

THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
OF
ACADEMIES AND SCHOLARLY SOCIETIES



PRESENTS

HUMAN RIGHTS, SCIENCE, AND SOCIETY

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2007
9h00 – 17h00

THE ROYAL ROOM, BERJAYA MOUNT ROYAL BEACH HOTEL
36 COLLEGE AVENUE
MOUNT LAVINIA, SRI LANKA

HOSTED BY

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF SRI LANKA

SYMPOSIUM

HUMAN RIGHTS, SCIENCE, AND SOCIETY

- 9:00 **Welcome and Overview of the Issues:** Dr. Arjuna Aluwihare, President, National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka; Emeritus Professor of Surgery, University of Peradeniya; Network Executive Committee Member
- 9:10 **Rights and Society - the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People – a Burning Human Rights' Issue:** Dr. Ida Nicolaisen, Senior Research Fellow, the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Copenhagen University, Denmark; Member, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- 9:20 **Rights and Science - Objectivity and Consensus:** Sir Arnold Wolfendale, 14th Astronomer Royal, U.K.
- 9:30 **Religion, Science, and Quality of Life: Historical Perspectives**
- Buddhism:* Professor Harshalal Seneviratne, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Christianity:* Professor Juha Sihvola, Director, Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies; Professor of History, University of Jyväskylä, Finland & Professor Derek Denton, Honorary Professor and Director Emeritus, Howard Florey Institute Department of Physiology, University of Melbourne, Australia
- Hinduism:* Professor Dorairajan Balasubramanian, President, Indian Academy of Sciences; Director of Research, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, India
- Islam:* Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmad, Vice President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences; Professor of Chemistry, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 10:30 Open Discussion
- 10:45 **Tea Break**
- 11:00 **Science and Government: When Politics Conflict with Scientific Findings**
- Global Warming:* Professor O.L. Oke, Vice President, Nigerian Academy of Sciences; Science and Technology Development Foundation; University of Ibadan, Nigeria [invited]
- Stem Cell Research:* Dr. Peter Agre, (Nobel laureate), Vice Chancellor for Science and Technology; Professor of Cell Biology, Duke University, U.S.A.
- Providing Scientific Advice in Developing Countries - Constraints on Scientists:* Professor Vijaya Kumar, Senior Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya; Member, Millennium Project Task Force on Science, Technology, and Innovation, Sri Lanka
- 11:30 *Suppression of Scientists and/or their Scientific Findings:* personal experiences
- 11:45 Open Discussion

12:00

Lunch

13:30

Welcome and Introduction: Dr. Arjuna Aluwihare

Scientists and Scholars in Conflict Situations: Can International Colleagues Help Alleviate or Ameliorate their Plight?

Palestinian Authority

Dr. Imad Khatib, Secretary General, Palestine Academy for Science and Technology

13:45

Iraq

Dr. May Abdul-Hameed Ali, Teaching Committee Member, Department of Community Medicine, Al-Kindy College of Medicine, Baghdad University

Dr. Mukdad H. Ali, Professor of Water Resources and Environmental Studies, College of Science, Baghdad University; Director, Arab Sciences and Technology Foundation, Baghdad Office

Dr. Dilyara Barzani, Senior Health Adviser, Ministry of Health, Kurdistan Regional Government

14:30

Open Discussion

15:00

Tea Break

15:30

Panel Discussion: Political Ideology, Cultural Values, and the Universality of Human Rights

Dr. Pieter van Dijk, State Councillor, Council of State, Netherlands

Dr. Driss Dahak, Chief Justice, Morocco [invited]

Dr. Dagfinn Føllesdal, Clarence Irving Lewis Professor of Philosophy, Stanford University, U.S.A.; Professor Emeritus, University of Oslo, Norway

Dr. Deepika Udagama, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo; Member, United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Co-Special Reporter on Globalization and its Impact on Human Rights

16:30

Open Discussion

17:00

Adjournment

17:30

Tea /Reception for all Attendees

[The Max Perutz Memorial Lecture, titled *Mainstreaming Human Rights: Responsibilities and Duties*, will be given at 18:30 by Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala. See program for additional information.]

