

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Dr. Grace Atieno Ongile, Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was created by African leaders in 2001 to address the challenges facing the African continent such as the increasing poverty, underdevelopment and the continued marginalisation of Africa. This month Transparency Watch teamed up with Transparency International Kenya to talk to NEPAD about its desire to increase better governance as it relates to aid and development funding coming into the region. Lisa Karanja, Deputy Director of TI Kenya, sat down to talk with Dr. Grace Atieno Ongile, the Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD since 2005. >> read more

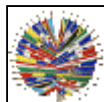
SPOTLIGHT STORY



To strengthen the voice of the poor, keep a closer eye on where taxes are going

In 2006, donor countries gave almost US \$104 billion in official development assistance to lower income countries. That is, US \$104 billion coming from the taxpayers of those donor countries. When individuals donate money to a charity, they want to see that the money is effectively used, and often follow up on the use of their donation. But with taxes – some of which goes to funding poverty-alleviation work in overseas development assistance – the act of paying the taxes is the beginning and the end of citizen involvement. >> read more

ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK AROUND THE WORLD



TI's chapter in Venezuela was prevented by its government from participating in the review process of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption at the Organisation of American States in June. >> read more



Two series of investigative articles exposing political corruption and traffic of influence in Brazil and Colombia won the prize for Best Investigative Journalism Report on Corruption 2006 in June. >> read more



Transparency International Papua New Guinea walk against corruption brought together nearly 500 participants to raise awareness and funds for fighting corruption. >> read more

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

Reports from Transparency International's national chapters, members and Secretariat. Click here to read this month's highlights. >> read more

CORRUPTION IN THE NEWS



Former French president Jacques Chirac will be questioned in a corruption investigation over a scandal dating back to his time as mayor of Paris, reports The Guardian. >> read more



The US Department of Justice is investigating military contractor BAE Systems over the company's compliance with anti-bribery laws. >> read more



Facing corruption charges, Thaksin Shinawatra, deposed Prime Minister of Thailand finds time to buy a football club in England. >> read more

CORRUPTION IN QUOTES

"As an American journalist based in China, I knew there was a good chance that at some point I'd be detained for pursuing a story. I just never thought I'd be held hostage by a toy factory." >> read more

SPOTLIGHT STORY

To strengthen the voice of the poor, keep a closer eye on where taxes are going

By Inken Denker , Amber Poroznik



In 2006, donor countries gave almost US \$104 billion in official development assistance to lower income countries. That is, US \$104 billion coming from the taxpayers of those donor countries. When individuals donate money to a charity, they want to see that the money is effectively used, and often follow up on the use of their donation. But with taxes – some of which goes to funding poverty-alleviation work in overseas development assistance – the act of paying the taxes is the beginning and the end of citizen involvement. *

The truth is, democracy is getting lazy. Citizens in donor countries do not play an active role in the democratic process, including monitoring where their taxes go and how they are used. Whereas citizens from donor countries often have possibilities for involvement, citizens in countries receiving development assistance often are not invited to participate in the aid process. As a result, they are not aware of the amount of money coming into the country, and most often they, and possibly their elected representatives, are not involved in deciding priority areas for its use and ways of spending it to achieve the best results.

Without the public eye on these extremely large flows of money, the potential for corruption is high.

Aid is intended to reduce poverty and support sustainable development, but its effectiveness is seriously undermined when those that are giving and those that are receiving are not brought into the process in a participatory way. Corruption diverts resources from their intended purpose, and from the people who need them most. The poor therefore, have the greatest stake in preventing corruption.

What is worse, aid can actually encourage corruption. Conflict, reconstruction and post-disaster situations are particularly vulnerable. Increasing reliance on budget support can feed corruption where domestic accountability is weak. On the supply-side in development cooperation, private sector firms have frustrated clean governance efforts by offering or accepting bribes.

Transparency International's [policy paper](#) on *Poverty, Aid and Corruption* takes on the challenge of showing how to safeguard aid. It begins from the idea that the aid process itself must be designed in a way that prevents corruption. The paper emphasises that development partners - aid providers and aid recipients - have a shared role and responsibility to prevent corruption from reducing aid effectiveness.

