



INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

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TIBET WATCH

**WINTER 2024
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Long-Life Prayers
for His Holiness

China's Censorship of Tibetan
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Dear Friend,

At the end of October, an ICT members delegation visited Dharamsala, the exile home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan diaspora community and were honored to be granted an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. As our cover image shows, we were surprised and happy when His Holiness chose to put on the ICT cap that we presented to him.

Another incredible event in these last few months was a Long-Life Prayer (Tenshug) for His Holiness the Dalai Lama offered in New York by the Tibetan, Himalayan and Mongolian diaspora communities, as His Holiness prepared to return to India after a successful knee treatment. This moving ceremony is captured in vivid photographs in our feature story on pages 4-5 of this issue.

We are grateful to the Office of Tibet for inviting ICT staff to join in this meaningful event—which marked His Holiness' first visit to the US since 2017.

Planning is currently underway for the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday celebrations next year, and we'll have more details soon about how you can get involved.

This issue of Tibet Watch went to print before Election Day, so we did not yet know the outcome of the presidential election, but we are asking for your help in urging the next president to take action for Tibet.

I hope you'll complete and return the page 11 petition to the president-elect as soon as possible. As you know, it's crucial that the next administration makes Tibet a priority, and your voice can encourage them to do so. We plan to deliver all petitions signed by ICT members to the president-elect's office in January.

Elsewhere in these pages, you can read about China's censorship of Tibetan language on social media, its sanctions on Rep. Jim McGovern, and its recent destruction of a protected Tibetan monastery (page 8). We also have an update on the Derge dam project, which Tibetans are actively protesting (page 6).

I hope you'll also take a look at a heartwarming story on page 6 about the cameras and photography equipment purchased by the Tibetan Children's Village photography club thanks to a grant from the Rowell Fund for Tibet (page 6).

You'll find beautiful photos of His Holiness' life's work (taken from our 2025 calendar—honoring His Holiness' 90th birthday in 2025) on page 7. Don't miss some interesting new print and digital media on Tibet highlighted on page 9, and a special profile of our new board member Louise Rose Pacini on page 10.

Wishing you a peaceful and joy-filled holiday season from all of us at ICT. We are truly grateful for your compassionate support of our Tibetan brothers and sisters.



In solidarity,

Tencho Gyatso

Tencho Gyatso
President

TIBETAN, MONGOLIAN & HIMALAYAN COMMUNITIES OFFER LONG-LIFE PRAYERS TO HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

During His First Visit to the US Since 2017



On August 22, at the end of a two-month stay in New York for knee replacement surgery, His Holiness the Dalai Lama attended a long-life prayer service (Tenshug) with a full capacity crowd of over 17,000 people gathered at the UBS arena just outside New York City.

Members of the Tibetan, Mongolian and Himalayan communities of North America, along with supporters, offered prayers for His Holiness' long life at this event, which took place during his first visit to the US since 2017. Staff members of the International Campaign for Tibet were honored to attend as guests of the Office of Tibet.

The event featured monks playing horns who led His Holiness to the throne onstage, Tibetan dancers in

traditional costumes, and a group of 400 Tibetan children singing their wishes for His Holiness' longevity. Dr Namgyal Choedup, representative of His Holiness at the Office of Tibet in Washington, DC, told His Holiness how pleased everyone present was to welcome him and to have the opportunity to offer their prayers for his long life.

His Holiness addressed the crowd, saying, "Here we have Tibetans from all three regions of Tibet demonstrating how we are united. Tibetan culture can be of benefit to the whole of humanity. The Buddha, Shakyamuni, became enlightened and gave teachings that have been preserved in Tibet and the Himalayan region. These teachings are profound and deeply valuable. I have studied them since I was very young.