SPEAKERS

Dr. Peter Agre, United States of America

Peter Agre is professor of cell biology, professor of medicine, and vice chancellor for science and technology at Duke University. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Institute of Medicine and chair of the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine. He received his M.D. from Johns Hopkins University. In 2003, Dr. Agre and Dr. Roderick MacKinnon were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry “for discoveries concerning channels in cell membranes.”

Dr. May Abdul-Hameed Ali, Iraq

May Abdul-Hameed Ali is a member of the Teaching Committee of the Department of Community Medicine at the Al-Kindy College of Medicine of Baghdad University. She specializes in family medicine and has worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Iraq as a medical field officer. She is an active member of the Iraqi Society of Family Physicians and associate member of the Iraqi Medical Association. Dr. Ali received her M.B. and Ch.B. from the College of Medicine of Baghdad University.

Professor Mukdad H. Ali, Iraq

Mukdad H. Ali is professor of water resources and environmental studies at the College of Science of Baghdad University and director of the Arab Sciences and Technology Foundation's Baghdad Office. He is vice president of the International Society for Development of the Euphrates and Tigris Region and founding member of the Euphrates Tigris Initiatives for Cooperation at Kent State University and the Al-Bayan International on Line University in Iraq. Professor Ali received his Ph.D. from Dundee University in 1978 and completed his post doctorate work at Dundee University in 1980.

Dr. Arjuna Aluwihare, Sri Lanka

Arjuna Aluwihare is emeritus professor of surgery at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. He was vice chancellor of the University from 1988 to 1989 and then chairman of the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka from 1989 to 1993. He is president of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka. Arjuna Aluwihare was a member of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka from 1997 to 2000.

Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmad, Bangladesh

Mesbahuddin Ahmad is professor of chemistry at Jahangirnagar University in Savar, Dhaka. He is the vice president of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and a member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. He received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Ottawa and was a post-doctoral fellow at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London. He was a commonwealth staff fellow at the University of Manchester from 1974 to 1975. Professor Ahmad is the former president of the Bangladesh Chemical Society.

Dr. Dorairajan Balasubramanian, India

Dorairajan Balasubramanian is director of research at the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute in India. He was earlier director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology Hyderabad, and professor and dean at the University of Hyderabad. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of the Third World Academy of Sciences, of the International Molecular Biology Network, and is currently the president of the Indian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Balasubramanian received his Ph.D. in chemistry from Columbia University. In addition to his professional research, he is recognized by UNESCO and others for his activities in science communication and the public understanding of science.

Dr. Dilyara Barzani, Iraq

Dilyara Barzani is a senior health adviser to the Ministry of Health of the Kurdistan Regional Government. She was director of the Department of Cancer Research and Education for the Kurdish Nation Against Cancer Foundation. Her research background also includes work on tobacco related cancers in several former Soviet republics and Northern Iraq. She has her M.D. from Kyrgyz State Medical Academy and M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins University. She is a member of the American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, and Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.

Dr. Driss Dahak, Kingdom of Morocco

Driss Dahak is chief justice of the Kingdom of Morocco. Formerly, he served as ambassador of Morocco, president of Morocco's Human Rights Council, chairperson of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions, president of the Morocco Elections Commission, president of the Morocco Council on Social Dialogue, and member of the Justice Advisory Board of the Peter Gruber Foundation. He is the past and honorary president of the International Francophone Association of Supreme Courts. Dr. Driss is a member of the Royal Academy of Morocco.

Professor Derek Denton, Australia

Derek Denton is research professor emeritus of experimental physiology and medicine at the University of Melbourne. He was the founding director of the Howard Florey Institute of Experimental Physiology and Medicine and first vice president of the International Union of Physiological Sciences from 1982 to 1989. Professor Denton is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and The Royal Society (U.K.), foreign associate of the National Academy of Sciences (U.S.) and the French Academy of Sciences, and foreign medical member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Dagfinn Føllesdal, Norway

Dagfinn Føllesdal is professor of philosophy at Stanford University and professor emeritus at the University of Oslo. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Academia Europaea, and the academies of science in Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Sweden. He has served as president of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters. Dr. Føllesdal received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Harvard University.