At the heart of such an approach is the idea of mutual accountability, as reflected in the 2005 [Paris Declaration](#) on Aid Effectiveness. Donor governments must be accountable to their citizens on how they spend their taxes and what results they have achieved with it. The aid process does not stop with giving, but with supporting recipient governments in their efforts to reach intended beneficiaries and prevent corruption in aid.

Recipient governments also need to involve citizens and beneficiaries of aid in a more effective way. Inviting them to suggest how aid should be used, and empowering them to monitor its use by including them in decision-making forums is necessary to give meaning to the word 'participation'. Citizens must have easy access to information about budgets to prevent money from being lost to corrupt hands along the way. In short, more public ownership of the process and more involvement and transparency on where and to whom the money goes.

Donors have a critical role to play in supporting such processes. Participation costs money and aid must support recipient governments to set up these processes to build public ownership and accountability as a very first step.

This already has happened to some degree where donors have recognized the value of involving civil society in public spending. For example the German development organisation, GTZ, has sought to increase civil society participation in its poverty-reduction work in Zambia by supporting the establishment of Sector Advisory Groups that monitor and discuss implementation of the poverty reduction strategy. (GTZ: Poverty and Corruption, 2004). Similarly, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), has supported civil society organisations in Mozambique increase their capacity to monitor governance and advocacy activities and contribute to the debate over policies affecting the public. (DFID Mozambique: Anti-Corruption Strategy, 2006).

Another good example of effective citizen participation, not only related to aid, is participatory budgeting. [Participatory Budgeting](#) is a process where citizens can take part in the decision making as well as exercise oversight over the distribution of public funds. This creates opportunities for engaging citizens in the political process and increases transparency in the use of funds. Originating in 1985 in Brazil, this process has spread to more than 40 countries, a total of 300 municipalities, including China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, and Uruguay.

These are important steps forward and should serve as examples of good practice. But the fact that they are so few and far between shows the need to make such practice an institutionalised part of the aid process.

TI recommends making the promotion of good governance, transparency and accountability on all levels of cooperation an integral part of aid programmes. This will ensure aid is actually received by those for whom it was intended. The fundamental objective of fighting corruption and making development cooperation more effective must be to strengthen transparency and accountability in donor and recipient countries. Strengthening the role that civil society can play as a partner in development increases the number of stakeholders able to demand accountability from governments in both recipient and donor countries. Transparency in budgets and access to information on public financial management are minimum prerequisites to prevent corruption in aid.

The credibility of aid, both in donor and recipient countries, will depend on the ability of donor organisations and governments to address the corruption problem. The success in fighting corruption relies on efforts from all sides of the development partnership.

* the photo used with this story is taken from Transparency International's Annual Report 2006. Photo credit: Thomas Grabka

This area provides highlights of the valuable work of the anti-corruption movement, championing a world free of corruption.

This month highlights the following stories:

- [TI Venezuela silenced at Organisation of American States meeting](#)
- [Journalists from Brazil and Colombia win prize for investigative journalism](#)
- [Papua New Guinea walks against corruption](#)

TI Venezuela silenced at Organisation of American States meeting

By *Marta Erquicia*



As part of the review process of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC), Transparency International presented a list of recommendations that urgently need to be implemented in order to maximise the effectiveness of the review process. Progress made by five countries implementing the IACAC – - Bolivia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela – was examined by a committee of experts from 25 to 30 June at the Organisation of American States (OAS) headquarters in Washington DC.

Peer reviews by a committee of experts were undertaken as part of the monitoring process of the five countries implementing the in the areas of government procurement, government hiring, whistleblower protection and specific acts of corruption that should be classified as crimes. Part of the information informing these reviews was questionnaires filled out by civil society parallel to those completed by the government.

Transparency International has had a leading role in this process since its beginning. National chapters and other civil society organisations from the countries reviewed and presented their reports to the committee of experts.

Transparencia Venezuela, TI's chapter in Venezuela, was prevented by its government from presenting its report on the country's compliance with the IACAC at this last OAS meeting in June. This represented a strong intervention in the official process for participation at the OAS. The censored report is based on official governmental information and shows that no steps have been taken to fulfil the convention.

