











Monthly report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-de-Calais – January 2020






Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers project has been to observe and document the daily human rights violations faced by displaced people at the French-British border¹.

Data collected during daily evictions of informal settlements

	100 evictions of informal living sites		47 arrests
	97 tents seized		38 – number of times wood was seized
	53 sleeping bags/blankets seized		13 items of clothing taken
	20 bags/suitcases seized		5 unaccompanied minors present

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.

Harassment of Human Rights Defenders

	14 times we were filmed by technical and forensic police		5 fines
	1 intimidation attempt ²		18 requests to leave and move away from the perimeter of operation
	1 incident of psychological/physical violence ³		

¹This data is based on our observations, and therefore not exhaustive.

²Observers were impeded from filming by gendarmerie vans, which were parked to obstruct their view.

³ An observer was violently grabbed by the waist by a gendarme, who was then ordered by their boss to let the volunteer move freely.