

Since 2017, HRO has the mission of observing, documenting and denouncing daily state violence at the Franco-British border. Obstacles to such eviction being common, these figures should be taken as extreme minimums.

This month in numbers

At least

 **16** evictions of living site throughout **12** police operations

 **142** tents seized

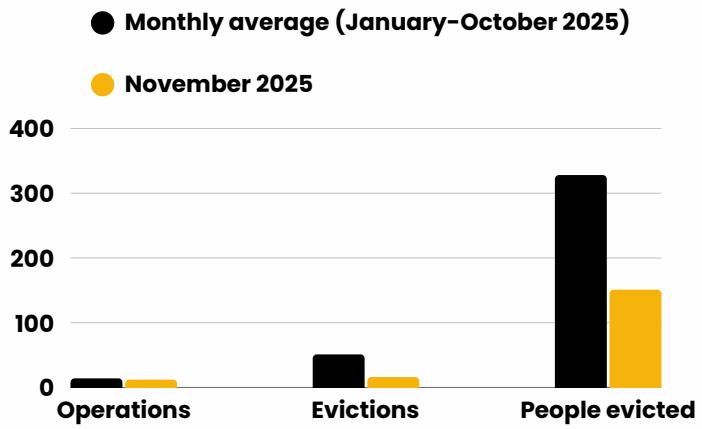
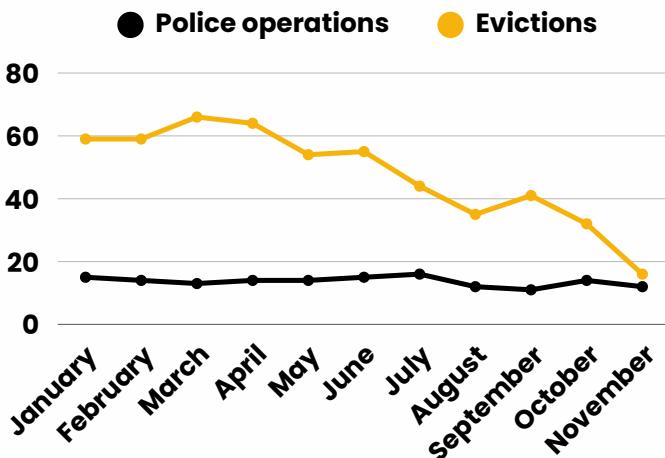
 **151** people evicted

 **6** arrests

This year

In November 2025 the **symbolic threshold of 500 evictions and 3000 people evicted since the start of the year was crossed**. In comparison to earlier months in 2025, the number of eviction operations in November remained stable, while the number of people evicted diminished. In general, the same police operation on a given day can carry out evictions at different sites one after the other, but in November over half of operations were directed at a single site. This change is explained by the **reduction of sites included in the police's so-called flagrancy investigations**: a circuit of sites are evicted multiple times each week, by misusing a legal proceeding to hastily evict and deny inhabitants their rights. The reduction in the frequency of such operations is the result of the past summer's **police harassment practices** directed at persons in exile. In addition to harassment, **devices have been mounted to dissuade people from setting up camp again** (rocks, fences, barbed wire), which has led to the **abandonment of several living sites that were formerly inhabited** and evicted highly frequently.

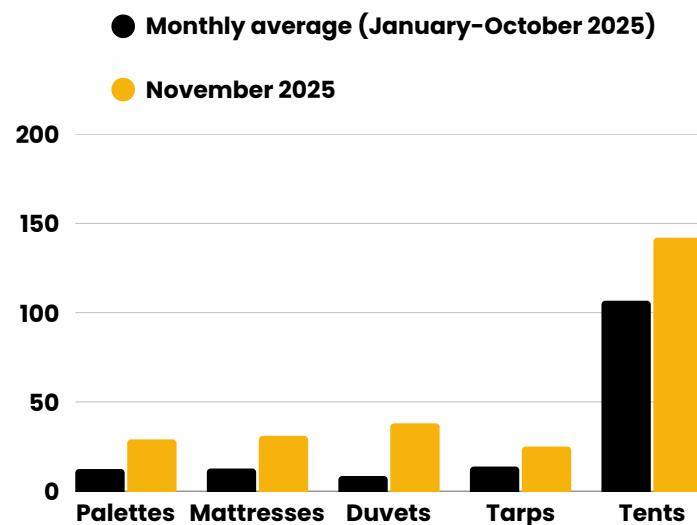
The number of arrests taking place under eviction operations has however not changed in comparison to the average in the earlier months of the year.



Rising numbers of items seized

The number of seized items during evictions was higher in November than in the other months of the year.

This is due falling temperatures: people in exile have more equipment needs in winter than in summer and have therefore more personal items that can be seized by police (tents, duvets) on the encampments during evictions.