Transparencia Venezuela and TI's international secretariat urged the OAS to recognise this violation and defend civil society's right to participate in the legitimate process to follow-up on countries' commitments. The OAS has had the opportunity to intervene since December 2006, when Venezuela began its efforts to block the report by Transparencia Venezuela.

Other civil society organisations from across the Americas have also raised their voices in support of Transparencia Venezuela and civil society more generally to their governments and the OAS.

Journalists from Brazil and Colombia win prize for investigative journalism

By *Georg Neumann*



Two series of investigative articles exposing political corruption and traffic of influence in Brazil and Colombia won the prize for Best Investigative Journalism Report on Corruption 2006 on 26 June. The prize is part of the annual award programme of Transparency International for Latin America and the Caribbean (TILAC) and the Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS). The winning articles were chosen from among 175 entries from 18 countries.

Lúcio Vaz, a journalist from the Brazilian newspaper *Correio Braziliense*, exposed one of the largest parliamentary corruption cases in the country's history. The case involved the diversion of state funds for the fraudulent purchase of ambulances in a region of Brazil with no health services. Vaz shared first prize with a series by a group of 11 journalists from the Colombian newspaper *Semana* about the penetration of paramilitaries in national politics, which caused upheaval in the country. The

phenomenon, called "parapolitics", showed how the alliance between politicians and paramilitaries resulted in electoral strategies to guarantee victory for the paramilitaries' political allies. More information can be found at:

www.transparency.org/news_room/latest_news/press_releases/2007/2007_06_26_investig_journalist_til_ac

Papua New Guinea walks against corruption

By Georg Neumann



Transparency International in Papua New Guinea (TI PNG) organised a 'Walk against Corruption' on Sunday, 24 June in PNG's capital city Port Moresby. About 500 participants and more than 30 corporations and organisations participated in the event.

People attending expressed that they are committed to the fight against corruption as individuals. Some wanted their corporations or organisation to be seen publicly standing against corruption. The walk against corruption was designed to raise awareness about corruption and to raise funds for the "Siaguru Endowment Fund;" a trust fund named in honour of TI PNG's founding Chairman Sir Anthony Siaguru. The proceeds of the walk - K92,000 (US \$31,194) will be put toward developing a large capital base to support funding of the operations of TI PNG.

"It is our vision that this event will eventually become a national event with people in every urban centre in PNG walking to express their anger and disapproval of corruption" said Mrs. Emily Taule, TIPNG's Executive Director.

The walk was scheduled for one week before Papua New Guinea's Parliamentary elections from 30 June through 10 July. The last elections in 2002 suffered from strong irregularities with electoral rolls inflated as much as 300 percent especially in remote areas. According to Mike Manning, Director of TI PNG, this didn't just include dead people but people who have never existed, adding that toddlers and babies are routinely enrolled as voters. Manning said that Transparency International is trying to have observers in all of Papua New Guinea's 109 electorates through the use of volunteers from its Community Coalition Against Corruption, to expand the influence of civil society on this and future elections.

Corruption stories of note in the news this month:

- [Chirac to be interviewed over corruption scandal](#)
- [US launches bribery investigation into BAE](#)
- [Deposed Thai prime minister buys English football club](#)

Chirac to be interviewed over corruption scandal

By Veronica Rossini



Former French president Jacques Chirac will be questioned in a corruption investigation in the coming weeks over a scandal dating back to his time as mayor of Paris, reports [The Guardian](#).

During his two terms as president of France, Chirac enjoyed immunity from investigation and prosecution under article 67 of the French constitution. Mr Chirac's immunity expired on 16 June, opening the way for magistrates to question him over illegal acts he may have committed before entering office, writes the [Financial Times](#).

The affair concerns Mr Chirac's term as mayor of Paris from 1977 to 1995, when he also was leader of the Rally for the Republic party. According to the [International Herald Tribune](#), members of his party were allegedly placed on the payroll for municipal services although they were not employed officially by Paris city hall.

