NIGERIA
Weekly Report
29 January - 4 February 2018
**Summary**

- Between 29 January and 4 February 2018, there were 40 critical incidents in Nigeria, resulting in 102 deaths and 95 arrests. Terrorist activity accounted for 35% of the total incident pool this week, characterized by Boko Haram and herdsmen attacks. Both Human & Social Crises and Criminality followed with 17.5% each.

- Over the past month, the Nigerian military became embroiled in new controversies. Amnesty International reported that air force bombings killed at least 35 non-combatants in December 2017. The Amnesty report came as a coalition of 64 villagers from Niger state launched a lawsuit against the federal government over an alleged army raid that led to the death of at least 13 people in August 2016.

- A new outbreak of Lassa fever was recorded in Delta State, with one person confirmed dead and four others hospitalized. The Federal Minister of Health, Isaac Adewole, blamed the increasing number of health workers infected with Lassa fever on their refusal to take necessary precautions while treating patients.

- Boko Haram staged several attacks in northern Nigeria, causing multiple casualties. In Adamawa state, at least three people were killed on 26 January when Boko Haram attacked Hyambula village. Three people were also kidnapped by the militant group during this attack. Further north, two members of Boko Haram struck at an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Dalori, Borno State, killing at least six people and wounding 44 others on 31 January. Finally, Boko Haram insurgents also killed at least five loggers in Ajeri village, again in Borno state.

- Nigeria-based Boko Haram militants performed a cross-border incursion into southern Niger Republic, killing two local soldiers. Meanwhile, Nigeria’s intelligence agencies fear that non-Nigerian Islamic State militants may have entered the country.

- The grazing wars affecting several regions of Nigeria continued to cause major instability this week. In Benue, armed men suspected to be herdsmen attacked and killed an employee of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) while his group was working on a petroleum pipeline. In Guma, also in Benue, a group of herdsmen attacked a community, leaving many injured. Meanwhile in Nasarawa, seven villagers were killed in a raid by cattle rustlers in Kadarko. Five men are still missing after the attack. In Kaduna, seven people were also killed in Kaguru village.

- The conflict between the Cameroonian government and English-speaking separatists is beginning to have an impact upon southeast Nigeria. In addition to an increase of refugees into Cross River state, Cameroon security services also entered the region to arrest representatives of Cameroon’s opposition movement.
Kwara: 28 January 2018: Two killed and several missing in vigilante-gunmen clash.


Borno: 30 January 2018: Five loggers killed by Boko Haram militants near Dikwa.


Borno: 31 January 2018: Suicide bombers hits IDP camp in Borno, several casualties.


Nassarawa: 30 January 2018: Seven villagers killed in a raid by cattle rustlers in Kadarko.


Benue: 29 January 2018: Amnesty reports on villagers killed by Nigerian air force bombings.

Cross River: 29 January 2018: Cameroonian security forces enter Cross River community.
Benue: Senate summons Police Chief for alleged failure to arrest perpetrators of Benue killings

The Nigerian Senate summoned the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Ibrahim Idris, to appear before its committees on police affairs and national intelligence for allegedly failing to arrest the perpetrators of the Benue killings. This is part of an ongoing debate over the future of open grazing in Nigeria and the role of herdsmen, who are accused of committing crimes. The senate summons followed a 14-day ultimatum handed by the upper chamber to the IGP to arrest the perpetrators, which it said the police Chief had not fulfilled.

Benue: Benue Governor vows tough response to herdsmen’s attacks

Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom, declared that he would never surrender his state to the nomadic herdsmen. He also rebuked a statement made by the Minister of Defense, Mansur Dan-Ali, saying the enactment of the anti-grazing law was responsible for the attacks perpetrated by herdsmen of Fulani ethnicity. Speaking to the press, Ortom stated that the Minister’s claim was "an indication that he was part of the alleged conspiracy against people of Benue State."

