



Post Visit Summary

Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera

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Summary Our visit

The Commonwealth NPM conducted an announced visit to Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera on 26 November 2024.

This was our first visit to Gallipoli Barracks as part of our role monitoring Australian Defence Force (ADF) places of detention under the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OPCAT).

The visit was conducted by 2 OPCAT Monitors.

What we found

Our 2024 visit to Gallipoli Barracks found that the Area Detention Centre (ADC) is very well maintained and located within a multi-purpose building that is also used by the Regimental Police.

The facility is in good, serviceable condition and adequately supports its primary function. However, a number of areas require improvement to enhance safety, compliance and welfare.

Key concerns include the need for improved emergency cell access mechanisms, enhanced first aid provisions, and refined protocols for strip searches to ensure dignity and adherence to best practice. Additionally, the lack of toilet privacy remains an area for review, with opportunities to implement measures that balance security and privacy. We acknowledge that ADF have agreed to our previous recommendations to resolve our concerns regarding strip searching and toileting privacy.

Furthermore, complaints mechanisms should include the Defence Force Ombudsman, and the management of personal property should be improved.

The last Serviceperson held in the facility was in August 2024 and prior to that in 2021.



Recommendations and suggestions



Recommendation 1

An automated external defibrillator (AED) be permanently located in the detention area and staff made aware of its location.



Suggestion 1

An angle grinder or similar tool be located in the detention area to cut the tongues of locks in the event of an emergency.

Suggestion 2

Servicepersons in detention be made aware of their right to make a complaint to the Defence Force Ombudsman.

Comment 1: Strip searches be conducted on the basis of risk assessment rather than as a routine practice and that they are undertaken in a private area out of view of CCTV.

Comment 2: Provide privacy for people in detention from both the cell window and CCTV cameras when toileting, while still allowing sight lines to the upper body for officers to maintain visibility for security and safety purposes.

Joanne Mulder

Acting Commonwealth Ombudsman

Commonwealth National Preventive Mechanism



Facility and demographics

Gallipoli Barracks (previously known as Enoggera Barracks) is an Australian Army base in the northwestern Brisbane suburb of Enoggera in Queensland.

The Base was established in 1908 although the wider area has been used for military purposes since 1855. The base is one of the largest modern military bases in the country, of about 600 hectares in size with on-base tactical training facilities and an auditorium (Monash Centre). On Anzac Day (25 April) 1990, it was renamed Gallipoli Barracks.

The Base is home to the majority of 7th Brigade units.

It is also Headquarters of the 7th and 11th Brigades as well as Headquarters of the 1st Division and 16th Aviation Brigade.

In 2014, the base facilities underwent a \$770 million expansion, which raised the number of regular personnel based at Enoggera to about 5,600.

Gallipoli Barracks currently has approximately 7,000 ADF Personnel.

The Area Detention Centre (ADC) is an ADF local detention facility for the short-term detention of ADF members for up to 14 days.

The detention centre is not a full-time facility but is kept in contingency mode and activated and staffed as required when a Serviceperson is placed in detention. There are a total of four (4) cells.

On 26 November 2024, when we visited, the facility held no Servicepersons in detention.



Observations Safety

Duress alarms to summon emergency assistance

There is a duress alarm button strategically located beneath the intercom system of each cell, and when pressed sends an immediate alert tone throughout the facility. The duress alarm system was working at the time of our visit.

We consider the system to be a satisfactory safety measure as it provides an immediate and reliable way for staff to call for assistance in the event of an emergency.

Duress alarms are an important safety mechanism for both staff and people in detention where response times are critical. They allow staff to alert others of an emergency such as a Serviceperson in detention attempting self-harm, medical emergency, assaults etc. This enables staff from the broader facility to attend and assist as quickly as possible to prevent harm/further harm.

They also allow staff members operating CCTV to immediately bring cameras to bear on the emergency.

