

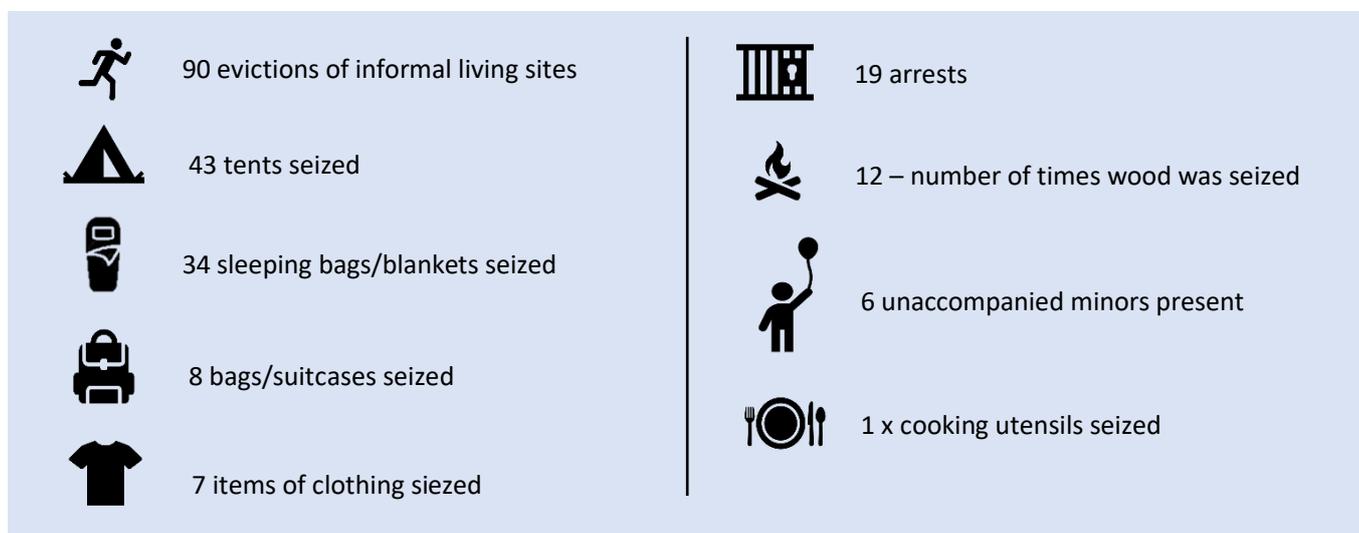


Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-de-Calais – March 2020

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.

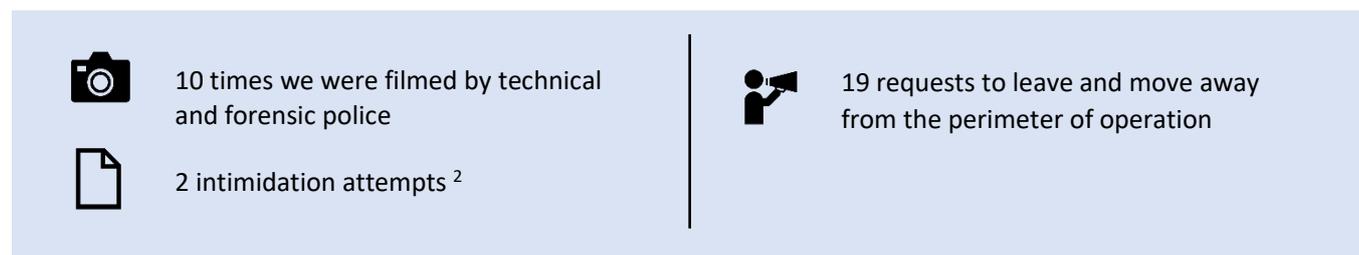
Since 17th March, under the “responsible and supportive” lock down, displaced people have been subjected to 45 evictions and remained confined outside. The Sub-Prefect of Calais, M. Tournaire, declared “*the presence of associations in public spaces during dismantling operations which take place daily, could be subject to a fine from police as provided for by decree n°2020-293 du 23 mars 2020*”.¹ Our work has been restricted, therefore we lack certain data, particularly concerning items seized during these evictions.

Data collected during daily evictions of informal living sites



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



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

² In a letter dated 25th March 2020.

³ Identity control and vehicle check during our work.