

Occupation under tension

News from l'Amassada (Saint-Victor, Sud-Aveyron, France)



January 15, 2019: an order of expulsion is sent by the TGI (Tribunal de Grande Instance) of Rodez to the occupants of the Amassada, threatening them with a "penalty of 2 000 € per calendar day started ". February 7, 2019: a judicial police operation mobilizes 20 vehicles to arrest, detain and finally ban of territory five occupants whose trial will be held on July 3 next. However, the Amassada is still inhabited and, at the time of the climatic marches and ecological transition trumpeted at every turn, this struggle is all the more relevant: "To throw away the energy transition based on renewable energies ? Yes, if these wind turbines register without trembling at the mega-grid and the carbon emissions market. "

Mid-March 2019. The road leading to the Amassada offers amazing contrasts. After the arid loneliness of the trays dotted with dry stone walls, a roundabout (still unoccupied) arises. Following miles of winding road, a widening of road and, there, a McDonald's. So many arrows of modernity that sinking to the conquest of territories.

These state-of-the-art facilities are superimposed on other older ones: here, a working class city in the hollow of a valley; there, shorn and verdant peaks overlooking dense forest slopes. At l' Amassada, no less than fifteen power lines rise above the agricultural plain of Saint-Victor. At night, the twinkling wind turbines surround the house, the herald of a new colonization.

The Aveyron seems indeed destined to become the wind attic, and therefore to "clean" and "sustainable" energy, of green capitalism. In the name of the imperative energy transition, each of the Aveyron peaks is dedicated to housing wind turbines; and with them new transformers and high-voltage lines, indispensable for the long-distance transport and export of electricity. Here, a new front of struggle has thus opened. "Wind and Storm in Requistanais" are different figures opposed to the energy industrialization of the countryside.

Coming to Amassada, we were wondering : to be eco and opposed to wind turbines? To throw out the energy transition based on renewable energies? Yes, if these wind turbines register without trembling at the mega-grid and the carbon emissions market. Yes, if transition is synonymous with continuity rather than rupture.

Here: in Aveyron, at Saint-Victor, Saint-Affrique, Crassous, as in the isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico, the inhabitants are not fooled by the environmentalist propaganda of technocratic settlers, well aware that these The latter are advancing hand in hand with their pro-nuclear or petro-enthusiastic counterparts. All are at the service of a process that destroys the biosphere, dispossesses the inhabitants of their place of life and imposes on the populations concerned decisions that come from elsewhere. This logic remains the same with or without wind turbines. Building thousands of industrial wind turbines only prolongs the ecological, social and environmental disaster we are experiencing.

« Libre commune de l'Amassada » (Free commune of the Amassada). After crossing two barricades barring a small dirt road from Saint-Victor, we pass under the portico and enter a "forbidden zone". A light but stubborn wind blows. The sun is shining. Small-veins we are, according to the inhabitants of the places (who welcome us warmly): the first day of good weather since a fortnight. In the neighborhood, a cabin of defense perched on stilts; a small wind turbine that allows lighting the kitchen and recharge electrical appliances; halls that can accommodate large banquet tables as well as serve as a workshop; and a dormitory made of stones and straw bales. Three cats, five hens and roosters. A greenhouse in construction

During these few days on the spot, we return on the history of the place. The Amassada was born in 2014 from the almost unanimous opposition of the local population to the construction of a mega-electric transformer, concreting agricultural land and further enslaving the territory to the production of electricity. Other huts grew later. Since the declaration of public utility and the threats of expropriation of land, a call for occupation has been launched. Recently, the land belongs to RTE (Electricity Transmission Network). The lands are squatted.

February 2019: descent of the gendarmerie. A hundred of cops embark five inhabitants of Amassada. They risk a penalty of € 2,000 per day of presence on the site (this is the case for any person coming to the area, and are subject to ban of territory). Two are ban of Aveyron, and three ban of Saint-Victor by the time of their trial to be held on July 3. The matador of the opposition to the megatransfo is the number one objective of the new commander of the gendarmerie of South-Aveyron. This strategy is effective in a certain This is due to the fact that there are fewer sympathizers in the area, but the Amassada is still inhabited. In spite of the daily threat and fatigue, the inhabitants carry out their activities with an overflowing and creative joy, communicative, which reminds us of many moments lived during

the fight against the airport and its world on the ZAD of Notre-Dame-des-Landes. Vis All visit are welcome to inflate the workforce. You can thus: build barricades to strengthen the defense of the place; make a greenhouse to house seedlings; discover the surroundings, the plants and animals that populate them during hikes; or do morning rounds to avoid being surprised again by the gendarmes ...

The place is not lacking for those who would like to come to settle permanently, or simply spend a few days to lend a hand. The dormitory, warm and comfortable, is worthy of being referenced in the Michelin guide! Just like the living room, friendly and warm. In our days there, no police in sight: calm before the storm? We advise you to check the situation on the zone before coming, to leave covered and to leave your telephones at your place!

Amassada : Par Res Nos Arresta ! Rien ne nous arrêtera ! ZAD partout !

Nothing will stop us ! ZAD everywhere !

Pissenlits, Pimprenelles, Primevères et Pulmonaires