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COUNTERING TRANSTATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

The Brazilian Congress: Money, Accountability, and Impeachment
Mark S. Langevin – Council on Hemispheric Affairs: 29 March 2016
A detailed report based on the Lava Jato operation examines Brazil’s political corruption scandal, including pay-to-play contracts at state oil giant Petrobras, and kickbacks and illegal campaign contributions to the country’s three largest political parties, resulting in impeachment hearings for President Dilma Rousseff and an ongoing political crisis.

Inside The Battle Against Global Corruption
Paul Blumenthal – The Huffington Post: 30 March 2016
Anti-corruption protests fueled the Arab Spring, brought down Romania’s prime minister in 2015, and are swirling around the current and past presidents of Brazil. But crooked politicians are only part of the transaction – they are often “partners in crime” with powerful international corporations in search of political access and lucrative contracts.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/unaoil-corruption-enforcement_us_56fb04b4e4b0daf53aedee71

For more on this theme:
Brazil Judge Says Public Outcry Needed to End Corruption
http://www.voanews.com/content/brazil-corruption/3261928.html

Watchdog Chief: Corruption Is An ‘Existential’ Threat to U.S. Efforts in Afghanistan

The oil sector’s corruption factory in the Middle East
https://neurope.eu/article/unaoil-corruption-factory-middle-east/

The world thinks Australia should lift its anti-corruption game

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Venezuela-Colombia Border Could See Rise in Drug Trafficking
Mimi Yagoub – InSight Crime: 30 March 2016
Drug trafficking through the Venezuelan border state Zulia is expected to increase. Zulia’s position on the border with Colombia has always made it a key entry point on one of the two primary cocaine corridors, but Colombia has recently regained its place as the world’s leading cocaine producer. The Colombian region of Catatumbo, directly across the border from Zulia, has seen the highest growth in production.
Mexican Cartel Strategic Note No.18: Narcodrones on the Border and Beyond
Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are proliferating along the U.S.-Mexican border, and most are not operated by U.S. authorities. Mexican drug cartels are taking advantage of the wide availability of commercial drones to use for intelligence purposes and perhaps to deliver weapons.

UNODC launches initial study on Afghan opiate trade in Africa
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: 29 March 2016
Africa is a transit ground for narcotics traffickers shipping Afghan opiates to markets in Europe, North America and Asia, but domestic demand is increasing as well. This UNODC report provides law enforcement and policymakers with much needed information on Afghan-sourced opiate trafficking through Africa.

For more on this theme:
Mexico, Colombia Groups Compete for US Heroin Market

Operation Martillo Still Hammering Away at Illicit Trafficking

Colombia, ELN guerrillas join in peace talks

Meet Mexico’s New ‘Super Cartel’

Time to decriminalize drugs? A global panel says yes.

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Communication helps change behaviour, saves wildlife consumption
Viet Nam News: 29 March 2016
Vietnam is working with the United States to curb illegal consumption of wild animal products through public awareness. In 2013, Vietnam was identified as a primary consumer of rhino horns. In addition to boosting communication, officials working on wildlife campaigns in Vietnam called for strengthening law enforcement, investigation, detection and punishment for wildlife violations.
http://vietnamnews.vn/society/294514/communication-helps-change-behaviour-saves-wildlife-consumption.html
Forestry Department using real-time technology to combat illegal logging
Suzanne Lazaroo – The Star: 30 March 2016

In the remote forests of Malaysia, officials are using the latest technology to combat illegal logging. The Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department is using tools such as hyperspectral imaging to gather and process information from across the electromagnetic spectrum and to monitor forest activity via satellite imagery.


