



Fed up of Volunteer Reapers
In order to put an end to the obscurantism
We need you

To be spread as much as possible

Sign our petition. In order to sign please click [here](#)
Or send an email to: marre-des-faucheurs@netcourrier.com

History of spoliation

I will remember Saturday, 24 July 2010, for a long time. The weather was bright and I was going back home with a feeling of having done my duty. I had woken up very early and after a heavy morning working in the field and in the silo, just finished my 2010 corn harvest and gave the combine harvester to my colleague, who still had a good day of work ahead.

I was about to start dinner when the gendarmerie called to inform me that one of my sunflower fields had been destroyed in Houchiniere in Saint-Branchs (which is in Indre-et-Loire). I had heard about this kind of news only on TV. However **this time the Volunteer Reapers had damaged my own land.** Suddenly being in the local media headlines made a strange impression.

I had made a test on 7 ha with 34 different varieties among which 5 sunflowers were named tolerant. This is a new technology used to avoid the formation of thistles with very little herbicide. We organised a regional technical visit in June with 250 people, which was a real success. This meeting was public and the crops were well displayed as well as numerous articles issued in the specialised press. **There was no reason to fear the Volunteer Reapers action.** Everything is transparent with my work: everyone knows what I am cultivating and what I am sowing. The techniques I have used are well known and homologated. The different varieties are already used commercially on a large scale. **Therefore, when I heard volunteer reapers saying that they had destroyed some “hidden GMOs”, I told to myself that really nothing was hidden, it was right here!**

In total the volunteer reapers destroyed 6000 ha. With no scruples or emotions. Some sunflower stems were broken at 50 cm, others had the head cut off and others were as flattened. A real disaster. **If you were in my place, you would have felt the same pain in your heart in front of this destroyed parcel.** Some signs and “Volunteer Reaper” T-shirts were thrown on the ground. The markers indicating the varieties names were totally broken.

My field seemed like a cemetery. Yet it had a lot of potential and I looked forward to harvesting in order to see all the results. The fact is that my sunflowers were really beautiful.

A crowd of emotions came over me and I could not say which one dominated. Anger and disgust came back more often than other emotions. **I would not wish any such destruction on anybody.**

Some neighbours had seen about fifty Volunteer Reapers' cars occupying the borders of my field. Some TV journalists had even been invited to assist to the destruction! **As if it had been a "show" to film the destruction of another person's property!**

If today we accept the spoliation of a field, what will we accept tomorrow? Can I ask you a question: Would you accept people destroying your garden because they are not happy with the variety of carrots that you are growing? Would you accept to people burning your car because they assume your car does not respect the environment? Like you, I cannot figure it out. **There is a kind of terrorism.**

Numerous fields have been destroyed over the years but until now we, the farmers, preferred to accept it. We are not professionals of public agitation as the Volunteer Reapers are. **But today, we take a stand and say enough is enough** and it is imperative to speak out against this terrorism.

We may believe that there is the justice, however after I made a complaint I am still waiting for the process to start . I have not heard any news. Will I always waiting? Do I risk waiting in vain.

As regards to the financial loss, this is also painful: a month's salary for me! My insurance is refusing to take pay. This does not even take into account the hard work I spent in preparing the fields for which I will never get compensated.

But actually, one question comes to my mind. Volunteer reapers show up at the television, at the radio. Even when they secretly came to my place to destroy everything. Do you find this normal?

Who will answer to them? Who will dare say to them: "your methods are violent and anti-democratic?". This is why today, my other colleagues who were also victims of the Reapers, and I, we need your support. If you share our conviction and you do not want this to happen again, support us. The more often we say stop, the more our voice will count for the Ministers and the media.

Be you farmer or not, we have to react to say STOP to the reapers!

Support us by signing up our petition "marre des faucheurs".

Thanks you for your support and your encouragements because this is the first time (and the last, we hope) that we are trying this procedure.

Fabien Labruinie, farmer victim of the volunteer reapers in Indre-et-Loire