Rivers: Thousands of APC members in Rivers state defect to PDP

Samuel Nwanosike, the spokesperson of the opposition People’s Democratic Party (PDP) in Rivers state, claimed that over 3,400 members of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) have defected to PDP. Nwanosike predicted that the PDP would win all the 23 Local Government Areas in the state in the 2019 general elections. The governorship of Rivers is controlled by Nyesom Wike, also of the PDP and a staunch critic of President Buhari and the APC-controlled administration.

Abuja: Police arrest 84 illegal migrants

The police in Karu, a town near Abuja, arrested 84 foreign nationals accused of entering Nigeria illegally. The migrants are from Niger Republic, having moved into the area in a lorry loaded with cattle and were spotted by policemen as they arrived in Karu. The driver of the truck was also arrested.

Niger: Dozens of villagers in Niger state sue federal authorities over deadly military raid

Sixty-four villagers from Niger state are suing the federal government over an alleged army raid in August 2016 that led to the death of at least 13 people. The other defendants in the case are the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Nigerian Army and Air Force, amongst others. At the time of the incident, five villages in the Bosso Local Government Area of Niger state were reportedly raided by a joint military team,
leaving scores dead. The villagers in the suit filed before the High Court in Minna, are demanding NGN 1.19 billion in damages and compensation “over summary execution of 13 sons, illegal detention and torture of 54 others.”

**Edo: Fire destroys market in Edo**
On 1 February, a fire from an unidentified source destroyed 150 shops in Kara market in Ikpoba-Okha, Edo State. It is the third time that same market has been destroyed by fire since 2015.

**Delta: Lassa fever in Delta state kills one**
Delta State has recorded a new outbreak of Lassa fever with one person confirmed dead and four others hospitalized. An official at the State Ministry of Health in Asaba said two out of the five confirmed cases were brought to the Federal Medical Center in Asaba for medical care, where one died. The three others are currently receiving treatment in a government hospital outside the state capital. The disease, which re-emerged over the last two weeks in the state, has thrown several hospitals and the general public into panic.

**Ebonyi: Health Minister blames doctors for Lassa fever infections**
The Federal Minister of Health, Isaac Adewole, blamed the increasing number of health workers infected with Lassa fever on their apparent lack of precaution while treating patients.

**Borno: Wholesale destruction by Boko Haram of social infrastructure in Borno**
The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has claimed that nearly 1,400 schools have been damaged or destroyed in Borno as a result of years of Boko Haram insurgency. It added that only half of the 755 health facilities in Borno remain functional. Many of the schools are unable to reopen for safety reasons. Over one million children are currently out of school. “The protracted crisis has also compromised the physical safety and psychosocial well-being of 2.5 million children in north-east Nigeria, who require immediate assistance,” UNICEF said. The UN agency said violence and conflict-related displacement had increased dramatically in Nigeria over the past decade. UNICEF also added that in the three most directly affected states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, an estimated 7.7 million people require humanitarian assistance. This includes 4.3 million children and 1.6 million internally displaced persons, more than half of whom are children.

**Security**

**Delta: Violence escalates in Delta communities over proposed oil refinery**
The dispute among Umuseti, Emu Iyasele and Ebendo communities in Delta State over the ownership of the site of a proposed Modular Refinery by Pillar Oil Company, has escalated with unidentified gunmen laying ambush and shooting residents of opposing communities. This was confirmed by a police source.

**Benue: Amnesty reports on villagers killed by Nigerian air force bombings**
The Nigerian Air Force is facing fresh accusations against its operational methods, with human rights organization Amnesty International accusing it of killing at least 35 civilians. Raids against villages were alleged to have taken place in December 2017.
Witnesses described Nigerian aircraft bombing houses and targeting civilians attempting to escape raids that a military spokesman at the time stated had a “positive effect” in tackling communal violence. Launching the attacks in December, the military claimed it was targeting enemy hideouts in the villages, referring to herdsmen whom it said were armed. Several Nigerian states have passed legislation banning the open grazing of cattle, in an attempt to stop the clashes that result from pastoralists’ animals trampling agriculturalists’ crops.