Celebrating HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA'S 90TH BIRTHDAY IN 2025

ICT looks forward to joining Tibetan communities, Tibet support groups, and members of our community of compassion in joyfully celebrating His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday throughout 2025! It is an auspicious occasion that will give us a wonderful opportunity to amplify His Holiness' message of kindness and compassion to people worldwide. On December 9, the eve of the 35-year anniversary of the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize Award to His Holiness, ICT plans to launch our celebration with a screening of a new documentary about the life of the Dalai Lama called "Wisdom of Happiness" and will also present our Light of Truth award to Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, a fearless and stalwart friend of Tibet in the US government. We will be in touch with ways you can join in the celebration throughout the year.

Above Photo: Olivier Adam

The Buddha's teachings have influenced our way of life to the extent that the people of Tibet have been determined to keep them alive. I intend to live to be more than 100 years old and I will continue to do my best to help the Tibetan people.

Chinese Communists may look down on Tibetan culture, but across the world we have friends who appreciate it. In Tibet, we have the most complete transmission of the Buddha's teachings. As Tibetans have spread out across the world, other people have become more aware of our traditions. We have many loyal friends who I'd like to thank. People around the world are taking an interest in Buddhism, and even in China there are many curious to learn about Tibetan Buddhism."

His Holiness offered a short teaching on generating the awakening mind. He then gave the transmission of the mantras of Buddha Shakyamuni, Arya Tara, Avalokiteshvara, Manjushri, Hayagriva, the Medicine Buddha and Guru Rinpoche.

The staff of the International Campaign for Tibet was moved to be among those offering long-life prayers to His Holiness in person during his first visit to the US in 7 years. His Holiness celebrated his 89th birthday this summer, and preparations are underway for his milestone 90th birthday next July 6.

ICT HOSTS PANEL AT WORLD WATER WEEK 2024

In August, ICT hosted a special panel at World Water Week—a leading global water conference in Stockholm, Sweden—on Tibet’s potential as a key to unlocking regional peace and prosperity.

As Asia’s water tower, Tibet supplies water to 1.8 billion people downstream who depend on the healthy flow of the major rivers that come from its glacial peaks. But China’s control of Tibet puts these rivers in Beijing’s hands, which stands to trigger disastrous consequences.

The CCP’s unfettered dam building and other poor environmental tactics have already displaced Tibetan communities, destroyed religious sites, and degraded local ecosystems.

“This special panel brings together indigenous voices and scientists to ensure the crucial nature of Tibet’s water is fully understood, as well as the availability of evidence-based tools to build collaborative solutions. Centering Tibet is even more critical now, as China’s occupation and isolation of Tibet makes Tibet a global blind spot which puts at risk the lives and livelihoods of 1.8 billion people downstream. We hope the panel will bring this situation to the world stage and inspire concrete action,” said ICT President Tencho Gyatso.

ICT’s Director of Government Relations Franz Matzner moderated the session, which included Palmo Tenzin, Senior Researcher from ICT-Germany, Dr. Marina Mautner (Stockholm Environment Institute), and Pat Joe, a First Nation, a teacher, mother and grandmother from the Tagish Nation, the Dak’laweide Clan (Killer Whale and Wolf Crest) of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation.

A PAST ROWELL GRANT IN ACTION: NEW CAMERAS FOR YOUNG TIBETAN PHOTOGRAPHERS

In 2016, a Rowell Fund for Tibet grant was awarded to The Tibetan Children’s Village Photography Club, which gives students living in exile an opportunity to understand photography and document their surroundings while learning more about their environment, people, and culture.

Participating students in the club come from all corners of Tibet. Many arrived in Dharamsala as very small children—separated from their families, language, and culture for most of their young lives. The photography club allows them to gain a sense of belonging and confidence as they take photos.

The club’s director, Tenzin Lhawang, said, “I have seen children who are quiet and reluctant to speak in front

of others become completely different youngsters with boosted self-esteem.”

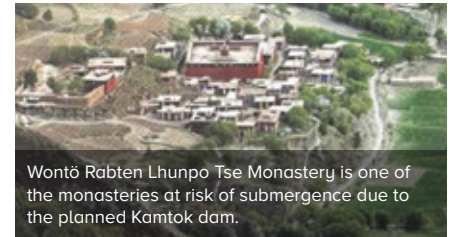
The club began with only one working camera. The Rowell Fund grant allowed them to buy multiple new cameras along with materials to process their photos.

