

Message of support and a song from Raoul Vaneigem¹

I wish to participate in the support campaign with a text that you will find below (to be published with or without attribution, as you will). During the first threats by Macron,² I wrote the lyrics to a song,³ which are also attached. It is sung by Fanchon Daemers and you will find it online.⁴

With you wholeheartedly,
Raoul

Solidarity with ND des Landes⁵

What's happening at Notre Dames des Landes illustrates a conflict that concerns the entire world. It involves, on one side, financial powers that are resolved to transform into merchandise the resources of the living and nature and, on the other side, the will to live that animates millions of beings whose existence is rendered more and more precarious by the totalitarianism of profit. Where the State and the multinationals that back it have committed themselves to the imposition of their harmful effects [*nuisances*] with no regard for the population or the environment, they have encountered resistance whose obstinacy – in the case of ND des Landes – has made power bend.⁶ The resistance hasn't simply demonstrated that the State,

¹ Dated 13 April and published on 23 April 2018: <https://zad.nadir.org/spip.php?article5679>. Translated from the French by NOT BORED! on 31 December 2018. All footnotes are by the translator.

² Circa August 2016, while Vaneigem was staying in Athens, Greece. In the first days of April 2018, French President Emmanuel Macron ordered the forcible eviction of the ZAD – *Zone à Défendre* (zone to be defended) – that had been established on publicly owned land that the French government wanted to turn into an airport.

³ “Terre libre.” Words by Raoul Vaneigem, to fit the melody of the song Άσ’τα τα μαλλιάκια σου, by Μιχάλης Σουγιούλ (1906–1958). Arranged and sung by Fanchon Daemers, who also plays the Celtic harp to accompany herself.

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUJoPmKkqc4>.

⁵ Notre Dames des Landes. For more on this area, cf. François de Beaulieu, “Usage of the Commons at Notre-Dame-des-Landes, Yesterday and Today”: <http://www.notbored.org/Beaulieu.pdf>.

⁶ The idea of building the airport was abandoned in January 2018.

“the coldest of the cold monsters,”⁷ is not invincible, which is what the technocrat who represents the State believes with the rigidity of a corpse; it has also made clear that a new life is possible, despite the fact that so many lives are restricted by the alienation of work and the calculations of profitability. A society that experiences the riches of solidarity, of the imagination, creativity, re-natured [*renaturé*]⁸ agriculture; a society on the road to self-sufficiency that has built its own bakery, brewery, market-gardening center, sheep pen and cheese factory. That has, most importantly, built the delight of making in self-managed assemblies decisions that will in fact improve the conditions of each person. This is an experiment; it is a groping, with errors and corrections. It is a place of life. What remains of human feeling among those who send the cops and *bulldozers*⁹ to destroy and crush? What threat does the Free Earth of the ND des Landes pose to the State? None, except to a few [small] political wheels that turn the wheels of the great fortunes. The real threat is the one posed by a truly human society to the dominant society, which is eminently dominated by the dictatorship of money, by greed, the cult of merchandise and voluntary servitude. It is a wager on the world that is being played out at ND des Landes. Either the aggressive sadness of those who are resigned and their masters, who are also pitiful, will prevail thanks to inertia, or the always-reborn breath of our human aspirations will sweep away barbarism. Whatever the outcome, we know that the firm stance of life is always reborn from its ashes. Human consciousness might be groggy [*s’ensommeille*], but it never falls asleep. We are resolved to begin everything all over again.

“The Free Earth”

I’m from here and nowhere
the world is my look
desire guides my steps
life is my fight
my garden is limitless
my homeland is the Earth,
never will the State or the mafia
appropriate it.

Religions, nations, political parties
foment conflicts that are unwanted

⁷ Frederick Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*.

⁸ As opposed to a *denatured* agriculture, one that has had nature removed from it.

⁹ English in original.

by those for whom life has no price.
The war that we are waging
is the war that benefits the money
that invades and ruins the world.

Better that we live standing up
than survive on our knees
by picking up the money
that the bankers will steal
from a society in which
those who are desperate
are faced with only one option
which is to kill
just like your police officers.

The planet is a cemetery
profitable for business
the undertakers make the laws
that they impose via the State.
But isn't it amazing that,
despite the cadavers that are elected
to be our representatives,
we are still alive?

There is no freedom to oppress, to kill
the human being is not a commodity
an object of the markets
of assassins on the payroll
of a calculating machine
we know how to break you
by refusing to pay.

Your tanks and *bulldozers*¹⁰
that ravage the earth
will destroy schools and vegetable gardens.
We hold between our hands
the future harvest and we are determined
to begin everything again.

¹⁰ English in original.

Let your hair fly
in the crazy wind of ideas
we will banish the predators
from our society
for our battles we have
no other weapons than life.
It is to them that I raise my glass
to the weapons that do not kill.

I am from here and nowhere
the world is my look
desire guides my steps
life is my fight
my garden is limitless
my homeland is the Earth
neither the State nor the mafia
will ever appropriate it.