For more on this theme:

CLIA signs United for Wildlife declaration
http://www.cruisetradenews.com/clia-signs-united-for-wildlife-declaration/

Kenya Issues 21-Day Amnesty for Illegal Ivory Surrender
http://allafrica.com/stories/201603310372.html

Illegal loggers levelling Romania’s Carpathian mountain forests
http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2987385/illegal_loggers_levelling_romanias_carpathian_mountain_forests.html

90% of Indigenous in Brazil’s Amazon Suffer Mercury Poisoning

Illegal miners use harmful chemicals to destroy water bodies

MONEY LAUNDERING

How Brazil’s Odebrecht Laundered Bribe Money
Romina Mella and Gustavo Gorriti – InSight Crime: 30 March 2016

For corrupt government and business elites, money laundering is an essential service. And money laundering tactics have become more sophisticated and complex, requiring extensive knowledge to combat it. The judge in the case of Brazil’s Lava Jato corruption scandal is an expert in the field and author of a book on the subject. He will need every bit of expertise to sort out this case.


For more on this theme:

Top Money Launderer for “El Chapo” Captured in Mexico

Countering threats to the world’s financial system: the case for Canadian leadership
https://www.opencanada.org/features/countering-threats-worlds-financial-system-case-canadian-leadership/
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Irregular Migration, Trafficking and Smuggling of Human Beings: Policy Dilemmas in the EU
Sergio Carrera and Elspeth Guild (eds.) – Centre for European Policy Studies: 2016

The current migration and refugee crisis — the most serious since the end of World War II — may become the new norm because incentives to migrate are increasing. The European Union is duty-bound to help those in need of international protection, but securing Europe’s borders is still essential. To do so, human trafficking and migrant smuggling must be addressed.


The Evolving Perception of Human Trafficking: Officer 2.0
Robert J. Benz – The Huffington Post: 30 March 2016

Andre Dawson, who retired from the Los Angeles Police Department after 33 years, including six as officer in charge of the Human Trafficking Task Force and the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force, shares his experiences battling human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. It’s part of a series of interviews with anti-trafficking professionals.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-j-benz/the-evolving-perception-o_2_b_9502292.html

For more on this theme:

Doomed: Five reasons why the EU-Turkish refugee deal will not work

Sex trafficking ‘staggering’ in illegal Latin American gold mines: researchers
http://www.reuters.com/article/us-latam-trafficking-mines-idUSKCN0WW21U

Shandra Woworuntu: My life as a sex-trafficking victim

The UK’s plans to prevent migration from Libya show a dangerous unwillingness to learn from the past
http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europblog/2016/03/31/the-uks-plans-to-prevent-migration-from-libya-show-a-dangerous-unwillingness-to-learn-from-the-past/

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The True Test of India’s Support for Global Internet Multistakeholderism Lies at Home

In the ongoing discussion over restructuring the global system of Internet governance, India has taken a strong position in favor of a multistakeholder approach, asserting that the current system’s historical imbalances favor the developed world. But if India wants the multistakeholder system to work, it needs to implement the model at home.

http://thewire.in/2016/03/27/putting-indias-multistakeholderism-to-the-test-26105/

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INTERNET FREEDOM

Iran’s ‘National Internet’ Offers Connectivity at the Cost of Censorship
Corin Faife – Motherboard: 29 March 2016

According to the report “Tightening the Net: Internet Security and Censorship in Iran” by the Article 19 campaign, Tehran’s plan to isolate and monitor domestic Internet services will severely limit Iranians’ online freedom of expression. Iran’s technical upgrades will enhance economic growth and development of information and communications technology, but the overarching goal of separating the Iranian Internet from the global Web to allow for total surveillance will be devastating.


