSF launched attacks on government sites, leading to widespread airstrikes, artillery, and gunfire across Sudan. The cities of Khartoum and Omdurman became divided between the warring factions, with al-Burhan relocating his government to Port Sudan as the RSF seized control of most government buildings in Khartoum. International efforts to broker a ceasefire resulted in the Treaty of Jeddah in May 2023, but it failed to end the

fighting and was eventually abandoned. In the following months, the conflict reached a stalemate, with various rebel groups joining the fray. By mid-November, factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minnawi and Mustafa Tambour aligned with the SAF, along with the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). On the other side, the Tamazuj movement allied with the RSF, while the Abdelaziz al-Hilu faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North launched attacks on SAF positions in the south. Starting in October 2023, the RSF gained momentum, defeating army forces in Darfur and advancing in Khartoum State, Kordofan, and Gezira State. As of February 2024, the SAF has made gains in Omdurman, while since June 2024, the RSF has advanced in Sennar State. Despite ongoing negotiations, no significant progress has been made, with various countries continuing to offer military or political support to either al-Burhan or Hemedti.



The conflict has also resulted in a severe economic downturn, with the Sudanese economy contracting by 40 percent in 2023 due to the fighting, and an additional decline of 28 percent expected in 2024 The conflict has also led to a decrease in state revenues by 80 percent and a fall in international trade by 23 percent in 2023. The United Nations has been actively involved in the conflict, with the United Nations Human Rights Council calling a special session to address the violence and voting to increase monitoring of human rights abuses (<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese\_civil\_war\_">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudanese\_civil\_war\_</a> (2023–present)). The United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) has been tasked with supporting the implementation of the DPA and the Ndjamena Agreement on Humanitarian Ceasefire on the Conflict in Darfur. The conflict is being fought between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces. The prior is a paramilitary group that has had government involvement in order to suppress insurrections that occurred in the nation.

The Sudanese civil conflict stems from a long history of ethnic, political, and economic inequalities. Since gaining independence in 1956, Sudan has faced instability, driven by political rivalries, military coups, and authoritarian rule, especially during Omar al-Bashir's 30-year regime. After his removal in 2019, a power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) deepened the crisis, with ethnic divisions further fueling conflict between the Arab-dominated north and marginalized regions like Darfur. The Darfur conflict, which began in 2003, resulted in over 300,000 deaths and widespread atrocities by the RSF, while economic marginalization and resource control disputes have intensified tensions. External factors like international influence and climate change have also worsened the situation,

contributing to ongoing instability and uncertainty about Sudan's future.

# Key Points:

- The conflict began in 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces.
- The conflict has led to a significant economic downturn and a decrease in international trade.
- The United Nations has been actively involved in addressing the conflict and monitoring human rights abuses.

# **Historical context**

Sudan has been inhabited since prehistoric times and has a long history of conflicts,

including foreign invasions, ethnic tensions, and disputes over resources. In 1821, Egypt conquered Sudan, and in 1881, Muhammad Ahmad led a nationalist revolt, establishing the Mahdist State. After Ahmad's death, a British-Egyptian force, led by Lord Kitchener, retook Sudan, which became a



British-Egyptian condominium in 1899, though it was de facto ruled by the UK until Sudan gained independence in 1956.

Since independence, Sudan has seen over 19 military coup attempts and has largely been governed by the military, with brief periods of parliamentary rule. Two civil wars, from 1955-1972 and 1983-2005, led to South Sudan's independence in 2011, causing 1.5 million deaths. Additionally, the Darfur conflict displaced two million people and killed over 200,000.

By the early 21st century, Sudan's Darfur region faced severe ethnic tensions and resource disputes, leading to the 2003 War in Darfur, during which President Omar al-Bashir's forces, including the Janjaweed militia, committed atrocities, resulting in 300,000 deaths and 2.7 million displaced. In 2013, the Janjaweed was reorganized as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) under Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti). Following mass protests, al-Bashir was ousted in 2019, but the RSF and military continued to hold power, with the RSF involved in the deadly Khartoum massacre. In 2019, an interim government was formed, but a military coup in 2021, led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Hemedti, halted Sudan's transition to democracy.

