

# PRESS KIT

**BRETAGNE EN RÉSTANCES**  
LES BRETONS FONT ENTENDRE LEURS VOIX POUR LEURS DROITS

**BREIZH O STOURM**

REIÑ A RA AR VRETONED DA GLEVED O MOUEZHIÒÙ EVIT O GWIRIOÙ



# Manif'

NANTES / NAONED 14 H SITE DE L'ÉLÉPHANT

# SAMEDI 18 JUIN



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# 18th June 2011: Resisting Brittany

[www.bretagne-en-resistance.eu](http://www.bretagne-en-resistance.eu)

Seventy years ago, on June 30th 1941, the Maréchal PETAIN, head of a state being then occupied by the nazis, signed a decree that separated the "Pays Nantais" (Nantes Region) from its Mother Region Brittany. This decree constituted a precedent to keep Brittany split.

Brittany does resist against uniformity, for democracy, cultural and linguistic diversity, for the respect of its identity, for the reunification of Brittany.

In 2011, Bretons are still resisting against standardizing, in order to defend their cultural and linguistic diversity, their identity and also for requiring Brittany reunification.

This resistance is daily organized by a powerful and team-spirited associative network, often backed up by the local administration authorities and Breton firms groups.

At Nantes, on this 18th June 2011, Bretons express in broad daylight this resisting spirit to put a question to the President, as well as to the Government and the candidates to come for the next May 2012 presidential polling.

## **For democracy: resisting Brittany !**

In favour of a really decentralized republic, following the example of all the european countries, permitting territories and populations to get the statutory and financial means to have in hand a stable local development.

In accordance with the respect of the International Laws as well as the European Rules : Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 1995, Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union included in the Lisbon Treaty of December 2007, which ensure protection towards the ethnic minorities, the signatory countries having to honour their commitments.

## **Claiming for the respect of cultural diversity: Brittany is resisting !**

In the favour of spreading amateur practice, as well as the local authorities granting their support to the cultural societies.

For a public policy in favour of a folk culture, non commercial and non official.

In favour of an ambitious breton cultural public policy (publishing, TV and Radio, dancing, music, artistic creation and broadcasting).

## **For a linguistic diversity, a resisting Brittany !**

In the aim of an official status for our two languages (Breton and Gallo), with due means allowing their handing down and promotion through teaching, mass media, public field, as well as the ratification by France of the European Charter for Regional or Minority languages.

## **By requesting the respect of an identity : Brittany does resist !**

By promoting the teaching and knowledge amongst the general public of a breton cultural background, that makes up the individual and ethnic identity collective component (language, history, literature, art, music... ).

## **In the aim of reunifying : Resisting Brittany !**

To meet the steady claims of the elected representatives and citizens (2/3 Bretons wish Brittany to be reunified).

To give new power to Brittany towards its territory development, employment as well its cultural and linguistic diversity.

To strengthen Brittany's negotiating power towards the French state government and European Union, in respect of its choices and identity.

To provide Brittany with a real economic lasting dynamic.

**Resisting Bretons, for a beautiful, prosperous,  
solidarity showing Brittany and open towards the world**

# WHY AND HOW IS BRITTANY RESISTING ?

**Brittany is still existing because it never stopped resisting against a forced assimilation...**

**Victor Hugo** in his novel " Quatre-vingt-treize " wrote : " Brittany is a pugnacious rebel. It was right, each time it revolted, for two thousand years. Against the Romans or the Franks, against the monarchy or the revolution, against the king's governors, as well as against the republic representatives, it's always the same war Brittany engages, a war against the stifling centralization "

**Michel Rocard**, whose talks with the U.S. ambassador, posted on duty in Paris, are reported from the diplomatic files by Wikileaks, explains how difficult it is reforming France

The American ambassador says: "Rocard, like the former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, believes that French History provides the clues for understanding French policy. Rocard goes back to the time when the Nation-State emerged. History of the other European Nation-States coincides with the one of linguistic communities, set up towards business stakes. France was founded upon the destruction of five ethnic cultures: Breton, Alsatian, Occitan, Corsican and Flemish".

"We are the only one European nation being a military creation of a non homogeneous state. It's the reason why it is so difficult to lead France, explaining its difficulty towards reforming, its great slowness", said Michel Rocard (quoted from Agence Bretagne Press).

**Brittany still exists because a lot of Bretons, having joined many societies, do resist by daily combatting, with the most of their energy, time and money to save the language, culture, differences...**

- Societies have started up schools to teach children breton.
- Societies have started up evening classes and training courses, allowing adults to recover their mother language that had been forbidden from teaching, and permitted also other adults to discover this language, so as to speak breton.
- Societies have started up media in breton (radio, newspapers, internet sites).
- Societies have put back into force the traditional breton games and display their practice amongst various publics.
- Societies have put back into force the traditional history, to store it up for future use in our modern world.
- Celtic circles allow the handing down of folk dances and musics to the following one another generations and also keep the "Fest-Noz" dances alive ( Fest Noz , very popular, are traditional festive night dances, animated by breton music bands). These parties are unique time, when all generations and social classes appreciate being together.
- Cultural societies organize parties and festivals, spreading and handing down all this precious cultural traditional background
- Societies and academics having joined the "Institut Culturel de Bretagne" work in order to let Bretons having the knowledge of their identity, history, characteristics, rights.

