



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-De-Calais – July 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 border¹.

Data collected during daily evictions of informal living sites

	80 evictions of informal settlements		18 mattresses seized
	564 tents / tarps seized		12 chairs and 1 table seized
	36 sleeping bags/blankets seized		Clothes were seized 5 times
	22 bicycles seized		39 arrests during the eviction
	7 backpacks seized		194 unaccompanied minors met ²

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 during observations



8 intimidation attempts³

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

² Number of self-declared UAMs living in the streets, met by the associations (those not mandated by the State) in July. 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 UAMs 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.

³ These intimidations have taken several forms: the observers were filmed/photographed with the personal and/or professional phone of the police forces 6 times; 1 gendarme insisted to an English volunteer that in France we must speak only in French; 1 gendarme repeatedly used the first name of one of the volunteers to try to intimidate her and show that he knows who she is.