Full report:
Tightening the Net: Internet Security and Censorship in Iran

For more on this theme:

(China) Foreign companies ‘advised’ to register websites in China under tighter Internet laws

(China) China’s latest proposed internet regulations would make foreign websites impossible to reach

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Internet users don’t understand security or privacy, says survey
Richard Chirgwin – The Register: 30 March 2016

A 24-country survey seems to show that ordinary citizens are more comfortable with government oversight of Internet activity and limits on privacy than expected. Seventy percent of respondents think that government should be able to access citizens’ data for “valid national security reasons,” but most generally don’t understand security or privacy.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2016/03/30/internet_users_dont_understand_security_or_privacy_survey/
For more on this theme:

(U.S.) FBI to Apple: We Would Probably Disclose the iPhone Flaw if We Knew What It Was
http://blogs.cfr.org/cyber/2016/03/29/fbi-to-apple-we-would-probably-disclose-the-iphone-flaw-if-we-knew-what-it-was/

(Global) Enjoy the Respite; It Won’t be Long
https://www.lawfareblog.com/enjoy-respite-it-wont-be-long

(Ireland, Global) Data laws ‘encouraging compliance mentality’

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

National Cyber Security Organisation: Czech Republic
NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, Tallinn, Estonia – March 2016
The study outlines the division of cyber security tasks and responsibilities in the Czech Republic between different agencies and describes their mandates, tasks and competences. It describes the political and strategic management, operational cyber security capabilities and cyber incident management, military cyber defense, and cyber aspects of crisis prevention and crisis management.

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) National Cyber Security Organisation: United States

(China) China Creates First Cybersecurity Association
http://www.bna.com/china-creates-first-b57982069186/

(Germany, U.S.) US, Germany Agree to Continue Cybersecurity Collaboration Efforts
http://www.executivegov.com/2016/03/us-germany-agree-to-continue-cybersecurity-collaboration-efforts/

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Homeland Security Building a Massive Database To Track Cyberattacks
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security wants to create a cyber-security incident database that would be accessible to the public and private sectors. Users would share specific but anonymized details of cyber incidents and threats, and the database would provide a format for public-private sector information sharing to prevent future incidents.
For more on this theme:

(Sri Lanka) Google, Sri Lanka and a Bridge To The Future
http://www.bna.com/google-sri-lanka-b57982069183/

(India) Cisco to invest $100 million in India’s digital drive
http://www.enterpriseinnovation.net/article/cisco-invest-100-million-indias-digital-drive-1999395247

(Ethiopia) Ethiopia partners with Microsoft to transform education

(South Africa) WeChat Africa, Agri SA partner in drought relief initiative

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY


The Trans-Pacific Partnership is considered a new “gold standard” in free trade agreements, Brazilian economist Primo Braga writes, but the partnership is particularly innovative in protecting intellectual property rights. Innovation leaders like the United States have been placing increasing importance on such rights in trade deals.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Hackers Are Now Locking Computers for Ransom. Why This Is a Growing Threat.
http://dailysignal.com/2016/03/30/hackers-are-now-locking-computers-for-ransom-why-this-is-a-growing-threat/

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Digital Globalization and the Developing World
Susan Lund – Project Syndicate: 25 March 2016

Globalization is defined not only by cross-border flows of goods and capital, but also increasingly, by flows of data and information. This shift favors advanced economies at the frontier in employing digital technologies. Will developing countries be left behind as companies simplify and shorten their supply chains, placing greater weight on quality of talent, infrastructure and energy costs?


For more on this theme:

(India) Can Technology Transform Governance in India?
http://asiafoundation.org/in-asia/2016/03/30/can-technology-transform-governance-in-india/

(India) Digital India to connect 2.5 lac villages: V K Saraswat at Mangalore University convocation

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INFORMATION SHARING

When It Comes To Cyberthreat Intelligence, Sharing Is Caring
Vincent Weafer – InformationWeek: 31 March 2016

Security professionals agree that cyber-threat information is valuable to their organizations, but myths and reticence hinder sharing of that information. Shared cyber-threat intelligence will soon be a critical component of security operations, enabling organizations to better protect their digital assets and respond more quickly to emerging threats, but these obstacles need to be overcome.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) DHS stands up public-private cyber info sharing platform
https://gcn.com/articles/2016/03/30/dhs-ais.aspx

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Hackers Breach Water Treatment Plant, Alter Chemicals in Water Supply
Jeff Goldman – eSecurity Planet: 28 March 2016