Today, Tenzin Lhawang reports that many of the children are now pursuing their dream of becoming photographers who record images of their culture that bring joy to others as well as to themselves. In the process, they are strengthening Tibetan art and cultural traditions and resisting the Chinese government’s attempts to wipe out Tibetan culture.

Thank you for supporting the children of TCV, Tibet’s cultural defenders!



UPDATE ON THE DERGE DAM PROJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS EXPRESS “DEEP CONCERN”

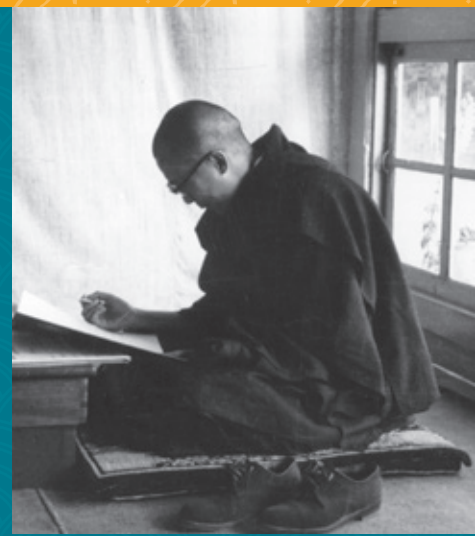


Wontö Rabten Lhunpo Tse Monastery is one of the monasteries at risk of submergence due to the planned Kamtok dam.

A powerful letter published in early September by 13 independent UN Human Rights Special Procedures mandate holders expressed “deep concern” regarding the Chinese government plans to build the Kamtok dam in the Tibetan region of Derge. It demands clarification from the Chinese government on the numerous reports of arrests and repression inflicted by CCP officials on local Tibetan protesters. It also requests details on how transparency, consultation, and respect for human rights will be ensured.

The Kamtok dam will submerge at least six monasteries and two villages and expel hundreds of residents. The UN experts emphasized their distress regarding the irreversible destruction of religious and cultural heritage sites, as well as Tibetan ways of life.

Kai Müller, Head of the UN Advocacy Team at ICT said: “This communication by 13 UN special procedures is a methodical examination of the Chinese government’s violent response to Tibetan protests against the Kamtok dam in Derge, as well as China’s so-called ‘sustainable renewable energy’ plan. In their letter, the UN human rights experts shine a bright light on the consequences of the Chinese government’s false claims about its development policy in Tibet. While Beijing pitches it as a climate-friendly and sustainable energy policy with hydropower dams as a key pillar, the reality is a ruthless strategy to exploit an oppressed country and marginalized people.”

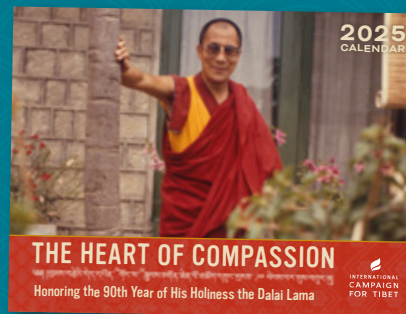


2025 CALENDAR: HEART OF COMPASSION

In 2025, His Holiness the Dalai Lama celebrates his momentous ninetieth birthday. To honor this incredible milestone, ICT's new calendar features twelve captivating images that reflect his life's profound work.

Each month provides a glimpse into the wisdom and compassion that have defined His Holiness' journey. This calendar is not only a tribute, but an invitation to dive deeper into the achievements and teachings of a leader whose impact resonates across the globe.

ICT is proud that our 2025 calendar commemorates the enduring legacy of His Holiness and the values he has championed throughout his life. We look forward to sharing more ways you can help in joyfully celebrating His Holiness' 90th birthday in the coming months. It is an auspicious occasion that will give us a wonderful opportunity to amplify his message of kindness, compassion and oneness of humanity to people worldwide.