In November, as the new law came into force in Benue state, the governor told Nigerian media it was necessary because, “for close to five years, herdsmen have killed thousands of Benue people and it was almost becoming a pogrom.” But others see the legislation as discriminating against the Fulani, a minority west African group who are traditionally herders – and to which the Nigerian president, Muhammadu Buhari, belongs. The federal government has not approved of these laws. Last week, Nigeria’s defense minister Mansur Dan Ali said that a major reason for the clashes was that traditional grazing routes no longer existed.

**Adamawa: Boko Haram attacks village in Adamawa, kills three**

Late on 26 January, at least three people were killed when Boko Haram attacked Hyambula village in northeast Adamawa state. AFP reported that three other people were kidnapped. The attackers had shot one man dead before a suicide bomber blew himself up amongst residents gathered at the scene, killing two and leaving five injured. Adamawa was said to have been cleared of Boko Haram in late 2015, but attacks have continued in the north of the state, particularly around Madagali, which borders Borno state and the militants’ stronghold in the Sambisa Forest.

**Borno: Suicide bombers hits IDP camp in Borno, several casualties**

Two suspected members of Boko Haram struck at an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Daloli, Borno State, killing at least 6 on 31 January. Some 44 people were also injured. A witness said that soldiers have secured the camp to prevent any further attacks. Another witness stated that a soldier lost his life while over 40 IDPs were killed. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has however alleged that only the two suicide bombers were killed. Daloli is a suburb near Maiduguri. It hosts one of the largest IDP camps, with over 15,000 people residing within.

**Abuja: Growing fear of presence of Islamic State militants in Nigeria**

The recent disclosure by Nigeria’s Department of State Services (DSS) that it has uncovered elements who appear to be foreign collaborators of the IS wing in the country, has increased tensions among Nigeria’s security services. Boko Haram had previously declared allegiance to the Islamic State of West Africa (ISWA), the West African affiliate of ISIS Global. The Nigerian police sought to appease fear and have warned that it is too early to conclude that those arrested by the DSS belong to IS. Recent arrests have been made in several states including Edo and Kogi, which led to initial profiling of the suspects, showing that most of them could not speak any Nigerian language, prompting officials to make a link between those arrested and foreign militant groups. Officials are aware that with over 1,400 poorly secured border posts and points, it is problematic to physically man them without the deployment of state-of-the-art defensive measures, reducing the need for manpower.
Borno: Five loggers killed by suspected Boko Haram militants near Dikwa
On 30 January, Boko Haram militants conducted an attack in Ajeri village, near Dikwa, Borno state. Authorities stated the some nine militants on motorbikes opened fire on a group of loggers, killing five of them, and injuring four others. When soldiers arrived, they evacuated the dead and injured back to Dikwa along with 18 others who survived the attack.

Benue: Herdsmen stage several attacks in Guma, Benue
On 30 January, armed men, suspected to be herdsmen, attacked and killed an employee of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) while his crew was working on a petroleum pipeline at Tse Torkula, a border community between Nasarawa and Benue states. An unknown number of others were also injured. The Benue state Police Commissioner, Fatai Owosenyi, confirmed the attack.

On the previous day, the same suspected group of herdsmen attacked the village of Torkula, leaving many injured, including a well-known mining investor in the community. The attackers also looted houses and stole foodstuffs and farm produce.

Taraba: Growing concern over insecurity in Taraba state
Community leaders and elders in Taraba issued a warning to residents to be mindful of potential attacks. Organized under the Concerned Elders Forum, the elders said on 30 January that witnesses had sighted a weapon-laden helicopter, causing panic among some communities. The spokesperson of the CEF, Joshua Ande, said: “We are worried that the security agencies do not seem perturbed by happenings in Taraba State, especially Takum LGA, where the security concern has reached the level of red alert. Stories of kidnapping and killings are now daily." The southern part of the state, which is near Benue and shares a border with the restive Logo and Guma LGAs, where herdsmen recently engaged in mass killings, are considered to be under a serious security threat.