Fire safety is satisfactory

There are fire alarms and prevention systems including smoke detectors fitted in each cell with appropriate security screening. There was no automated fire suppression system such as a sprinkler system in place which is in accordance with safety considerations for detention facilities, where such systems may pose a risk of ligature points.

There were 3 Dry Powder fire extinguishers and one 36m fire hose capable of reaching all areas of the facility. All were last tested in October 2024.

Fire extinguisher selection charts were attached to the emergency evacuation signs positioned in strategic locations throughout the facility, which enable staff to identify



the type of extinguishing medium required to extinguish a particular class of fire in order to not endanger detained persons or staff by using the wrong extinguisher.

Fire systems are tested every 6 months by private contractor Downer. We consider this good practice and compliant with Australian Standards.¹

We consider the fire safety measures taken to be satisfactory. The systems in place are comprehensive and well maintained, ensuring the safety of both staff and those in detention.

Emergency evacuation is satisfactory

There are 2 emergency access/egress points at each end of the facility with emergency exit lighting in place that was in working order.

The facility has standalone emergency and evacuation procedures in place.

Upon admission, all Servicepersons in detention receive instruction on emergency and evacuation procedures as part of their march in process.

We are satisfied that emergency plans meet the requirements of the Mandela Rules² and Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) guidance³ as well as the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

CCTV system is satisfactory

CCTV cameras were located in strategic areas and provided coverage of all internal and external areas of the facility. The cell cameras have inbuilt infra-red for viewing in low light conditions but have no audio. The picture was clear, with no blind spots detected.

Footage is retained on Hard Disk Drive (HDD) for 5 years when it is automatically overridden, except for any incidents which are downloaded onto a separate HDD and stored and retained in accordance with the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth).

We were advised that any incidents are also uploaded to the Serviceperson in detention's personnel file.

³ Association for the Prevention of Torture. (2013). Monitoring Police Custody, A Practical Guide. p159.



¹ AS 1851-2012 Routine Service of Fire Protection Systems and Equipment

² Assessing compliance with the Nelson Mandela Rules, A checklist for internal inspection mechanisms p10, 24.

All CCTV cameras were working and were correctly date and time stamped.

The monitoring screen was set up in an office at the end of the cell block where detention supervisors maintain a constant presence when a Serviceperson is in detention.

The APT acknowledges that existing standards surrounding the use of CCTV in detention settings are few in number, however, should still be assessed by monitors.^{4,5}

We are satisfied with the operation of the CCTV system.

Use of Force is managed well

Use of force (UoF) forms must be completed in the event of a UoF which must also be documented in the Daily Occurrence Book. This is on paper but later scanned for digital record keeping.

All personnel are trained in defensive tactics and UoF tactical options models.

Only Detention Centre Supervisors (DCSs) have access to mechanical restraints but no other items of restraint or weapons. In the event of a violent incident requiring a higher level of response Military Police would be called upon who have higher levels of training and expertise.

Record keeping and training in Use of Force are satisfactory and in line with established policies and guidelines.⁶

Intercoms provide direct avenues for assistance

We observed functioning intercoms in each cell which were monitored by control room staff.

As recommended in the *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (RCIADIC), it is imperative that proper functioning intercom systems are in each cell

⁶ Prevention of ill treatment in places where people are deprived of their liberty, 7.4 Practices where risk of ill treatment is heightened



⁴ Association for the Prevention of Torture. (2013). Monitoring Police Custody: A Practical Guide. Geneva, Switzerland. p145.

⁵ Monitoring Police custody: A practical guide, 4.1 Audio-video recording

which give direct communication to custodians for people in detention to summon assistance in the event of illness or emergency.⁷

We are satisfied with the functionality of the intercom systems. They are in good working order, providing reliable communication between detained persons and staff.