The Sudanese civil conflict, which began in 2023, is rooted in a complex history of political and civil strife. The conflict erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), two major factions within the country's military structure. The RSF, accused of human rights abuses, including the massacre of more than 120 protesters in June 2019, had been seen as a source of instability in the country before the current conflict erupted. The SAF accused the RSF of an assassination attempt, leading to the outbreak of violence on April 15, 2023. The conflict has historical roots in the First and Second Sudanese Civil Wars,

which were primarily conflicts between the central Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

# **Current Issue**

The ongoing conflict has led to a severe economic downturn, with the Sudanese economy contracting by 40 percent in 2023 due to the fighting, and an additional decline of 28 percent expected in 2024 The conflict has also resulted in a decrease in state revenues by 80 percent and a fall in international trade by 23 percent in 2023. More than



70 percent of health facilities in conflict-affected regions of Sudan are inoperable or closed, threatening the lives of many Sudanese people and future generations. The displacement of civilians has placed an additional strain on health care resources, as well as water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

The United Nations estimated that economic activity in Sudan dropped by over a third within the first three weeks of the conflict. By July, Sudanese economists assessed the total damage at \$9 billion, or approximately \$100 million per day, with an additional \$40 billion in looted property and goods, mainly in Khartoum and South Darfur. The black market exchange

rate for the US dollar rose to SDG730 in September and reached SDG1250 by February 2024, while the official rate had been SDG625. Gold production also plummeted to 2 tons compared to 18 tons the previous year. Sudan's minister of minerals, Mohamed Bashir Abu Nammu, accused the RSF of stealing around 15 tons of silver and 1,273 kilograms of gold from the Sudan Gold Refinery at the conflict's onset.

In February 2024, finance minister Gibril Ibrahim announced a 40% contraction of the Sudanese economy in 2023, with an additional 28% decline expected in 2024. He also noted an 80% drop in state revenues. International trade fell by 23% in 2023, according to Sudanese port authorities. Due to the conflict, the finance ministry couldn't set national budgets for 2023 or 2024 and ceased issuing quarterly reports, raising the exchange rate for imports and exports from SDG650 to SDG950. Over 60% of Sudan's agricultural land was rendered unusable. In May 2024, The Wall Street Journal reported that both the RSF and SAF were financing their operations through revenue from gum arabic, a major Sudanese export.

The humanitarian crisis in Sudan was worsened by the conflict coinciding with extreme heat, drought, and the fasting month of Ramadan. Civilians were trapped in their homes, unable to access food or supplies due to fear of violence. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported 26 attacks on healthcare facilities, with 80% of hospitals in conflict zones out of service by April 2023, including half of Khartoum's medical facilities. Outbreaks of diseases like measles, cholera, and diarrhea were rampant, and cholera was declared an epidemic in August 2024, with 5,692 cases and 185 deaths by 8 September. By April 2023, shortages of essential goods were critical, and remittances from overseas workers were halted as Western Union

suspended operations in Sudan. The World Food Programme (WFP) reported over \$13 million worth of looted food aid by April 2023, with 25 million people—over half the population—in need of aid by June 2023. Humanitarian facilities were targeted, with more than 50 warehouses looted and over 200 vehicles stolen by July 2023. The situation worsened in refugee camps, where 1,200 children died from disease outbreaks in White Nile State by September 2023, and at least 43 children died in Central Darfur's Hamidiya camp by July. UNICEF estimated that by October 2023, 19 million children were out of school, up from seven million before the conflict. By 2024, Sudan's war had surpassed all previous conflicts in economic costs, largely due to urban infrastructure destruction. By February 2024, the WFP reported that over 95% of Sudan's population could not afford a daily meal, with food prices skyrocketing due to a near 50% drop in cereal production. Aid convoys faced delays, and as of March 2024, 70 trucks remained stuck in North Kordofan. Both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) obstructed food aid deliveries. In June 2024, Amnesty International revealed that foreign arms, particularly from China, the UAE, Russia, and Turkey, were fueling the conflict. By 1 August 2024, famine was declared in parts of North Darfur, including the Zamzam camp near El Fasher.

# **Past International actions**

The United Nations has been actively involved in the conflict, with the United Nations Human Rights Council calling a special session to address the violence and voting to increase monitoring of human rights abuses (CFR, 2023). The United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) has been tasked with supporting the implementation of the DPA and the N'djamena

Agreement on Humanitarian Ceasefire on the Conflict in Darfur (UN news, 2024). The U.S. has also mediated cease-fire talks between warring Sudanese parties. OCHA (Office for the coordination of human affairs) coordinates the response inside Sudan, with this year's Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan calling for \$2.7 billion to reach 14.7 million people. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, coordinates the Regional Refugee Response Plan, which requests \$1.4 billion and targets nearly 2.7 million people in five countries neighboring Sudan.