ANNOUNCING THE SCHRUCKER FELLOWSHIP FOR THE ARTS

This new fellowship, launched in the fall of 2024, is dedicated to supporting Tibetans working in the fields of contemporary art, creative writing, film, and theater.

The Schrucker Fellowship was inspired by a 2024 ICT trip to Dharamsala, where the Schroeder and Pucker families were introduced to a burgeoning contemporary

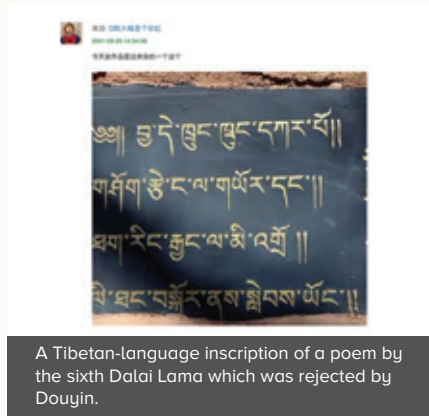
Tibetan arts and creative community in Dharamsala. The fellowship was established to provide Tibetan artists with the resources they need to continue their important work despite significant challenges posed by China's occupation of Tibet. The total grant amount in 2024 will be \$20,000; projects can receive funding from \$500 to \$3,000. More information is available at savetibet.org.

ICT REPORTS ON CENSORSHIP OF TIBETAN LANGUAGE CONTENT ON CHINESE SOCIAL MEDIA

Tibetans inside Tibet are circulating videos objecting to the fact that Douyin, one of the most important streaming and social media platforms in China, is blocking Tibetan-language broadcasts. Chinese authorities have not responded to these objections, but they reveal a new aspect of the People's Republic of China's efforts to undermine the use of Tibetan and replace it with Mandarin.

Livestreaming has become the most popular online retail sales avenue in the PRC, but Tibetans are facing discrimination from platforms which, like Douyin, restrict the usage of Tibetan. The list of these platforms includes major Chinese sites such as Kuaishou, Bilibili, and Talkmate. Beyond the restrictions on Tibetan-language streaming, Tibetan netizens have noticed restrictions on comments written in Tibetan as well.

These restrictions fulfill the Chinese government's political agenda of un-



A Tibetan-language inscription of a poem by the sixth Dalai Lama which was rejected by Douyin.

dermining the study of Tibetan while making Mandarin the dominating language even among Tibetans.

In its 2024 report, *Freedom in the World*, Freedom House reported, "The online censorship and monitoring systems in place across China are applied more stringently in Tibet, while censorship of Tibet-related keywords on apps like WeChat has become more sophisticated. The use of Tibetan language is banned on a range of social media apps, particularly ones that use streaming and live communication services."

You can read the full report on our website at savetibet.org/inaction.

CHINA DESTROYS PROTECTED TIBETAN MONASTERY TO BUILD 3D-PRINTED HYDROPOWER DAM

Until the beginning of 2024, Atsok Monastery, which was founded in 1889 in Dragkar, Tibet, was home to 160 monks. It has now been completely leveled on orders from the Chinese government.

The Chinese government has demolished the 135-year-old Atsok (Chinese: A'cuohu) Monastery in the northern Tibetan region of Amdo to make way for the construction of a hydroelectric dam.

Despite opposition by local Tibetans, work crews began to destroy

the monastery in April this year and finished in August.

ICT stated, "We are deeply concerned about the destruction of yet another precious Tibetan Buddhist monastery. Atsok's cultural heritage status reflected the history of the monastery and its importance to Tibetan Buddhists, and revoking that status in order to destroy it underscores what Tibetans have known all along: China's attitude towards their religion, history, and culture oscillates from indifference to hostility."

REP. MCGOVERN SAYS HE WEARS CHINESE SANCTIONS AS "BADGE OF HONOR"

At the end of July, China announced sanctions on US Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) for "frequently interfering in its domestic affairs." Rep. McGovern is the ranking member of the House Committee on Rules and a longtime advocate for Tibet. He co-chairs the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and is a member of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China.