Professor Vijaya Kumar, Sri Lanka

Vijaya Kumar is senior professor and head of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Peradeniya. He is the former chairman of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and a member of the Millennium Project Task Force on Science, Technology, and Innovation in Sri Lanka. Professor Kumar is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka and a recipient of the Presidential Award for Scientific Achievement.

Dr. Ida Nicolaisen, Denmark

Ida Nicolaisen is a senior research fellow at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies at Copenhagen University. She is vice chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and editor-in-chief of the Carlsberg Foundation Nomad Research Project. She is a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters.

Professor Olusegun Oke, Nigeria

Olusegun Oke is the former foundation vice chancellor of Ladoko Akintola University of Technology in Nigeria. He has been a professor of chemistry at Obafemi Awolowo University, professor of human nutrition at Howard University, and consultant for the Ministry of Environment, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the

World Bank, and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Professor Oke is a chartered chemist and a fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science.

Professor Harshalal Seneviratne, Sri Lanka

Harshalal Seneviratne is professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Colombo. She is vice president of the South Asia Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Professor Seneviratne was the leader of the Sri Lankan team of experts for assisted reproduction that was awarded the National Science and Technology Award in 2005 for the introduction of technology to Sri Lanka.

Professor Juha Sihvola, Finland

Juha Sihvola is director of the Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies and professor of history at the University of Jyväskylä. He has pursued postdoctoral studies at Brown University and was a junior fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C. He is adjunct professor of the history of philosophy at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Helsinki. Professor Sihvola is a member of the Research Council for Culture and Society at the Academy of Finland, member of the Committee for Finnish Translation of Aristotle's Works, and the chief editor of *Historiallinen Aikakauskirja* (Finnish Historical Journal).

Dr. Deepika Udagama, Sri Lanka

Deepika Udagama is dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo. Her specialization is international human rights law. She is Sri Lanka's alternate member and co-special reporter on globalization and its impact on human rights to the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. She was the founding director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights at the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo. Dr. Udagama currently serves as chairperson of the Sri Lanka Foundation's Commission on Democracy and Human Rights.

Dr. Pieter van Dijk, Netherlands

Pieter van Dijk is state councillor of the Council of State of The Netherlands. He was a judge on the European Court of Human Rights from 1996 to 1998. He was a professor of international law at Utrecht University and a member of the Court of Appeal of The Hague. Dr. van Dijk is the secretary of the Committee on Freedom of Education and Science of the Royal Netherlands Academy. He has been chair of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights since 1982 and is a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a founding member of the Network. Dr. van Dijk was knighted in 2004.

Dr. Torsten Wiesel, United States of America

Torsten Wiesel is secretary general of the Human Frontiers Science Program and chairman of the Board of the New York Academy of Sciences. He is also president emeritus and Vincent and Brook Astor professor (active) at The Rockefeller University. He is chairman emeritus of the Arms Division of Human Rights Watch and the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine. He is a founding member of the Network. In 1981, Torsten Wiesel and David H. Hubel were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine "for their discoveries concerning information processing in the visual system."

Sir Arnold Wolfendale, United Kingdom

Sir Arnold Wolfendale is the Fourteenth Astronomer Royal. He is a fellow of The Royal Society (U.K.) and active researcher in cosmic ray astrophysics. He was president of the Royal Astronomical Society (U.K.), the Durham University Society of Fellows, the Institute of Physics (U.K.), and the European Physical Society. He is a member of the Academia Europaea and a foreign fellow of academies in Bulgaria, India, and South Africa. Sir Arnold was knighted in 1995.

On the occasion of its eighth biennial meeting, the members of the Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies acknowledge with gratitude the generous support received from the Freedom of Expression Foundation (Norway), the Inter-Academy Panel, the Richard Lounsbery Foundation (U.S.A.), National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka, National Academies Forum – Australia, Delegation of the Finnish Academies of Science and Letters, French Academy of Sciences, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Academia Sinica (Taiwan), British Academy, The Royal Society (U.K.), National Academy of Sciences (U.S.A.), National Academy of Engineering (U.S.A.), and Institute of Medicine (U.S.A.).