# **Subtopics**

- The conflict has led to a significant humanitarian crisis, with thousands of people displaced and almost half of the population struggling to feed themselves.
- The role of international actors, such as the United Nations and the U.S., in mediating the conflict and providing humanitarian aid.
- The conflict's impact on the Sudanese economy, including a significant contraction and a decrease in international trade.

# **Positions**

1. United States: The U.S. is highly concerned about the humanitarian disaster and ongoing violence in Sudan,



particularly after the 2023 conflict between rival military factions. It calls for an immediate ceasefire and peaceful dialogue between the warring parties. Washington supports sanctions on those fueling the conflict and emphasizes the need for humanitarian access and international mediation efforts. The U.S. also highlights the importance of Sudan's democratic transition, urging respect for human rights and rule of law.

- 2. United Kingdom: The UK, which has historical ties to Sudan, echoes calls for a ceasefire and a negotiated settlement to the conflict. The UK advocates for the protection of civilians, unhindered humanitarian aid, and accountability for human rights violations. It supports sanctions on individuals exacerbating the conflict and works closely with regional and international organizations like the African Union to seek a peaceful resolution. The UK is keen on ensuring that Sudan's political transition remains on track, toward civilian rule.
- 3. China: China prioritizes stability in Sudan due to its significant investments, especially in the oil sector. It supports diplomatic mediation over direct intervention, emphasizing respect for Sudan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. China opposes unilateral sanctions and prefers a solution through dialogue facilitated by regional actors like the African Union. While condemning violence, Beijing's primary focus is ensuring that its economic interests are protected and that Sudan remains a stable partner in Africa.
- 4. Russia: Russia maintains a non-interventionist stance but stresses the importance of supporting the Sudanese government in maintaining order and sovereignty. Russia is generally

opposed to sanctions and foreign interference, favoring a political solution mediated by regional actors such as the African Union or Arab League. Moscow's interest in Sudan includes arms trade and geopolitical positioning, and it might offer diplomatic support to the Sudanese military, framing the conflict as an internal matter.

5. France: France is concerned about the spillover effects of the conflict, particularly regarding migration and regional instability. Paris calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the protection of civilians, advocating for strong international efforts to provide humanitarian aid. France also supports UN efforts for conflict resolution and emphasizes the importance of a political solution, urging Sudan's military and civilian leaders to return to a transition towards democratic governance.

# **Guiding questions**

- What are the root causes of the Sudanese civil conflict, and how can they be addressed?
- What role should international actors play in mediating the conflict and providing humanitarian aid?
- How can the Sudanese economy be stabilized and rebuilt in the midst of the ongoing conflict?
- How can the humanitarian crisis be addressed, particularly in terms of providing healthcare and food security to the Sudanese population?
- What steps can be taken to prevent future conflicts in Sudan?

# TOPIC B: INTERVENTION OF THE HAITIAN CRISIS

# **Introduction**

Since 2020, Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, has been embroiled in a gang war between two major factions: the Revolutionary Forces of the G9 Family and Allies (FRG9 or G9) and the G-Pep, along with their respective allies. The Haitian government and security forces have struggled to retain control of the city, with reports indicating that gangs controlled up to 90% of Port-au-Prince by 2023. In response to the escalating violence, an armed vigilante group known as bwa kale emerged to combat the gangs. On October 2, 2023, the United Nations Security Council approved Resolution 2699, authorizing a Kenya-led "multinational security support mission" to assist Haiti.



The conflict has led to the displacement of thousands of people and has significantly impacted the country's food security. Almost half of Haiti's population is struggling to feed themselves due to the spread of gang violence, with several areas close to famine. The severity of the gang wars has prompted the United Nations Security Council to authorize a one-year deployment of an international force led by Kenya to assist the Haitian government.

Rape, which only became a criminal offense in Haiti in 2005, is being used by gangs as a means of humiliating those living in rival gang neighborhoods. This has further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, particularly as abortion is illegal in Haiti, forcing rape victims to carry any resulting pregnancy to term.