The sanctions include freezing his assets in China (of which he has none), prohibiting Chinese organizations and individuals from working with him, and denying him and his family members entry to China.

REP. MCGOVERN RESPONDED TO THE SANCTIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. HIS STATEMENT ON X (FORMERLY TWITTER), READS:

"If PRC leaders don't like it when people speak out against their horrific human rights record, maybe they should improve their horrific human rights record. They can start by ending their oppression of Tibetans, ending their genocide in Xinjiang, and ending their crackdown on democracy in Hong Kong. In the meantime, these absurd sanctions against me only serve to highlight how PRC leaders are afraid of free and open debate. They seek to punish and silence those who disagree with them. But the world is watching what they do, and people who care about human rights will not be silent. I will proudly wear this sanction as a badge of honor."

ARE YOU FOLLOWING ALONG?

Last spring, we launched a new video series on social media called Why Tibet Matters, to honor 65 years of the Tibetan people's resistance and resilience, and to help explain why Tibet matters for the world. And in October, we created a series called ICT in India that takes the viewer along on an ICT journey through Tibetan areas in Delhi and Dharamsala.

Check out #WhyTibet and #ICTinIndia on ICT's social media accounts to learn more about ...



... How the Chinese government wants to appoint its own "Dalai Lama". But the Dalai Lama is the **ONLY ONE** with authority over his reincarnation.



... What it's like at Samyangling Tibetan settlement in Delhi, India. From the local monastery to the Tibetan shops and cafes, it is one of many important stops you can join on ICT's journey!



Follow us to see more of this series at:

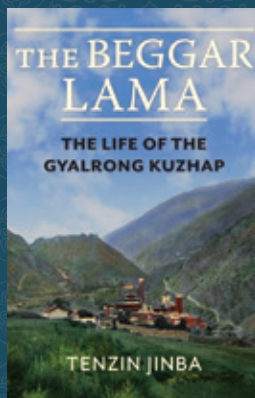


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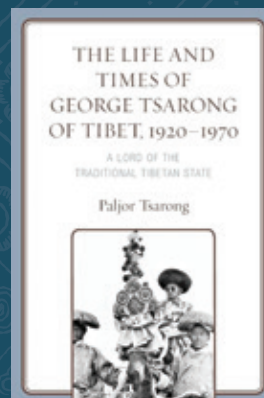
RECENT PUBLICATIONS



THE BEGGAR LAMA: THE LIFE OF THE GYALRONG KUZHAP

By Tenzin Jinba

Even the most dedicated Tibet supporter may not be aware of the Gyalrong Kuzhap, a monk born in 1930 on Tibet's eastern edge. Author Tenzin Jinba has known him for years, and skillfully shows how this Lhasa-educated lama grew disillusioned with Chinese Communist rule and dedicated himself instead to Tibet's cultural and religious survival.



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF GEORGE TSARONG OF TIBET

By Paljor Tsarong

Paljor Tsarong wrote this biography of his father, Tibetan aristocrat George Tsarong. George Tsarong was part of a new generation of Tibetan officials who were more likely to have received a modern education even as they were bound to the traditional requirements of the Tibetan state – until the Chinese invasion subjected them to occupation and then exile.



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ICT WELCOMES LOUISE ROSE PACINI TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In its meeting on September 10, 2024, ICT's Board of Directors confirmed Louise Rose Pacini as its newest member. Ms. Pacini, who lives in Victoria, British Columbia, said she was very excited for the opportunity and hopes her service will continue the rich legacy of her father—the late Congressman Charlie Rose—in supporting the Tibetan people in their struggle for human rights and freedom.

Charlie Rose was the first Member of Congress to invite His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the United States in 1979 and was a key supporter of Tibet in Congress until his retirement in 1997.

Ms. Pacini said, "Throughout my childhood, I observed my dad's re-

lationship with His Holiness and with Lodi Gyari [late President and Executive Chairman of ICT]. My father thought that mankind and the US in particular could learn a lot from the Dalai Lama and Tibetan Buddhism—about how to be better people and provide government that was based on the general principles taught by His Holiness, especially related to service, servant leadership, and compassionate government."