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**Brittany does still exist because, every time there is a new generation of Breton born children, or inhabitants newcomers - and thanks to the titanic involvement and work of all these cultural societies, a lot of them will be conscious of being Bretons.**

France must not fear Brittany and its legitimate claims for a cultural diversity

Bretons proved their loyalty by their sacrifice at fighting for their homeland. So, during the Great War, 120 000 were killed in action. During the Second World War many of them joined, either the "Forces Françaises Libres, F.F.L." or amongst the British forces, or the inner resistance units.

That feeling of belonging to France is undoubtedly confirmed by a survey, conducted in 2008, in 15 European Union countries. This one shows that 94,3 % Bretons feel bound to Brittany, and 91,1% feel equally bound to France.

Brittany is really a dual identity land: breton and french.

This identity is, in the same way, open and peaceful, 67 % Bretons claiming they are European.

This multiple identity belonging feeling is illustrated in front of most Brittany town halls where three flags are hung up: french, breton and european.

Brittany and Bretons don't wish any turning in on themselves. That should allow the french Government to favourably respond to the popular breton claims without fearing for the national cohesion and the territorial integrity of France.

## **TO BE A BRETON ...**

Morvan LEBESQUE, in its « **Comment peut-on être Breton ? Essai sur la démocratie française** » (*How can one be a Breton ? Essay on the French democracy*) » tells :

« Is Breton my mother language ? I was born in Nantes where they don't speak it.

« Am I a Breton ? Really, I think so (...) But of "sheer race", what do I know about it, and does it matter by any way ? (...)

« Separatist ? Autonomy requiring ? Regionalist ? But then, we can't understand ! What do you mean by being a Breton ? Anyway why being a Breton ? (...)

« French by the Registry Office, I was registered as French, I do fully accept being French. Brittany's citizenship, on the other hand, is an option. The one I can absolutely renounce to or fail recognizing.

Anyway, I used to do it ! For a long time, I wasn't aware of being a Breton (...) French without any problem, I must experience Brittany as a "plus".

And for best expressing it, awarenessly, I have to live in Brittany, besides :

whensoever, I had to lose that consciousness, if ever Bretons would lose it, it doesn't have life anymore !

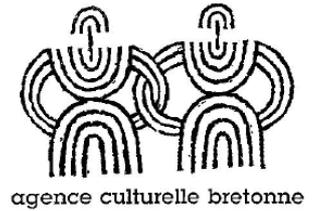
Brittany has no identity card. It exists as far as when, at every generation, men and women get the feeling of their Brittany belonging to.

By now, children are being born in Brittany. Will they be Bretons ? No one knows. When you get older, you must discover or ignore.

(Le Seuil, Paris, 1970, 239 p, p.18 - et rééditions 1983 et 2001, p.18)

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# ASSOCIATIONS' IDENTITY



**BRETAGNE RÉUNIE** : federates 48 cultural societies, firms, private individuals and members (about 1000).

5000 elected representatives have signed the proposed Charter for reunification

Social purpose and commitment : acknowledgement as an administrative division of the regional territory, made up by the now existing 5 "Départements ; Côtes d'Armor, Finistère, Ille- et -Vilaine, Loire-Atlantique, Morbihan. (statutes, 1st article)

Bretagne Réunie is a member of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union

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**44 = BREIZH** : The team 44=BREIZH has been set up at the beginning of the year 2008.

It aims at grouping together breton youth who says NO to the partition, as well as to the "Pays de la Loire" dummy region.

In spite of PDL having lasted for now 38 years and separation, we, young people, aged 15 to 30 years, are claiming for our right to dwelling in a reunified Brittany !

44= BREIZH, the reason why, is because the "Pays de la Loire" propaganda is flooding our daily life, our colleges and secondary schools, our training places, and so implies our opposition !

44= BREIZH, the reason why, is because for too long until now, Bretons have been requiring their territorial unity, encountering false promises and deceived hopes !

Mail : [collectif.44breizh@gmail.com](mailto:collectif.44breizh@gmail.com) Internet site : [www.44breizh.com](http://www.44breizh.com)

**AGENCE CULTURELLE BRETONNE MORVAN LEBESQUE** : The A.C.B. (Breton Culture Agency) exerts a federative part. Its members are made up of societies as well as of private individuals.

Societies members stand for artistic and leisure activities (dancing, music, Festou-Noz dances organization...) and also teaching (bilingual schools, breton classes...) and many actions towards Brittany's culture (history, collecting, lectures programming...)

The Agency provides coordination between the different societies (dates of events registration) and letting the general public know the breton activities to come in Nantes and Loire-Atlantique area (newspaper HEOL, every two months, electronic media and advertisements at the Nantes central public library, Jacques Demy).

The Agency does advise and provides pieces of information to any bodies or private individuals asking for enquiries and knowledges about Brittany. It claims its commitment, being the most appropriate interface representative about the Breton issue in Loire-Atlantique (being a culture showcase, as well as a data bank). It brings together, presently, 105 members.

The Agency is a member of the "Centre Culturel de Bretagne" and the "Institut Culturel de Bretagne", which signed the Charter for the Breton language "ya d'ar Brezhoneg" ("Yes to Breton language")

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**KEVRE BREIZH** : Coordination of most of Breton cultural federations and associations, that means more than 50000 people in the five Breton « départements ». Its objective is development and promotion of the Breton culture and specific languages (Breton and gallo), as well as its material and immaterial patrimony and the defence of cultural rights of the Bretons.

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