Hackers recently broke into a network controlling a water treatment plant in an unnamed city and altered the flow of chemicals used to treat the water supply. The hackers, allegedly with ties to Syria, used structured query language and phishing attacks. The attack emphasizes the importance of protecting networks that control critical infrastructure.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Four Hospitals Infected with Ransomware

(Global) Moving Cyber from the Orbit to the Nucleus of the Nuclear Security Summit
http://idsa.in/idsacomments/cyber-nucleus-nuclear-security-summit_msharma_300316

(U.S., Global) Rather Than Fearing ‘Cyber 9/11,’ Prepare for ‘Cyber Katrina’
http://www.rand.org/blog/2016/03/rather-than-fearing-cyber-911-prepare-for-cyber-katrina.html

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

A Nuclear-Armed ISIS? It’s Not That Farfetched, Expert Says

A security guard at a Belgian nuclear facility was murdered just two days after the Brussels terror attacks. Though authorities say the murder was not terror related, evidence that Islamic State operatives had been watching researchers there reignited fears about ISIS and nuclear terrorism.

Islamic State may have attacked Brussels, but it is losing in Syria and Iraq
Ranj Alaaldin – London School of Economics and Political Science: 26 March 2016

The Islamic State hit Brussels with terrorist bombings on March 22 and Kirkuk in Iraq with a chemical attack a few days later. But these high-profile attacks aren’t a sign of Islamic State strength; rather, it is lashing out by a force in decline that has suffered a string of defeats over the past year and is trying to retain relevance in the face of a sharp drop in recruits.

http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europppblog/2016/03/26/islamic-state-may-have-attacked-brussels-but-it-is-losing-in-syria-and-iraq/

For more on this theme:

Brussels Attack Won’t Be the Last

The Exaggerated Influence of ISIS, Visualized
http://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/475764/how-big-is-isis/

ISIS Losses By the Numbers
https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/isis-losses-the-numbers

Islamic State propaganda celebrates Brussels attacks

Obama’s vision of a nuke-free world is tested by ISIS, Russia
http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/31/politics/nuclear-summit-obama-isis/

ISIS Leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi’s Ex-Wife Saja al-Dulaimi Speaks

ISIS is losing. Will that make it more dangerous?
https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/politics/2016/03/30/isis-losing-will-that-make-more-dangerous/cRn9rJl94cZmXHuOkr9hOK/story.html

Pro-ISIS Group Hacks NJ Transit Police Website, Publishes Personal Information: Officials

ISIS Preventing Remaining Christian Families From Leaving Raqqa

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Saudi Arabia turns up the heat on Hezbollah
Bruce Riedel – Brookings: 29 March 2016

Saudi Arabia branded Hezbollah a terrorist organization earlier this year and has convinced its Gulf Cooperation Council allies to follow suit in an effort to undermine rival Iran’s ally. The Saudis, never on good terms with the Shiite militant group, are taking advantage of Hezbollah’s increased unpopularity in the Arab world, earned by supporting the Assad regime in the Syrian civil war.

http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/markaz/posts/2016/03/29-saudi-arabia-hezbollah-riedel
The Nigerian Reality in the War against Boko Haram: Between Hope and Despair
David Doukhan – International Institute for Counter-Terrorism: 22 March 2016
The Nigerian government claims it has won the war against the terrorist group Boko Haram, but the group is still conducting vicious terrorist attacks that have killed dozens this year. Millions of people remain refugees, thousands of schools are still closed, and Boko Haram has now aligned itself with the Islamic State. What is the current status of the war against Boko Haram?