Nasarawa: Seven villagers killed in a raid by cattle rustlers in Kadarko
On 30 January, seven people were killed by gunmen that invaded the village of Kadarko, Kean LGA, Nasarawa state. Officials stated that the suspected cattle rustlers also killed cattle and abducted two local herdsmen. Most of the residents in and around Kadarko, especially those of Gaav-Giza, Ngur-Giza, Gidan-Sule and Sarkin-noma, have fled the area.

Nasarawa: Five men missing after attack on Nasarawa village
Five men from Agbala village, Keana, Nasarawa State, have been reported missing following a suspected herdsmen attack between 29 and 30 January. The perpetrators also reported killed seven villagers during the attack.

Ogun: Magboro community raises the alarm over herdsmen invasion
Residents of Magboro, in the Obafemi Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State, have called on the State Government and security agencies to curb the activities of herdsmen in their community. Residents lamented the presence of herdsmen, who appear late in the nights or early mornings, saying their presence constituted a security risk. Some of the men were reported to carry guns while grazing their cattle in residential areas. Herdsmen’s encroachments took place three times in January.

Ondo: Four heavily armed herdsmen arrested in Ondo
Four herdsmen were arrested by a vigilante group in Agadagba Obon town, in the Ese Odo Local Government Area of Ondo State, carrying dangerous weapons. The suspects were handed over to the state police command for interrogation. The news created tension in the community, with people remaining indoors out of fear of reprisal attacks.

Kaduna: New herdsmen attack on a Kaduna village leaves seven dead
Seven people were killed and several homes completely destroyed in Kaguru village, a Muslim community settlement located in the Udawa ward of Birnin Gwari, Kaduna state, during a midnight raid by suspected herdsmen. The attack on the settlement, which borders the Kaduna-Lagos highway, was conducted on 31 January and began with sporadic gunshots.
resulting in numerous people receiving injuries. The assailants, whom witnesses suspected were herdsmen, managed to escape before police arrived. Police have subsequently stated that the situation in Birnin Gwari is back to normal.

Imo: Imo police seek to strengthen community mechanisms of conflict resolution

The Imo state police command has been working to strengthen the existing mechanisms of conflict resolution at the local level, by enhancing the role of local conflict brokers made up of Traditional Rulers, Divisional Police Officers, Department of the Security Services, farmers and cattle herders. Security authorities are looking to address complaints emanating from the destruction of farm crops and rustling. They are also looking for ways to identify herders, who operate within the state and eventually isolate those who are causing trouble.

Benue: President Buhari announces security reform amid rising crises

President Muhammadu Buhari wrote to the Senate this week to inform it that the federal government was taking steps to resolve herder-farmer clashes across the country, which spiked with the recent killings in Benue State. In the letter, President Buhari said plans were already underway to restructure the country’s security architecture to conform with global standards. Details of the security reorganization remain unavailable and will be unveiled in the coming weeks.

Lagos: Authorities plan enhanced security of Lagos financial institutions

The Nigerian police plans to launch a special patrol convoy dedicated for 24-hour surveillance of banks and other financial institutions around riverine areas and creeks in Lagos. The information comes from the Commissioner of Police of Lagos State, Imohimi Edgal, who briefed the heads of security of banks and other institutions in Nigeria on the upcoming plan. Edgal said a special patrol convoy was needed because of the topography of the state. He stated, "We have a lot of creeks, as well as legal and illegal jetties and generally banks that are situated in such areas are more vulnerable."

Bayelsa: Bayelsa to use drones for crime prevention

Bayelsa authorities announced this week that they will launch a crime control drone system to assist in the prevention of crime in the state. Commissioner for Science and Technology, Blessing Ipigansi-Izagara, said the project is based on developing an indigenous manpower and a special-purpose technology agency in line with the current administration’s pledge of zero tolerance for criminality. The system will be directly linked to police on patrol at different locations for rapid intervention.