Excessive police deployment

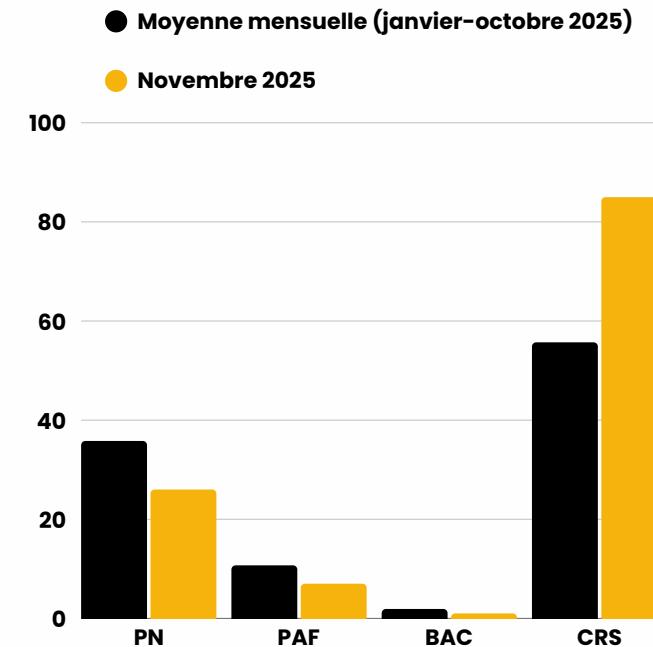
Persons in exile are evicted from their living sites almost every 48 hours in Calais. **Police evict and seize people's goods almost every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.**

In November we observed slightly less vehicles from the National Police and the Border Police, but **significantly more vans of the crowd control police**, called the CRS (Republican Security Company).

We see 7 such vans on average for each operation, for evictions that concern less persons compared to earlier months.

There are 15 persons evicted per operation on average, corresponding to 1 van for each 2 persons evicted. This relation shows a **clearly disproportionate use of force and a clear intention to intimidate people**.

It was on the same living site that archaeological searches were opened on the 13th of November, justifying the eviction of people "for their own safety", in the words of one of the employees present on the search site.



Partial eviction of the largest living site in Calais

Following the eviction of a major squat in September 2025, the majority of people on the move in Calais, around 1000 people, live in a new living site. **The move from a stable indoor environment to one exposed to the elements, to winter weather and police evictions is directly linked to the absence of housing solutions for people on the move in Calais.**

On the 20th of November, at around 6 in the morning, a major police convoy arrives at a part of the living site while the inhabitants are still asleep. Temperatures were between 0 and 5 degrees Celsius that day.

At least 12 CRS vans and one unmarked car were counted by our observers. According to inhabitants, **some of them were arrested by the Border Police (PAF)** while a bus to the Reception and Situation Assessment Centres (CAES) was present on the site. The operation lasted until the middle of the day.

At least 128 items were seized, of which 46 tents.

Note that this number is highly underestimated due to observation of the event being largely obstructed by the security perimeter setup by police. **The seizing of personal items in this manner are illegal, and by law are supposed to be inventoried and returned to their owners.**

Also in illegality, a notification was not displayed on site prior to the eviction and the inhabitants were not otherwise notified, a legal requirement for evictions on public grounds. No solution for durable and adapted housing is offered to the people evicted.

Only a small part of the living site was affected by the operation, indicating that **further operations may take place there throughout the winter.**



Arrests and arbitrary ID checks

To the evictions carried out multiple times a week one must add the constant **police harassment, day and night, in the city centre and living sites alike.**

Several observations and witness accounts reveal ID checks based on racial profiling in the streets of the city centre, around and in the living sites, and at bus stops and the train station. The Border Police (PAF) carry out numerous ID checks leading to arrests, under the pretext of verifying people's right of residence at the Coquelles police station.

Aferwerki testifies

Aferwerki, an Eritrean national, testifies he was **abruptly arrested on his way to the shops near his living site**. According to Aferwerki, the Border Police (PAF) often wait for people on the move at this location, obstructing people's access to the shop.

Aferwerki's phone is directly confiscated, leaving him unable to inform anyone, and his close ones spend the night worrying. In jail he is placed in a small room, where the smell is extremely unpleasant - he is unable to sleep.

He is given water but no food, in direct contradiction to what the police report indicates. **The police officers seem happy to have arrested someone, congratulate themselves, and laugh.** They mock him when they pass him by. One officer gets angry when he speaks, raises his voice, slams his fist on the table. Aferwerki is detained for 19 hours until 11 in the morning the next day and is released with an Obligation to leave French territory (OQTF).

Aferwerki's case is not an isolated one. One week prior to his arrest, **5 persons from the same living site were arrested by Border Police (PAF)** who came on the living site at 8 in the morning. They also arrested women.

Another witness testifies of the presence of three Border Police (PAF) vehicles and at least 10 police officers on another living site at 4 in the morning. They were equipped with highly **powerful torch lights, tear gas and weapons.**

These accounts show the relentless police harassment people on the move fall victim to, blocked at the border with no possibility of accessing housing and a safe space. This causes **constant states of psychological stress and over alertness**, this in harsh winter conditions which already cause heightened vulnerability.