For more on this theme:
Nigerian Muslim Views on Suicide Bombing
Terror in Lahore: Pakistan’s Toughest Test
Pakistan’s bloody Easter Sunday
http://www.lowyinterpreter.org/post/2016/03/30/Pakistans-bloody-Easter-Sunday.aspx
Nigeria’s Mission to Free Boko Haram’s Hostages
http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/03/boko-haram-hostages/475701/
US intensifies air campaign against al Qaeda in Yemen

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING
The Rise of Violent Extremism in Europe
Ed Husain and Irina A. Faskianos – Council on Foreign Relations: 29 March 2016
Listen as Ed Husain, senior advisor and director of strategy at the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, discusses the political, economic and ideological drivers of radicalization in light of recent terrorist attacks in Europe.

Totalitarianism 101: The Islamic State’s Offline Propaganda Strategy
The Islamic State (IS) has earned itself the top spot in the “global jihadist food chain,” but at a tremendous cost. IS leaders have been targeted, killed and captured; its finances have been disrupted; and its recruitment of new fighters is lagging. IS may not be destroyed anytime soon, but despite its propaganda, its future isn’t bright.
For more on this theme:

**Why Turkey’s high unemployment rate may mean more terror attacks**

**The making of an Islamic State terrorist**

**It’d Be Great to Kick ISIS Offline—If It Were Possible**
http://www.wired.com/2016/03/how-is-isis-online/

**In Mississippi, a glimpse of ISIS run by jihadi women**
http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2016/0330/What-if-ISIS-were-run-by-women-In-Mississippi-a-glimpse

**TERRORIST TACTICS**

**Is There Any ‘Logic’ to Suicide Terrorism?**

Why are some terrorist groups more prone to suicide terrorism than others? Is it an organized response to occupation, as one theory asserts? The article dismisses this theory by pointing out that ISIS, which uses these attacks, is the occupying force in parts of Syria and Iraq. Rather, the tactic is more commonly used by groups unable to compete on the conventional battlefield.

http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/03/suicide-terrorism-theories-logic/475821/

**The dark web is too slow and annoying for terrorists to even bother with, experts say**
Joon Ian Wong – Quartz: 25 March 2016

Concern that terrorists are using the dark web to propagate messages of hate and extremism seems to be unfounded. Researchers at King’s College London found very little militant, extremist presence on Tor. The dark web doesn’t meet extremists’ needs: It’s slow, unstable and doesn’t reach very many people.


For more on this theme:

**Don’t Ignore the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism**

**Brussels suicide attacks “shocking but not surprising,” Stanford experts say**

**Key Trends in the Uncertain Metrics of Terrorism**
http://csis.org/publication/key-trends-metrics-terrorism

**The Strange Origins of TrueCrypt, ISIS’s Favored Encryption Tool**
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

**Iraq Situation Report, Part I: The military campaign against ISIS**

The campaign to defeat ISIS in Iraq is going better than most realize. U.S.-trained Iraqi brigades have outperformed other Iraqi units and are now shifting toward Mosul, and U.S. airpower and special operations are becoming more effective with increased synergies. ISIS is taking a beating, and Sunni tribesmen are increasingly abandoning them.

http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/markaz/posts/2016/03/28-military-campaign-against-isis-pollack

**Blood Year: The Unraveling of Western Counterterrorism**

International affairs experts discuss counterterrorism policy and ISIS from the perspective of “how we got into this mess in the first place and how Western strategy has failed us.” They also examine counterterrorism policy in the context of increased confrontation with Russia and the migration crisis.


**It takes a network to defeat a network**

The Brussels terrorist attacks were carried out by a “network,” we are told, rather than by a “group” or an “organization.” This is more than a matter of semantics. To defeat the Islamic State, we must understand the significance of its being a true network that cannot be easily decapitated by taking out its leader, like Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.


**Ben Gardane Attacks: Achievements and Failures**
Al Jazeera Centre for Studies: 30 March 2016

In March, residents of the Tunisian city of Ben Gardane aided security forces in defeating an attack by Islamic State fighters and ejecting them from the city, preventing the extremists from establishing a territorial foothold in Tunisia. This policy brief examines the security, political and regional contexts of the attack, the achievements and failures of the state’s response and preventive measures the state is likely to take in the future.