The Executive Committee would particularly like to thank the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka for graciously hosting this event.

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Network Mission Statement

The Network aims to put into practice the professional duty of scientists and scholars to assist those colleagues whose human rights have been—or are threatened to be—infringed and to promote and protect the independence of academies and scholarly societies worldwide.

Approved unanimously at the May 11, 2001, fifth biennial meeting of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies, held at the French Academy of Sciences in Paris.

The International Human Rights Network, created in 1993, consists of national academies and scholarly societies around the world that work together to address serious science and human rights issues of mutual concern. The primary objective of the Network and the motivating factor in its creation is to use the influence and prestige of its members, by working in a collaborative manner, to actively defend the rights of colleagues—scientists, medical professionals, engineers, and scholars—who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted for nonviolently expressing their opinions. The Network's appeals are based on the standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Network members subscribe to the belief that, because their academies and scholarly societies are held in high esteem and their dignity, integrity, and objectivity are widely recognized, their interventions can be an effective and influential tool in advancing respect for human rights. The Network strives to provide its member academies with protection and moral support when their independence is threatened, their members or colleagues are subjected to repression, or their scholarly work is undermined for political reasons. Through the exchange of human rights related ideas, information, and experiences, the Network encourages cooperation and communication among academies and advances understanding of human rights issues that relate to science, technology, and health. It opposes, unequivocally, boycotts of academics and academic institutions.

The Network supports human rights consciousness-raising, education, and institutional commitment to human rights work among counterpart academies and scholarly societies worldwide. More than a dozen member academies now work collaboratively in submitting petitions on behalf of unjustly imprisoned colleagues to UNESCO's Committee on Conventions and Recommendations. The Network also sends observers to the trials of colleagues such as those of Alexandr Nikitin in Russia and Saad Eddin Ibrahim in Egypt.

An Executive Committee administers the Network and is composed of founding members François Jacob (France), Pieter van Dijk (Netherlands), and Torsten Wiesel (USA). (Max Perutz (U.K.), also a founding member, died in 2002.) Arjuna Aluwihare (Sri Lanka), Claude Cohen-

Tannoudji (France), Abdallah Daar (Oman/Canada), Belita Koiller (Brazil), John Polanyi (Canada), and Edoardo Vesentini (Italy) are also members of the Executive Committee. The Committee on Human Rights of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C. serves as secretariat for the Network. Carol Corillon directs the committee and is executive director of the Network.

While the Network's Executive Committee occasionally makes public statements about particularly grave situations of relevance to the Network's charge and encourages Network members to do the same, all member institutions of the Network have full autonomy and act at their own discretion. They are strongly encouraged to create human rights committees and to urge their academies and their members to intervene on cases and issues brought to their attention by the Network secretariat through regular *Action Alerts* sent by e-mail and posted on a private Network website. Members are also encouraged to refer potentially relevant cases and human rights issues to the Network secretariat for investigation and possible action and to inform the secretariat of particular situations that Network members should be made aware of or in which its Executive Committee may want to intervene in a formal manner. It is possible that, as relations among members of the Network are strengthened and mutual concerns are more widely identified, the Network will take action as a group with one voice on selected issues.

The Network receives financial support from its member academies, as well as grants from private foundations and gifts from individual donors. It does not solicit or accept funds from any government or government agency. It needs and will gratefully accept donations from private donors. Every two years a different member academy hosts a symposium and workshop for the Network. Hosts to date have been the U.S. National Academies (1993), the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (1995), the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Italy (1997), the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Royal Swedish Academy of Arts, Letters, and Antiquities (1999), the French Academy of Sciences (2001), the Council of Swiss Scientific Academies (2003), The Royal Society, U.K. (2005), and the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (2007).



The National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL) is a high level, non-governmental scientific body, established in 1976 and incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1988. Scientists who have achieved excellence in their respective scientific/technological fields are nominated by fellows of the Academy to be considered for membership. Admission to the Academy is by election following nomination and evaluation of the nominees. The membership of the NASSL is 112.