Former Prime Minister, and close ally of Mr Chirac, Alain Juppé received a suspended 14-month prison sentence over the job scandals in 2004, reports the [Financial Times](#). The [International Herald Tribune](#) specifies that Mr Chirac has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and denounced the allegations as "lies, calumny and manipulation."

US launches bribery investigation into BAE

By Veronica Rossini



Europe's largest military contractor BAE Systems Plc is being investigated by the US Department of Justice over the company's compliance with anti-bribery laws, including a major arms deal with Saudi Arabia, according to reports from the [Deutsche Presse-Agentur](#).

The US probe comes after the British government pressured the Serious Fraud Office to drop an investigation into an alleged multi-billion pound slush fund to secure the sale of BAE military equipment to Saudi Arabia in the 1980s, reports [Reuters](#). Outgoing British Prime Minister Tony Blair has been heavily criticised by anti-bribery campaigners and the British media for stopping the investigation on the grounds that it posed potential security risks and was necessary to maintain good relations with Saudi Arabia.

In early June, the [BBC](#) and [The Guardian](#) reported that BAE had paid hundreds of millions of pounds to a member of the Saudi royal family, Prince Bandar. The US would likely have jurisdiction to investigate the case if any of the payments made to Prince Bandar were routed through US accounts.

BAE has consistently denied making unlawful payments in the so-called al-Yamamah arms deal, claiming that "all such payments made under those agreements were made with the express approval of both the Saudi and UK governments," reports [The Guardian](#).

To see Transparency International's latest press release on this issue, go to:

www.transparency.org/news_room/latest_news/press_releases/2007/2007_06_13_uk_defence

Deposed Thai prime minister buys English football club

By Stephanie Don



The last few weeks have been busy for Thaksin Shinwatra, deposed Prime Minister of Thailand. The [South China Morning Post](#) reported that Thaksin was banned from politics for the next five years and his Thai Rak Thai political party was disbanded after being found guilty of election fraud. Thailand's Assets Examination Committee (AEC) froze more than 52.88 billion baht (US \$1.7 billion) lying in bank accounts owned by Thaksin and his family. Corruption charges have been filed against him. Even with all of this, he still found time to buy a football club in England.

Following allegations of corruption, the AEC has frozen all of Thaksin and his wife's accounts, and more than 30 bank accounts belonging to Thaksin's family and associates. According to the [Japan Economic Newswire](#), the money in these accounts is suspected to be part of the 73.3 billion baht (US \$2.37 billion) proceeds resulting from the sale of Shin Corporation, Thaksin's telecommunication empire. The AEC alleges Thaksin "abused his power to benefit his family's business" before it was sold, even though he claimed his and his wife's shares were transferred to family members after Thaksin entered politics.

Corruption charges were filed against Thaksin on the same day that his GBP 81.6 million (US \$164.45 million) bid for the beleaguered English football club Manchester City was accepted, reported the [Guardian](#). Although Thailand's finance minister questions where the origins of these funds, the broker of the deal claims the money is clean. [The Express](#) quoted middle-man Keith Harris from BBC Radio 5 as saying: "The money to buy Manchester City is clean. It has been legitimately and transparently transferred to the UK."

The [International Herald Tribune](#) reports that Thaksin is refusing to return to Thailand to face the corruption charges, claiming he fears for his safety. Although police are threatening to issue an arrest warrant, Thaksin says he will not return to Thailand until after elections tentatively planned for December take place.

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

TI national chapters join Publish What You Pay strategic advisory group

Transparency International's National Chapters in Cameroon, Indonesia and Venezuela have been appointed to the Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Strategic Advisory Group. The main task of this group is to oversee the strategic direction of the international PWYP campaign with more than 300 civil society organisations worldwide and the PWYP International Action Plan. The PWYP campaign holds governments accountable for the management of revenues from the oil, gas and mining industries by the citizens of resource-rich developing countries, and is one of the partners in [Transparency International's Revenue Transparency Project](#).