The gang wars have also led to a significant increase in kidnappings, with a reported 83% increase in 2024. The violence has forced many Haitians to sell their homes and take loans to pay ransoms. The United Nations has called for the accelerated deployment of international security forces in response to the escalating violence.

By March 2024, gang violence intensified throughout Port-au-Prince, aiming to force the resignation of the unelected acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry. This resulted in the storming of two prisons and the release of thousands of prisoners. Following these and other attacks on government institutions, the Haitian government declared a state of emergency and imposed a curfew. On March 11, Henry agreed to step down once a transitional government was established.

# Key Points:

- The gang wars began in 2020 between two major criminal groups, the FRG9 or G9 and the G-Pep.
- The conflict has led to a significant humanitarian crisis, with thousands of people displaced and almost half of the population struggling to feed themselves.
- The United Nations has authorized the deployment of an international force to assist the Haitian government.
- The conflict has led to an increase in rape and kidnappings, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis

# **Historical context**

Since the 1950s, non-state armed groups have been a fixture in Haiti, starting with the Tonton Macoute, created by President François Duvalier to suppress dissent. Even after Jean-Claude Duvalier's ousting in 1986, these groups persisted, evolving into far-right militias. In 1994, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide disbanded the Haitian Army and outlawed pro-Duvalier militias, but the lack of disarmament only swelled the ranks of militant groups. Between 1994 and 2004, ex-soldiers led a rebellion against Aristide. During this period, youth gangs, known as chimères, received backing from Aristide's party. Following the 2010 earthquake, newer, more violent gangs overpowered the older ones, bolstered by a mass prison break. Under Michel Martelly's administration (2011-2016), gangs' violent behavior mirrored a culture of misogyny. The United Nations' MINUSTAH mission, launched after the 2004 coup,

failed to control the violence. When MINUSTAH ended in 2017, gang violence escalated, including the 2018 Port-au-Prince massacre. By 2021, Haiti's political system was in crisis, with a deadlocked parliament and postponed elections. Natural disasters and unrest worsened the economic situation, allowing gangs to fill the power vacuum, controlling politics through corrupt officials and using kidnappings and violence to expand their influence.

The ongoing gang wars in Haiti, particularly in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, have roots in the country's complex history of political instability, economic hardship, and natural disasters. The conflict primarily involves two major criminal groups, the Revolutionary Forces of the G9 Family and Allies (FRG9 or G9) and the G-Pep, and has been escalating since 2020. The assassination of President Jovenel Moise in July 2021 and a subsequent earthquake further destabilized the country, leading to an increase in gang violence. Haiti's history of paying reparations to France after gaining independence in 1804 has also contributed to the country's economic struggles, which have been a factor in the rise of gang violence.

# **Current Issue**

The gang wars have led to a significant humanitarian crisis, with thousands of people displaced and almost half of the population struggling to feed themselves. Gangs reportedly control up to 90% of Port-au-Prince, and the Haitian government and security forces have struggled to maintain control. The violence has also led to an increase in homicides, with a 21% increase reported in the first quarter of 2023. The conflict has also led to the closure of schools and hospitals, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

Since February 29, Haiti has faced severe violence due to coordinated gang attacks that have resulted in numerous deaths and displaced more than 15,000 people. These assaults began while Prime Minister Ariel Henry was in Kenya advocating for the deployment of a U.N.-backed police force from Kenya to combat the escalating gang violence in Haiti. However, a Kenyan court ruled in January that the deployment would be unconstitutional, complicating the international response to the crisis.

The violence has severely disrupted daily life, with the main port in Port-au-Prince shutting down. This closure has stranded numerous containers filled with essential food and medical supplies. The timing of this disruption is particularly critical, as U.N. officials report that approximately half of Haiti's more than 11 million inhabitants are struggling with food insecurity. Of these, 1.4 million are experiencing severe hunger.

The impact of the crisis extends to humanitarian operations; the increasing insecurity and dwindling funds have forced aid organizations to halt their activities and significantly reduce their budgets. The U.N.'s World Food Programme estimates that nearly half of the country is now facing hunger, with over 45% of individuals in Bas-Artibonite experiencing severe food shortages. The deteriorating situation has created a dire need for effective intervention and support to address both the immediate humanitarian needs and the broader issues driving the ongoing crisis.

