

## **“Never Give an Inch”**

Friday 24 December 2010, by [HK & les Saltimbanks](#) (Date first published: 16 October 2010).

**“On lâche rien,” a song by HK & les Saltimbanks (Kadour Haddadi and his band), has been adopted by French workers on strike against the Sarkozy-Woerth plan to raise the retirement age.**

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From the bottom of my urban project  
Deep into your countryside  
The reality has changed  
And the revolt is brewing everywhere  
In this world there was no place for us  
We didn't look the part  
We were not to the manor born  
Not on daddy's plastic  
The homeless, the unemployed, workers  
Farmers, immigrants, the undocumented  
They wanted to divide us  
And to say they succeeded  
As long as it was every man for himself  
Their system could prosper

But one day we had to wake up  
The heads had to roll  
We'll never give an inch  
They told us about equality  
And like fools we believed them  
“Democracy” makes me laugh  
If we had had it we would have known it  
What's the worth of our votes  
Up against the law of the market?  
They say “my dear fellow countrymen”  
But we're cheated all the same  
And what's the worth of human rights  
Up against the airbus sale?  
The bottom line, there's only one law, in sum:  
“Sell yourself more to sell more.”  
We no longer believe  
Their beautiful words  
Our leaders are liars  
**We'll never give an inch**

So stupid, so trite,  
To speak of peace and brotherhood  
When the homeless are dying in the streets  
And the undocumented are being driven out  
Crumbs are thrown to proles  
That's just in the history of the silent  
They don't attack millionaire bosses  
"Too important for our society"  
It's crazy the way they are protected  
All our rich and powerful  
Not to mention the help they get  
For being the friends of the president  
Dear comrades, dear "voters"  
Dear "citizen-consumers"  
The alarm is ringing  
It's time  
To reset to zero  
As long as there's struggle and hope  
As long as there's life and battle  
As long as we're fighting, we're standing  
Here's the key  
We're standing, we won't give an inch  
The passion for victory runs in our blood  
Now you know why we are fighting  
Our ideal, more than a dream  
Another world, we have no choice  
**We'll never give an inch**

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**P.S.**

\* Source: MRZine, 16.10.2010. Reproduced in ML Update, Vol.13, No.43, 19-25 Oct. 2010 (CPI-ML Liberation weely magazine in India).