



## Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-De-Calais – August 2020

Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers project has been to observe and document the daily human rights violations of displaced people at the French-British border<sup>1</sup>.

### Data collected during daily evictions of informal living sites

	45 evictions of informal settlements		10 mattresses seized
	133 tents / tarps seized		7 chairs seized
	59 sleeping bags/blankets seized		Clothes were seized 5 times
	17 bicycles seized		26 arrests during the evictions
	34 backpacks seized		254 unaccompanied children met <sup>2</sup>

The political strategy of avoiding 'fixation points' has led to daily evictions in Calais, which take place between 8am-11am. This involves displaced people being forced to move their tents and belongings, anywhere between two meters to 500 meters. Personal belongings and basic necessities are often seized and/or destroyed. These operations of harassment are also accompanied by often abusive identity checks (Cour de cassation, 25 avril 1985, n° de pourvoi 84-92916), followed by arbitrary arrests and illegal stays in administrative detention.

HRO has recorded an increase in dismantling/ operations since the 10th July, concurrent with the appointment of Gerald Darmanin as Minister of the Interior. On 21st August HRO witnessed a large-scale forced sheltering operation during which approximately 2 tonnes of personal items were seized and an entire encampment home to around 150 people was dismantled by law enforcement.

### Harassment of human rights defenders during observations



15 intimidation attempts :  
the observers were filmed/photographed with the personal and/or professional phone of the police forces 1 time; had their identity controlled 4 times; were pushed by officers 6 times; were subject to pat-downs 2 times; were threatened with arrest 2 times; were immobilized during several hours 1 time.

<sup>1</sup> This data is based on our observations, and is therefore not exhaustive.

<sup>2</sup> Number of self-declared UACs living in the streets, met by the associations (those not mandated by the State) in August. This number is an under-representation of the number of children living on the streets because the associations marauds do not cover daily all places where UACs live; some children do not communicate with the associations; others have direct access to shelter via the mandated association and are therefore not included in this figure. One observation remains: repeated evictions are a source of increased fragility and even disappearance of these children, both girls and boys, and therefore increase the risk of trafficking and exploitation.