**Full report:**
Ben Gardane Attacks: Achievements and Failures
http://studies.aljazeera.net/mritems/Documents/2016/3/30/d75ed5d2054d4eb6aaebcda0cafa84a4_100.pdf
For more on this theme:

**Italy is the key to fighting ISIS in Libya**
http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/order-from-chaos/posts/2016/03/25-us-italy-cooperation-libya-garavoglia-benchorin

**The Urgent Need to Prove the European Union Relevant on Counterterrorism**
http://csis.org/publication/urgent-need-prove-european-union-relevant-counterterrorism

**The Comparative Metrics of ISIS and “Failed State Wars” in Syria and Iraq**

**When Islam Polices Extremists**
http://fpif.org/islam-polices-extremists/

**Africa, Arab defense ministers agree counter-terrorism cooperation**

**China’s First Anti-Terrorism Law: An Analysis**
http://idsa.in/idsacomments/china-first-anti-terrorism-law_apsingh_290316

**The Brussels attacks were a terrorist interrogation failure**
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/brussels-attacks-were-a-terrorist-interrogation-failure/2016/03/28/a5949ed8-f4e5-11e5-9804-537defcc3cf6_story.html

**Russia Shows What Happens When Terrorists’ Families Are Targeted**

**Europe Versus the Islamic State**
https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/brussels-paris-terrorist-attacks-european-security-by-dominique-moisi-2016-03

**Tunisia’s Role in Fight Against Terrorism Discussed at RAND Conference**
http://www.rand.org/blog/2016/03/tunisias-role-in-fight-against-terrorism-discussed.html

**Inciting Peace**
http://foreignpolicyconcepts.com/inciting-peace/

**Where is the French plan to halt radicalization?**

### CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

**HEALTH SECURITY**

**Polio in Ukraine: Crisis, Challenge, and Opportunity**
Judyth Twigg – Center for Strategic & International Studies: March 2016

Two children contracted polio in western Ukraine in August 2015. This exposed the poor state of Ukraine’s immunization program and overall health system. Corruption, inadequate financing, and widespread popular mistrust cripple the system. The global health community must recognize the high probability of a proliferation of infectious outbreaks in Ukraine and the Balkans, especially as governments struggle with a continued influx of refugees.

Zika Virus and Microcephaly in Brazil: Outbreaks that Question the Fundamentals of Brazilian Healthcare Efficiency
Wondia Mireille Yeo – Council on Hemispheric Affairs: 23 March 2016

As Brazil prepares to host the 2016 Summer Olympics, it is also trying to deal with the Zika virus outbreak and related microcephaly. Political crises and economic issues are only making the situation worse. The government is occupied by political scandal, while the Zika virus and microcephaly outbreaks need immediate attention.


Zika virus command center leads biggest military operation in Brazil’s history

Brazil has undertaken its largest military mobilization ever to fight the Zika virus, as more than 220,000 personnel have deployed in support of 315,000 civilian officials to do battle with the Aedes aegypti mosquito. Their weapons range from chemicals to mosquito larvae eating fish and insects.

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/30/brazil-zika-war-virus-military-operation

For more on this theme:

CAR: More than 73,000 children vaccinated in an unprecedented campaign
http://www.msf.org/article/car-more-73000-children-vaccinated-unprecedented-campaign

As Ethiopia Moves toward Tuberculosis Elimination, Success Requires Higher Investment

The Zika loopholes
http://www.politico.com/agenda/story/2016/03/the-right-way-to-encourage-companies-to-develop-a-treatment-for-zika-000079

Statement on the 9th meeting of the IHR Emergency Committee regarding the Ebola outbreak in West Africa

Liberia: Ebola is over. What’s next?
http://reliefweb.int/report/liberia/liberia-ebola-over-what-s-next

Is Ebola Hiding in the Eyes of Survivors?