

Bardot protests hunters' meeting in her village

SAINT-TROPEZ, France (Reuter) Former film star Brigitte Bardot, now an animal rights activist, on Saturday hurled insults at defiant game hunters who held a congress in the French Riviera village of Saint-Tropez despite her pleas.

"Hunters are murderers. You are killers. We are fighting for life," shouted Bardot, who was flanked by some 300 demonstrators, including a bodyguard dressed up as a bear for the occasion.

Members of several animal rights groups in southern towns including Nice, Toulon and Marseille took part in the protest.

The hunters, some 400 presidents of hunters' associations in the Var region, remained impassive as they held their conference in a municipal hall behind locked doors. Riot police stood by but they were not called on to intervene.

Bardot had said she would close the local office of her association and leave this picturesque village, where she settled in 1958, if the meeting went ahead here.

"She is asking for a divorce. We will not give it to her," Saint-Tropez Mayor Jean-Michel Couve told reporters on Thursday. "We would just like her to have a less violent reaction."

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