Emergency cell access is not satisfactory

In the unlikely event of both a power failure and a failed/broken lock there are no emergency entry tools on site. There are 2 armouries close by with breach equipment that could be used to gain entry in an emergency, however there is no guarantee that these would be manned at all hours creating unnecessary delays in gaining emergency entry. This is not satisfactory as power failures, particularly in hot and humid climates can occur at any time. Additionally, such climates can contribute to insect infestations creating further challenges to the uninterrupted supply of power. Detainees may also attempt to obstruct locks by stuffing them with toilet paper or other materials, which can hinder staff ability to respond to incidents including self-harm.

The Mandela Rules state that evacuation plans must be in place for the protection of people in detention.⁸



Suggestion 1

An angle grinder or similar tool be located in the detention area to cut the tongues of locks in the event of an emergency.

First Aid

The Mandela Rules require all staff of detention facilities be first aid trained.⁹ All staff at the Gallipoli Barracks ADC are First Aid and automated external defibrillator (AED) trained and include a combat medic on each shift. There are 2 first aid kits and one combat medic kit onsite with appropriate signage.

⁹ The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 76.



⁷ Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, recommendation 140.

⁸ Assessing compliance with the Nelson Mandela Rules, A checklist for internal inspection mechanisms p10, 24.

The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody stated that facilities should have resuscitation equipment.¹⁰ There was no AED located in the detention area and staff were unsure of the location of the nearest one.



Recommendation 1

An automated external defibrillator (AED) be permanently located in the detention area and staff made aware of its location.

Padded cell use is best practice

There was one padded cell at the end of the row of cells which was in very good condition. We were advised that this cell would not be used as a punishment or holding cell but would only be used in very limited circumstances such as in the event of an emergency where the Service person in detention was committing acts of self-harm. The cell would then be used only until such time as an ambulance could be summoned to transport to a medical facility. This is supported in the ADF Detention Manual (DETMAN) where the OIC of the detention centre and medical officer are to be immediately informed of a Serviceperson at risk of self-harm being placed in the padded cell.

We consider this to be a best practice use of a padded cell."

Respect

Strip searches should not be routine

All new arrivals undergo a full strip search upon entry into the facility. The search is undertaken in the shower which is under CCTV camera surveillance, however we note that the camera's line of sight does not reach into the shower cubicle itself which makes it suitable for strip searches to take place out of the line of sight of the CCTV.

The search is carried out by the Officer In Charge (OIC) of the facility and one other person.

¹¹ Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, recommendation 142.



¹⁰ Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, recommendation 159.

The ADF Detention Manual (DETMAN) notes that Service personnel may be categorised as Male, Female or Gender X (Indeterminate/Intersex/Unspecified) and outlines the management of each of these specifically, including asking those who identify as Gender X by which gender they would like to be searched.

If the Serviceperson in detention is escorted anywhere external to the facility, they are required to be subjected to a strip search upon their return. No risk assessment is conducted to determine the necessity of a strip search.

Strip searching raises concerns about invasion of privacy and indignity. Routine strip searching, where it is conducted as a standard procedure, fails to take account for personal circumstances. Strip searching should be guided by risk assessment rather than being conducted routinely, as it ensures a more targeted, humane and effective approach.

Since our visit, we have been informed that, the ADF has implemented a new policy whereby strip searches are now conducted based on a risk assessment rather than as a routine practice.

Comment 1: Strip searches be conducted on the basis of risk assessment rather than as a routine practice and that they are undertaken in a private area out of view of CCTV.

Cell toilets offer no privacy

The cell toilets had no privacy from the cell door window or CCTV camera, so Servicepersons in detention are in full view of staff when using the toilet.

The ICCPR guarantees that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy¹² and the APT states that sanitary installations be in working order and provide adequate privacy.¹³

We have been informed that since our visit, a remedial program is currently underway to install privacy screens in all ADF detention facilities.

Association for the Prevention of Torture. (2004). Monitoring Places of Detention: A Practical Guide. Geneva, Switzerland. p146, 147



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¹² International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 17.