Executive director of TI chapter in Montenegro voted "most trusted person"

A Montenegrin poll published on 14 June showed that Vanja Calovic, the executive director of the Network for the Affirmation of the Non-Governmental Sector (MANS), Transparency International's national chapter in Montenegro, has gained the 'most trust' among Montenegrin citizens. The survey on political public opinion was presented by the non-profit think tank Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (CEDEM). In the CEDEM poll, Calovic was given the average mark of 3.18. Prime Minister Zeljko Sturanovic placed second with 3.14 and the leader of the opposition party Movement for Changes (PZP) Nebojsa Medojevic placed third with a score of 3.10. These scores are based on a scale of 1 to 5.

Czech Republic studies public private partnerships

In May 2007, Transparency International's Chapter in the Czech Republic (TIC) presented a new study evaluating Public Private Partnerships (PPP) projects in the Czech Republic. The research shows that the parties submitting these projects such as ministries and cities are not sufficiently prepared for the successful realisation of complex projects of PPP projects.

TIC calls to slow down in implementing new projects and has issued a series recommendations on how to approach new PPP, including independent evaluation and monitoring mechanisms.

For more information, please see:

www.transparency.org/news_room/latest_news/press_releases_nc/2007/2007_05_28_ti_czech_ppp

Municipal transparency project of TI chapter in Venezuela wins 'Changemakers' competition

TI Venezuela's project on Municipal Transparency is one of three winners of the 10th Changemakers Competition "Ending Corruption: Honesty Instituted", chosen for their outstanding innovation, social impact and sustainability. The Project Municipios Transparentes (www.transparenciamunicipal.org.ve) aims at strengthening the capacities of the local governments and citizen and community organisations in fighting corruption. The core of the project is a System of Indicators of Municipal Transparency (SIMT), a group of instruments and procedures that measures the administration transparency (budget, contracts and permits) of the municipalities.

The other two winners are from the project of a Business Anti-Corruption Portal for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises operating in Emerging Markets counts, counting with the involvement of Jens Berthelsen, Chair of TI Denmark, and the NGO Global Integrity. For more information please go to:

www.changemakers.net/en-us/competition/endcorruption

Regulation of political funding key for elections

In May 2007, Transparency International's National Chapter on the Fiji Islands TI Fiji, has made a submission to the Forum Technical Assessment Team preparing democratic elections in Fiji after the military coup in 2006. According to TI Fiji, the main areas to be examined are ensuring voter education, develop a Code of Conduct for Political Parties and a Leadership Code for Parliamentarians, as well as introducing regulations of political party funding. Implementing the latter, and in specific the funding and disclosure of by political parties of donations received, has been the reason for a separate public call on the interim Prime Minister. More information on: www.transparencyfiji.org

Senegal: Report on Governance and Corruption in Natural Resources

Forum Civil, Transparency International's national chapter in Senegal, presented a report on *Governance and Corruption in the Sector of Natural Resources in Senegal*. The study was handed over

in June to the members of the Republic's Council of Economic and Social Affairs by Forum Civil's coordinator Mouhamadou Mbodj. The report found that corruption in this sector occurs mainly by extorting natural resources through commissions, side arrangements and bypassing regulations. The report additionally provides analysis on the level of governance needed to provide sufficient conditions to exercise a regulation of resources.

For more information, please click here: www.forumcivil.sn/spip.php?article47

Integrity, transparency, and accountability university course introduced in the Palestinian Authorities

The AMAN Coalition for Accountability and Integrity, TI's chapter in the Palestinian Authorities, announced the introduction of an integrity, transparency, and accountability university course in cooperation with Birzeit University to begin with the next academic year. The course is one of the outcomes of the Anti-corruption Training Programme which is implemented by AMAN in partnership with CHF International. As part of the programme, AMAN conducted a training seminar from 24-25 June with 15 university professors from West Bank Universities. While the first day concentrated on cases of countries plagued by corruption and ways to combat it, the second day focused on the Palestinian political system and context and its impact on corruption. The training also included Transparency International's *National Integrity System* approach and its requirements on national, regional, and international levels to build such a system. For more information, see www.aman-palestine.org/English/activities/ACT/masaq.html

Transparency International grows in the Americas

Transparency International has re-affirmed its work with the Uruguayan civil society organisation Uruguay Transparente and signed a national chapter contract to institutionalise their relationship. In the Dominican Republic, the organisation Participación Ciudadana (Citizen Participation) is a new national chapter in formation. For more information please see: www.pciudadana.org

Switzerland: workshop on corruption and development cooperation

Transparency International's chapter in Switzerland organised a workshop on corruption in development cooperation with the civil society organisation "Brot Für Alle" in Bern, Switzerland. The workshop was aimed at participants from development organisations and followed up on a round table discussion in November 2006. Based on the conclusion of last year's round table that only a zero tolerance approach towards corruption can lead to a sustainable solution, the workshop looked into solutions for internal procedures, as well as development programmes and advocacy.