Haiti is currently one of nine countries globally at risk of famine. Food prices have surged to over 80% above the three-year average, exacerbating the crisis. The violence from gangs has been particularly devastating; in the first three months of 2024 alone, the United

Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that over 1,554 people were killed and 826 were injured. Gender-based violence is also on the rise, with reported cases in March 2024 being approximately five times higher than those in January and February combined. By June 2024, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimated that there are around 578,074 internally displaced people in Haiti, marking an increase of nearly 60% from the previous assessment in March. Additionally, despite the rampant violence and instability, over 13,000 people were forcibly returned to Haiti in March 2024, a 46% increase compared to February 2024.

# **Past International actions**

The World Food Programme (WFP) has distributed some 160,000 hot meals, while the World Health Organization (WHO) has delivered a range of essential health supplies, and planes from the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) have flown in around 800 kilograms of blood pouches. The UN, along with partners, has been trying to address the lack of access to clean water: for example, between 16-18 March UNICEF and the NGO Solidarités International delivered 20,500 gallons of water to four sites that are home to over 12,000 displaced people while between 17 and 20 March, the UN migration agency IOM delivered 16,000 gallons of water to two sites. Finding a way to end the Haitian crisis has been the subject of several high-level UN meetings. On 21 March the Security Council, the UN organ charged with maintaining international peace and security, issued a press statement reiterating its members support for a "Haitian-led, Haitian-owned political process", and stressed the need for the

international community to redouble its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the population and to support the Haitian National Police. The members of the Security Council also expressed grave concern at the illicit flow of arms and ammunition into Haiti that remains, they said, a fundamental factor of instability and violence. Back in October 2023, the Security Council authorized the deployment of a multinational security support (MSS) mission to Haiti at the request of the then government. The resolution was hailed at the time as a historic first, although the mission has yet to be deployed. The MSS mission to bolster the understaffed and under-resourced Haitian National Police is expected to be led by Kenya, with troops also promised by several Caribbean countries. The US has pledged some \$300 million, according to media reports.

# **Subtopics**

- *Humanitarian Crisis:* The impact of the gang wars on the Haitian population, including displacement and food insecurity.
- *International Involvement:* The role of international actors, such as the United Nations, in addressing the gang violence and providing humanitarian aid.
- Political Instability: The impact of political instability, including the assassination of President Jovenel Moise, on the escalation of gang violence.

# **Positions**

- 1. United States: The U.S. strongly supports international intervention in Haiti, emphasizing its role in restoring peace and stability. The U.S. sees Haiti's escalating gang violence and political instability as a regional security threat, pushing for the deployment of multinational forces. It has also been vocal about addressing the root causes of the crisis, including economic aid, humanitarian support, and long-term development strategies.
- 2. France: Given its historical ties with Haiti, France is focused on a balanced approach, advocating for both security measures and comprehensive humanitarian aid. While supporting intervention to quell the violence, France also stresses the importance of respecting Haiti's sovereignty and calls for a solution that empowers Haitian institutions rather than imposing external control.
- 3. China: China typically maintains a cautious stance on foreign intervention, promoting respect for national sovereignty. It would likely be critical of intervention efforts that appear as Western-led without substantial local backing. However, China has been increasingly engaged in peacekeeping efforts globally and may support intervention if there is a strong international consensus and local Haitian demand, possibly providing financial or logistical support.
- 4. Russia: Russia tends to oppose foreign intervention unless it is multilateral and fully endorsed by the host nation. Moscow is wary of U.S.-led or Western-dominated operations, fearing that they may serve geopolitical interests under the guise of humanitarian efforts. Russia would likely

advocate for a diplomatic resolution and stress the importance of UN-led or regionally-backed initiatives to address the crisis in Haiti.

5. Brazil: Brazil has historically been involved in peacekeeping in Haiti through the United Nations Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH). Brazil supports international intervention, especially under UN mandates, but would emphasize the importance of regional leadership through mechanisms like the Organization of American States (OAS). Brazil's position would likely focus on long-term stability and development in Haiti, advocating for capacity building rather than short-term military solutions.

# **Guiding questions**

- What are the root causes of the gang wars in Haiti, and how can they be addressed?
- What role should international actors play in addressing the gang violence and providing humanitarian aid?
- How can the humanitarian crisis be addressed, particularly in terms of providing healthcare, education, and food security to the Haitian population?
- What steps can be taken to restore political stability in Haiti?
- How can the international community support the Haitian government in regaining control over Port-au-Prince and other areas affected by gang violence?

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