Comment 2: Provide privacy for people in detention from both the cell window and CCTV cameras when toileting, while still allowing sight lines to the upper body for officers to maintain visibility for security and safety purposes.

Cells are well maintained

All cells were alike, in very good condition and measured 12.2m² which exceeds the Australian/New Zealand standard of 8.75m² with ablutions and 7.5m² without.¹⁴

All cell doors are electronically operated from the officer workstation with a key override. They all open outward and are keyed alike.

When the cells are not in use, they are professionally cleaned once per month by the garrison contractor, Downer.

We were pleased to see that cell floors had a drain cover which was of a crocodile roll resistant (CRR) design.

We are satisfied with the upkeep and cleanliness of the cells.

Pastoral care for all faiths is available

The Chaplain's service is notified when a Serviceperson enters detention as part of the march in process. They are able to provide religious texts in line with the Serviceperson in detention's religious preference which can be kept in their cell.

Religious services can be attended in the Gallipoli Barracks Military Area chapel or within the confines of the detention unit, depending on behaviour.

Freedom of religion or belief is guaranteed by the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 18 and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 18.

We are satisfied with the religious arrangements in place and their application to all forms of religion.

¹⁴ Standard Guidelines for Prison Facilities in Australia and New Zealand. (1990)



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Complaints are well managed

Servicepersons in detention are made aware of their ability to lodge a complaint as part of the march in procedure which is also contained in the Detainee Orders folder (a folder outlining Servicepersons in detention rights and responsibilities) which is retained in their cell.

Complaints can be made orally at a daily parade which is held each morning.

Complaints can also be made directly to the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the facility who conducts a parade each morning, and the Visiting Officer (VO) every fortnight. These visits and any complaints raised are documented in the Daily Occurrence Book.

ADF members can also make a formal complaint through the ADF's Redress of Grievance (ROG) process.

External complaints mechanisms are also available through the Defence Force Ombudsman, however these are limited to administrative or serious abuse matters only. We were advised by staff that Servicepersons in detention are not made aware of this avenue of complaint.

The Mandela Rules and the APT provide that every prisoner shall be provided with written information about his or her rights including making a complaint.^{15, 16}



Suggestion 2

Servicepersons in detention be made aware of their right to make a complaint to the Defence Force Ombudsman.

Personal property needs improvement

Servicepersons in detention are not allowed to take any personal property into the facility. Property is itemised and recorded in a property book under CCTV camera that has no audio function and is also recorded in the Daily Occurrence Book. The property is then locked in an individual property cage. Cash and valuables are stored in a locked safe. We are satisfied with valuables being stored in a locked safe however not with property being accounted for under a CCTV camera without audio. Management of

https://www.apt.ch/knowledge-hub/dfd/complaints-procedures



¹⁵ The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 54.

personal property should be recorded under CCTV with an audio function to ensure transparency and accountability, and to prevent disputes or allegations of misconduct. Failing to do so can lead to discrepancies, loss of property, and a lack of evidence in the event of a complaint or investigation.

Since our visit we have been advised that CCTV does not have an audio function due to some detention units being situated in hearing distance of operational areas where audio recording is not allowed for operational security reasons.



Purposeful Activity

Outdoor exercise exceeds international standards

Servicepersons in detention have a very structured day commencing at 5:30am and ending at 8:00pm. Physical Training (PT) is conducted for at least one hour per day which is supervised by a Physical Training Instructor (PTI).

Servicepersons in detention are allowed access to a large well-equipped gymnasium fitted out with weights, exercise and recumbent bikes, boxing equipment etc.

The area is monitored by direct supervision and CCTV from the officer's workstation.

Further training is provided throughout the day structured around other soldiering skills.

The Serviceperson in detention is encouraged to provide input into their training program, particularly in identifying areas where they face challenges.

The staff spoken to were aware of minimum standards for exercise outlined in the Mandela Rules.