Abuja: Army Chief asks senate and government for more funding

The Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai, complained that the Nigerian Army remains poorly funded, despite the numerous military operations being carried out in all states of the federation. Speaking before the Senate Committee on Army in Abuja on 1 February, Buratai noted that insecurity has been spreading across the country since 2015, requiring recurrent military intervention. The Army Chief also decried the budgeting system adopted by the Federal government, which he said had limited the military’s access to funds. With regard to the 2018 budget, the Ministries of Defense and Budget proposed NGN 233.05 billion, but the Nigerian Army has requested NGN 261.67 billion to be able to fulfil its objectives.

Cross River: Cameroonian security forces enter Cross River community

Over 80 Cameroonian gendarmes crossed the international border between Nigeria and Cameroon on 29 January, entering Danare, in the Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State. The gendarmes reported that they were chasing after Cameroon militants who took refuge in the community. There are well over 5,000 Cameroonian refugees seeking asylum in Danare 1 and 2 communities following the unrest in southern Cameroon. This is the second incident of its kind, with Cameroonian gendarmes from Bodam community first entering Nigeria’s Danare in October 2017, killing two farmers. Local media also reported that Cameroonina gendarmes abducted five people from Danare in December on the claims that they...
were suspected Ambazonian separatists.

**Criminality**

**Kwara: Two killed and several missing in vigilante-gunmen clash**

Two people were killed in a confrontation between members of a local vigilante group and gunmen in the Kaiama Local Government Area of Kwara. The vigilantes also recorded casualties in their attempt to dislodge the gunmen from their camp located in the local National Park. A source said the gunmen often terrorized the communities in the area, stealing food, livestock and money.

**Delta: Police arrest human trafficking suspect**

A resident of Afiesere community, Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta state, was arrested for allegedly luring a 15-year-old girl to Mali. The suspect was arrested by detectives from the Ughelli Area Command after parents of the victim reported her missing on 5 January. Confirming the arrest, Delta State commissioner of Police, Muhammed Mustafa said the victim was taken away to an unknown destination by the suspect.

**Cross River: Cross River police seize over 700kg of illicit drugs in 2017**

The National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency stated that it had seized 722.5 kilos of hard drugs from suspected drug gangs in Cross River state in 2017, valued at millions of nairas. Most of the drugs were cannabis sativa (India Hemp), followed by cocaine, heroin and psychotropic substances. A total of 250 suspects were apprehended in connection with the seizures. Of those arrested, 34 were convicted at the Federal High Court in Calabar.

**Edo: Authorities destroy dozens of cannabis farms in Edo state in 2017**

The Edo state unit of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) said that it recorded 31 convictions for illegal drug trafficking in 2017. The State Commander, Buba Wakawa, said 136 cases were pending in the Federal High Court. In all, 253 suspects were arrested in 2017. The drugs seized by authorities include more than 44,000 kilos of cannabis Sativa, 1,122 kilos of psychotropic substances, and 1,507 kilos of cocaine. Additionally, 33 farms with 49.1 hectares dedicated to the cultivation of cannabis sativa were discovered and destroyed throughout the state.

**Benue: Benue state imposes dusk-to-dawn curfew on Gboko amid escalating criminality**

The Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortim, imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Gboko Area of the state, beginning on 31 January. Ortim approved the curfew following the recent killing of seven people by a youth gang. The victims were traveling to Okene in Kogi state when the gang attacked them, burning them to death. Authorities claimed that police officers who were first deployed to the area were also attacked.

**Delta: Kidnapped oil workers released from captivity**

Five staff members of Sahara Energy Oil, who were kidnapped at Ajoki community near Koko, Warri North, in Delta State, have regained their freedom after spending 19 days in captivity. The workers were kidnapped on 17 January by a gang of suspected militants operating in the area. A source at the company alleged that Sahara Oil was forced to pay NGN 50 million for the release of the victims, although the gang had previously demanded a NGN 200 million ransom payment.