As a professional in global business strategy and operations, Ms. Pacini said she thought her background would be useful in driving the objectives of ICT forward with a renewed focus on global alignment and a refreshed operating model. She is currently Vice President of Operations at San Francisco-based Delinea, a

cybersecurity company that services some of the world's largest institutions.

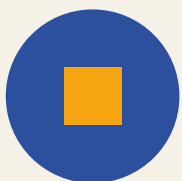
Keith Pitts, an ICT board member, said, "With her experience as a C-suite executive overseeing the operations of multi-national companies in the dynamic technology and pharmaceutical sectors, Louise will greatly contribute to the success of both the International Campaign for Tibet and the cause of the Tibetan people, as we continue to expand our impact on a global basis."

Mr. Pitts also mentioned Ms. Pacini's strong "heart-connection" to the Tibetan cause. Recently she and her husband traveled to Dharamsala, India, and visited with His Holiness and the Tibetan exile community.

When asked about her dreams for the future of Tibet, Ms. Pacini said: "I imagine a world where Tibetan language, culture, heritage and identity are recognized globally by the institutions that matter: governments, schools, NATO, the UN."

She also envisions an eventual widespread understanding of the last 65 years of history and a commitment to learning from the occupation of Tibet so that it won't happen again to similar vulnerable populations. As for the work of His Holiness, she calls it "a primer for how we want to coexist for the next 100 years."

ICT Board Chair Richard Gere, President Tencho Gyatso, and the entire ICT team welcome Ms. Pacini to the International Campaign for Tibet.



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THANK YOU TO THE ITALIAN BUDDHIST UNION

We are grateful to the Italian Buddhist Union (UBI) for sponsoring this issue of *Tibet Watch* magazine. Founded in Milan in 1985, UBI supports and represents the Buddhist movement in Italy. It also collaborates with nonprofit organizations to support humanitarian and social projects related to human rights, the environment, and social inclusivity. Learn more at unionebuddhistaitaliana.it/en/.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS: URGE THE NEW US PRESIDENT TO SUPPORT TIBET



As we go to print, a new president is about to be elected in the US. When the new president takes office, we want to raise our collective voices early and firmly calling on the new administration to stand up for Tibet!

Join ICT in urging the new US President to continue America's proud legacy of standing with Tibet by adding your name to our petition.

Please lend your support to our member petition to the new US President by signing the form below and returning it in the enclosed envelope.

PLEASE CLIP HERE & MAIL YOUR PETITION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.



**TO: THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FROM: A CONCERNED CITIZEN**

Dear President-elect,

America has a strong bipartisan history of support for the people of Tibet.

Now that you have reached the highest office in the land, we call on you to continue our nation's proud legacy of defending our Tibetan brothers and sisters. In particular we ask that you:

- Make the Tibet issue and a return to negotiations with representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama one of your most consistent requests in both public and private conversations with Xi Jinping and the government of the People's Republic of China. The US has previously played an important role in facilitating this dialogue, and we must do so again now.
- Promptly meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, one of the most admired figures both in America and around the world. The Dalai Lama is a universally respected religious leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate who has received the highest accolades for his global message of peace and compassion.
- Implement our nation's Tibet-related laws, including the Resolve Tibet Act and the Tibetan Policy and Support Act, to the fullest extent. Our bipartisan tradition of support for Tibet in Congress has resulted in laws designed to help the Tibetan people, and your White House should embody that support as well.

Thank you, and I hope to see that your administration will continue to stand up proudly for the Tibetan people.

Sincerely,

Signature _____

Name _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



**INTERNATIONAL
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Share us with your contacts and join in the Tibet conversation. The more people who care about Tibet, the bigger the impact we can have!

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202.580.6763 or scan here
to learn more.



At the end of October a delegation of ICT board, staff and supporters journeyed to Dharamsala to engage with the Tibetan community, and were honored with an audience with His Holiness.



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