We are satisfied that exercise requirements exceed the minimum one hour as outlined in the Mandela Rules.¹⁷

¹⁷ The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 23 & 42.



Wellbeing and Social Care

Staffing model is appropriate

There are 5 staff trained as Detention Centre Supervisors (DCSs) of which 3 are male and 2 are female.

If the detention unit is activated for use it has a 24 hour per day staffing level of 3 persons, one of which must be a DCS.

There is at least one female DCS on shift in the event a female is held in detention.

The unit has 3 days' notice to prepare the facility for use during which time staff are allocated, all systems such as intercoms, alarms and CCTV are tested and the facility cleaned.

The Mandela Rules Checklist requires that prisons are adequately staffed during the day and night.¹⁸

Both the Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules require that female prisoners shall only be attended and supervised by female staff. ^{19, 20}

We are satisfied with the staffing model given how rarely the facility is used.

Access to fresh air and natural light is adequate

The cells have no access to fresh air but are linked to the facility's central air conditioning system which was in good working order.

There is a large window in each cell that allows plenty of natural light. This was complemented by artificial lighting which was working at the time of our visit.

²⁰ United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), Rules 11 &19.



¹⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 2017. Assessing compliance with the Nelson Mandela Rules, A checklist for internal inspection mechanisms. p23

¹⁹ The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 81.

The APT states that police cells should have natural light and ventilation, and a temperature appropriate to the climate and season.²¹

We note that Servicepersons in detention spend a large amount of their day out of cell undergoing remedial training.

Visiting arrangements are well organised

An initial telephone call can be made to any person within the first 24 hours of detention to notify of their detention, including a family member, friend or legal representative. Telephone calls to legal representatives are unlimited.

Family and friends are not allowed to visit, however the Serviceperson in detention is allowed to contact family via telephone at any time. We note that although family are unable to visit, the maximum period a Serviceperson can be held in detention at this facility is 14 days.

Members of the Serviceperson's assigned Unit may also visit to conduct a welfare check, provide encouragement and check on their progress.

There is also another level of welfare check for members in detention being the Visiting Officer (VO).

The VO is an independent ADF member of the rank of Major or above from another unit within the ADF. They are randomly appointed for a 12-month term from other units and are required to visit once per fortnight on a rotational basis. Their role is to conduct an inspection of the detention centre and visit all Servicepersons in detention and hear any complaints or requests they may have. A report is then provided to the OIC of the facility.

Servicepersons in detention can refuse visits from their Unit but cannot refuse a visit by the VO.

There is an interview room opposite the cells which is also used for visits. It has a table and 2 chairs which are bolted to the floor for security purposes.

There is no CCTV which makes the room appropriate for private and professional visits. There is, however, a duress alarm to summon emergency assistance if required.

²¹ Association for the Prevention of Torture. (2013). *Monitoring Places of Detention: A Practical Guide*. Geneva, Switzerland. p.156.



We are satisfied with the visiting arrangements as they are well organised and adhere to both security and welfare standards.

All personnel receive same standard of meals

Meals are brought in from the main mess (kitchen) which provides the same meals as other service members and at the same times. Meals may be eaten in the cell which has a table and chair permanently attached to the floor and wall or alternatively in the gymnasium with other Servicepersons in detention where there is a table and chairs provided. The gymnasium is closed to other personnel at this time.

We are satisfied that meals meet or exceed the minimum standards as outlined in the Mandela Rules.²²

²² The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 22.



Physical and Mental Health

Best practice health care model

Prior to placement into the detention unit a 'medical assessment of suitability to be detained' is undertaken by qualified medical practitioners and includes physical, mental and psychosocial health components. If for some reason the assessment is unable to be undertaken at the time it must take place in the first 24 hours of detention. If the Serviceperson is found to be not fit for detention, they will not enter the facility and alternatives such as confinement to their accommodation or placement in a hospital or psychiatric facility will be considered based on the medical assessment.