TI publishes Working Paper on *Corruption and Renewable Natural Resources*

Transparency International's Working Paper on [*Corruption and Renewable Natural Resources*](#) was published in June. The paper looks at the impact of corruption on renewable natural resources, specifically corruption in forestry, industrial fishing and wildlife trade. It concludes that there is important evidence to suggest that corruption is a key contributing factor to the degradation of renewable natural resources, leading in extreme cases, facilitated by high-level political corruption, to the wide ranging extortion of a country's natural resource base.

Transparencia Mexicana launches platform to study telecommunications

Transparencia Mexicana, TI's national chapter in Mexico, in a strategic alliance with the Telecomm Programme of CIDE (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Economicas), an economic research centre, launched the Observatory on Telecommunications Regulatory Framework, an online information platform to promote a better understanding of the regulatory process of telecommunications in Mexico. Conceived as a neutral, independent platform, this will be an opportunity for opening and clarifying the different interests and agendas in the construction of new legislation.

The project titled "Observatorio TELECOM" will be the basis of the first observatory for the regulations in Mexico's telecommunications sector. The main purpose of this web platform is to inform the Mexican society about the laws in this industry and to promote a well-informed debate among the different actors involved in the telecommunication's regulation process: from the federal Congress to the final consumer.

CORRUPTION IN QUOTES

"As an American journalist based in China, I knew there was a good chance that at some point I'd be detained for pursuing a story. I just never thought I'd be held hostage by a toy factory."

-New York Times journalist David Barboza on his visit to the factory supplying Thomas & Friends Railroad set, recently recalled for using lead paint.

The International Herald Tribune, 25 June 2007

"Police working in remote places are in trouble. The ones here cannot feed their family or help themselves either," Hussein says, noting that the paltry US \$70 monthly wage policemen are supposed to earn is often US \$10 less once it passes through the bureaucracy. "A bag of flour costs nearly [US \$35]. How can we solve any problem with this?"

- Col. Muhammad Hussein, trainer of new Afghani police recruits

Christian Science Monitor, Global; 25 June 2007

"There are no transcripts in Indonesian courts. Only pointers or notes are recorded on 'important' points. But important to whom? And without a full transcript, how do you compare the verdict against what actually happened in court? How do you investigate court decisions properly?"

-Amien Sunaryadi, vice-chairman of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), Indonesia

The Business Times Singapore; Singapore; 15 June 2007

"We have a Justice Department that has substantially been turned into a political arm of the White House."

- Bruce Fein, a constitutional lawyer and a Justice Department official in the Reagan administration, evoking allegations of political interference related to the nine U.S. attorneys that were fired in December 2006.

The News & Observer (USA); USA; 19 June 2007

"These matters need to be properly investigated. It's bad for British business, apart from anything else, if allegations of bribery popping around aren't investigated."

- Labour MP Roger Berry, Chair of the Commons Quadripartite Committee which covers arms deals in the UK, to BBC Radio 4's "Today" programme.

Press Association Newsfile, 7 June 2007

"I'd say 80-85 percent of politicians would be corrupt – stinking corrupt."

Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, a retired lieutenant general who running the Bangladeshi government's Anti-Corruption Commission

AFX.com; Global; 4 June 2007

"For a trafficker, it's not a big deal if the media talks about a cartel leader; what they care about is investigations of corruption among the police and politicians. Because they've invested a lot in maintaining their networks of protection, and have a lot to lose."

-Jorge Zepeda Patterson, a prominent columnist and founder of two newspapers in Guadalajara, on drug traffickers' attacks on the press.

Christian Science Monitor, 12 June 2007

MASTHEAD

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