**Kaduna: Kaduna politician killed by unidentified gunmen**

Moses Banka, a politician and businessman from Sanga Local Government Area of Kaduna State, was assassinated by unknown gunmen in Ankwa village, Kaduna. He was assassinated on 31 January at his residence in the village. Before his death, Bank was also an active farmer and owned an irrigation farm at Dogon Daji Reserve.
Grazing wars destroy agriculture

The Taraba commissioner for agriculture and natural resources, David Kassa, claimed that the lingering crisis between herdsmen and farmers in the country is derailing the federal government's agriculture programs. He warned that if the conflict is not solved, it has the potential to plunge the country into a severe food crisis. Citing the example of his state and that of neighboring Benue, Kassa said, "Taraba and Benue are known for food production, but today millions of farmers in these states and beyond can’t go to their farms."

Lagos: Anger at increase of Lekki toll hike

Following the toll increase along Eti-Osa/Lekki-Epe Expressway by Lekki Concession Company Limited (LCC), motorists and commuters have expressed anger as they spent several hours in long queues on the road. The LCC recently announced a hike in toll at the Admiralty Circle Toll Plaza and the Lekki-Ikoyi Link Bridge Toll Plaza, which took effect from 1 February. The toll review elicited angry reactions, with officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority deployed to the area facing difficulty in controlling the crowds. They also struggled with motorists who refused to pay the fares, creating major gridlock.
Nigeria’s security environment remains volatile. Although political and security leaders have stated that efforts are underway to restructure the security services, the situation remains tenuous. Both state and federal authorities are increasing law enforcement capacity and expanding manpower, but sources of violence, including Boko Haram and the nomadic herders, will remain an active threat.

Nigerian authorities will be required to produce different strategies to contain these crises. In the case of Boko Haram, a more effective anti-insurgency campaign will need to be implemented. With regard to the herdsmen, a deeper understanding of the culture of grazing and solutions on how to allow the herdsmen to feed their cattle are required. The adequate enforcement of security will also likely be a necessity, though the current repressive measures employed by many states against herdsmen will, at least in the short term, prolong the conflict.

Nigeria will continue to struggle with containing disease outbreaks. With regard to the current Lassa fever outbreak, a lack of coordination and mixed messages by the authorities, including the Health Minister blaming medical staff for the spread, highlights their inability to contain the crisis.

Likewise, Nigeria faces several issues related to its basic social infrastructure. Considering its economic limitations, rectifying existing social problems will be a significant challenge. In the northeast, Boko Haram has had a destructive impact on schools, health centers and other facilities. Elsewhere, the country’s roads continue to be a source of deadly accidents, and community areas such as markets and gathering places continue to suffer from a lack of health and safety regulations.

Nigeria’s economy will remain weak, affecting the performance of industries and consumer spending. The destruction of infrastructure by Boko Haram in northern Nigeria will not be alleviated with new investments in the short term. Longer-term stability will only be achieved by tackling the root causes of the insurgency, and effectively combating them. Meanwhile, the ongoing grazing wars are reducing the effectiveness of Nigerian agriculture. Many have expressed concern of the possibility of food shortages in the medium term.
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 May - 15 Jun 2018</td>
<td>Ramadan*</td>
<td>Month-long Muslim observance.</td>
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<td>12 Jun 2018</td>
<td>1993 Annulled General Election Day</td>
<td>Public state holiday in Lagos, Oso and Oyo states</td>
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<td>15 Jun 2018</td>
<td>Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan) *</td>
<td>National holiday - Muslim observance; widespread business and public office closures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Aug 2018</td>
<td>Eid al-Kebbir</td>
<td>Date varies on Lunar cycle</td>
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<td>1 Oct 2018</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>1960 Independence from UK. Nationwide holiday</td>
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<td>22 Dec 2018</td>
<td>Sambisa Memorial Day</td>
<td>Borno state holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Dec 2018</td>
<td>Boxing Day</td>
<td>National holiday - Widespread business and public office closures.</td>
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* Muslim holidays are often determined by local sightings of lunar phases; dates given are approximate.
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