There are two medical parades with attendance by all Servicepersons in detention being mandatory:

- 1. The first is a daily medical review where a nurse attends to the Serviceperson in detention regardless of whether there has been a request or not.
- 2. Once per week there is a medical parade with one of the Base's Medical Officers (MO). They are able to take a Serviceperson in detention offsite if there is a need to access medical equipment etc, but this is rare and most services are delivered on site, noting that if the detainee had a serious condition it would be unlikely they would have passed the health check required to be placed in detention.

The base medical centre is open 24 hours per day and there is also a qualified Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) councillor onsite when a Serviceperson is detained who will determine if internal or external supports are required.

We are satisfied that this is a best practice model for health care in detention due to the high standard of health services provided to Service personnel. The facility has clear procedures including regular assessments, proper documentation and swift responses to medical needs. There is also adequate access to mental health services including after-hours advice.



Methodology

The Commonwealth NPM visits places of detention to:

- monitor the treatment of people in detention and the conditions of their detention and
- identify any systemic issues where there is a risk of torture or ill-treatment
- make recommendations, suggestions, or comments promoting systemic improvement.

The Commonwealth NPM conducts three types of visits: announced, unannounced, and semi-announced. The type, location, and timing of each visit is determined by the Commonwealth NPM alone.

Each place of detention is assessed in terms of its performance based on the management and conditions for people in detention. We assess these against the 5 indicators of a healthy detention facility, adapted from those used by other international and domestic visiting bodies.

The five indicators of a healthy centre are 23 :

Safety	people in detention are held in safety and that consideration is given to the use of force and disciplinary procedures as a last resort.	
Respect	people in detention are treated with respect for their human dignity and the circumstances of their detention.	
Purposeful activity	the detention facility encourages activities and provides facilities to preserve and promote the mental and physical well-being of people in detention.	
Well-being and social care	people in detention are able to maintain contact with family and friends, support groups, and legal representatives, and have a right to make a request or complaint.	
Physical and mental health		

²³ These indicators have been adapted from expectations used by international and domestic inspectorates.



The Commonwealth National Preventive Mechanism Mandate

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) is an international human rights treaty designed to strengthen the protections for people deprived of their liberty and potentially vulnerable to mistreatment and abuse.

OPCAT does not create new rights for people who are detained, rather it seeks to reduce the likelihood of mistreatment. OPCAT combines monitoring at an international level (by the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture) and by National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) at a domestic level.

NPMs are independent visiting bodies, established in accordance with OPCAT, to examine the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, with a view to strengthening their protection against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

An NPM is not an investigative body. The mandate of an NPM differs from other bodies working against torture in its preventive approach: it seeks to identify patterns and detect systemic risks of torture, rather than investigating or adjudicating complaints concerning torture or ill-treatment.

In July 2018, the Australian Government announced the Commonwealth Ombudsman as the visiting body for Commonwealth places of detention (the Commonwealth NPM). At present, the Commonwealth NPM visits places of detention operated by:

- the Department of Home Affairs
- the Australian Federal Police
- the Australian Defence Force





CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

1 9 Jun 2025

Mr Iain Anderson

Commonwealth National Preventative Mechanism Commonwealth Ombudsman Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman GPO Box 442 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Jain,

COMMONWEALTH NPM'S FINDINGS FROM YOUR VISIT TO GALLIPOLI BARRACKS AND LAVARACK BARRACKS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Commonwealth National Preventive Mechanism findings from visits to two ADF places of detention at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, QLD and Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, QLD. I appreciate the ongoing cooperation between your Office and the Australian Defence Force, and look forward to continuing to support this important oversight mechanism.

I understand that the has worked with your staff with respect to one minor amendment to the report on your Lavarack Barracks visit. I have no concerns regarding the public release of the report.

My point of contact for this matter is who can be contacted by Yours sincerely

David Johnston AC Admiral RAN Chief of the Defence Force

06 June 2025

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