

French president faces wine threat

by UPI

PARIS - French President Nicholas Sarkozy was given an ultimatum by a group of wine activists demanding more money for their products.

The group, which calls itself the Regional Committee for Viticultural Action or CRAV, has been known to hijack tankers of foreign wine and dynamite government buildings or supermarkets, The London Telegraph reported.

While its members remain anonymous, the group is believed to be an offshoot of the winemakers' unions of the highest wine producing region in France.

In a recorded message delivered to a regional television station, CRAV told the new president that in addition to more money, it wants Europe to continue a subsidy for distilling surplus wine into alcohol spirit.

CRAV also called on fellow winemakers to unite.

The activists make reference to a 1907 winemakers' uprising in Montpellier when army troops opened fire on thousands of demonstrators, killing six people.

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