WEDNESDAY MORNING: WICKED WEARY WORLD

Let’s have a brunch-time salute to Belgium, which produced this fine young artist Loic Nottet. Too bad there’s not much well-produced content in YouTube yet by this youngster. He has incredible upper range reach with great potential because of the power behind his voice. Hope to hear more by him soon; he’s a sweet antidote to bitter wickedness.

All in the family
Hope you’ve read Marcy’s piece already this morning on the relevance of nuclear family units to terrorism. In addition to suicide bombers El Bakraoui brothers Marcy mentioned, it’s worth examining the other links between the November 13 attacks in Paris and the attacks in Belgium yesterday. Note the familial relationships and their first-degree network:

Brahim Abdelslam – older brother of Salah, blew himself up in Paris during the November 15 attacks. (Dead)
Salah Abdelslam – captured last Friday March 18, has admitted he ‘had planned to target Brussels.’ His location was flagged by an unusual number of pizzas delivered to an apartment where power and water had been shut off. (In custody)

Abaid Aberkan – characterized as a relation of the Abdelslams, carried Brahim’s casket at the funeral last week. (~~NOT a terror suspect~~ *Edit: Le Monde indicates Aberkan was arrested during Friday’s raid, but name spelled ‘Abid.’*) (In custody)
Aberkan’s mother – renter/owner of Molenbeek apartment in which Salah was hiding when captured last week. (NOT a terror suspect)

Mohamed Belkaid – killed in a raid last Tuesday at an apartment in Forest district; Salah fled the apartment. (Dead)

Mohamed Abrini – A childhood friend and neighbor

of Salah, his younger brother Suleymane died fighting in an Islamist militia under the direction of Abdelhamid Abaaoud. Abaaoud, the leader of the Paris attacks, died on November 18 during a police raid. Abrini had traveled with both of the Abdelslam brothers the week before the attacks in Paris. He is now on the run and sought in relation to yesterday's attack. (Suspect)

Najim Laachraoui – traveled with Salah and Belkaid last September, under the name Soufiane Kayal. His DNA was found in three different locations: on explosives in Paris, and at two other hide-outs used by attackers. He is now sought in relation to yesterday's attack. (Suspect)

Though we'll hear arguments for increased internet surveillance, it's easy to see that traditional police work could identify a terrorist network of family and friends in the same way members of an organized crime syndicate centered around a family are revealed. (Sources for the above: The Guardian and The Australian)

Other stuff going on…

- 'Flash Crash' trader to be extradited to the U.S., rule British judges (France24)
- Sextortionist Michael Ford, who ran a criminal enterprise from his work computer while employed at U.S. embassy, sentenced to four years and nine months in prison (Ars Technica) – BoingBoing notes the hypocrisy of a government demanding backdoors while failing to note such a massive misuse of its own network.

- Another hospital held hostage by ransomware, this time in Kentucky (Krebs on Security) – STOP OPENING LINKS IN EMAIL at work, for starters. Isolating email systems from all other networked operations would be better.
- 24 car models by 19 automakers vulnerable to keyless entry hack (WIRED—mind the ad-block hate) – Mostly foreign models affected due to the radio frequency used.

Better luck tomorrow, gang. See you in the morning.