The objectives of the organization include promoting the dissemination of scientific knowledge, recognizing outstanding contributions to the advancement of science, and acting as a consultative body to the government of Sri Lanka on all matters and activities related to the application of science and technology in national development. In addition, the NASSL reports on the rational utilization of Sri Lanka's natural resources consistent with the sustainable use of the biosphere.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Arjuna Aluwihare, Sri Lanka

Arjuna Aluwihare is professor of surgery at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. He was vice chancellor of the University from 1988 to 1989 and then chairman of the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka from 1989 to 1993. He is president of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka. Arjuna Aluwihare has been a member of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka since 1997.

Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, France

Claude Cohen-Tannoudji is research scientist at the Department of Physics of the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. In 1973, he became professor and chairman of the Nuclear and Molecular Physics Department of the Collège de France. He is a member of the French Academy of Sciences and secretary general of its Committee for the Defense of Scientists. In 1997, Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Steven Chu, and William D. Phillips were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics “for their development of techniques that use laser light to cool atoms to extremely low temperatures.”

Abdallah Daar, Oman/Canada

Abdallah Daar is professor of public health sciences and of surgery at the University of Toronto, director of the Program in Applied Ethics and Biotechnology at the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics, and director of ethics and policy at the University of Toronto's McLaughlin Centre for Molecular Medicine. He is a fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences. Dr. Daar is a member of the (International) Transplantation Society's Ethics Committee and the Human Genome Organization.

Belita Koiller, Brazil

Belita Koiller is professor for theoretical physics at the Instituto de Física Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. She is the first woman physicist to be elected a full member to the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and has been a senior research fellow of the Brazilian National Research Council since 1985. She was nominated by the International Council of Scientific Unions to become a member of its Committee on Capacity Building in Science from 1994 to 1996. Belita Koiller is a L'Oréal-UNESCO 2005 Laureate for Women in Material Sciences.

François Jacob, France

François Jacob is professor emeritus at the Collège de France and the Institut Pasteur in Paris. He is a member of l'Académie française and l'Académie des Sciences. François Jacob is president of the Committee for the Defense of Scientists. In 1965, François Jacob, André Lwoff, and Jacques Monod were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine “for their discoveries concerning genetic control of enzyme and virus synthesis.”

John Polanyi, Canada

John Polanyi is professor of chemistry at the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Royal Society of Canada. John Polanyi was the founding chair, in 1960, of the Canadian Pugwash Group, and he remained chair until 1978. He has published over 100 articles on peace and human rights and is founding member and president of the Canadian Committee of Scientists and Scholars. In 1986, John Polanyi, Dudley Herschbach, and Yuan T. Lee were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry “for their contributions concerning the dynamics of chemical elementary processes.”

Dr. Alenka Šelih, Slovenia

Alenka Šelih is professor emeritus at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia and director of the Institute of Criminology of the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Law. She is a member of the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Pieter van Dijk, Netherlands

Pieter van Dijk is state councillor of the Council of State of the Netherlands. He was a judge on the European Court of Human Rights from 1996 to 1998. He was a professor of international law at Utrecht University and a member of the Court of Appeal of The Hague. Dr. van Dijk is the secretary of the Committee on Freedom of Education and Science of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has been chair of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights since 1982 and is a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a founding member of the Network. Dr. van Dijk was bestowed a knighthood in 2004.

Edoardo Vesentini, Italy

Edoardo Vesentini is president emeritus of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Rome. He is currently professor of mathematical analysis at the Politecnico di Torino and a member of the Accademia delle Scienze of Turin. Edoardo Vesentini is a recipient of the Gold Medal for contributions to education, culture, and art and the Commander of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

Torsten Wiesel, United States of America

Torsten Wiesel is secretary general of the Human Frontiers Science Program and chairman of the Board of the New York Academy of Sciences. He is also president emeritus and Vincent and Brook Astor professor (active) at The Rockefeller University in New York City. He is chairman emeritus of the Arms Division of Human Rights Watch and the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine. He is a founding member of the Network. In 1981, Torsten Wiesel and David H. Hubel were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine “for their discoveries concerning information processing in the visual system.”

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Carol Corillon, Executive Director

For further information contact the Network secretariat:

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