



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-de-Calais - March 2021

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 *.

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites

	At least 107 evictions of informal settlements		At least 546 tents seized
	At least 10 arrests during evictions		At least 171 unaccompanied children met **
	At least 246 sleeping bags and blankets seized		At least 3 bicycles seized
	At least 8 mattresses and 13 other items of furniture seized		At least 67 rucksacks and other bags seized
	Clothes seized at least 16 times		Wood seized at least 8 times
	At least 9 phones, 6 power banks et 3 chargers seized		Administrative documents seized at least 1 time
	Money seized at least 1 time		Prescription glasses seized at least 1 time
	At least 4 pairs of headphones, 2 speakers, 1 camera and 1 USB stick with family memories on them seized		

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to daily evictions in Calais, which mainly take place between 8am-11am. This involves displaced people being forced to move their tents and belongings, anywhere between 2 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 large-scale dismantling operations since the 10th July, concurrent with the appointment of Gerald Darmanin as Minister of the Interior. On the 30th of March, HRO recorded large-scale dismantling operation, during which inhabitants were forced onto buses and transported out of the city. All tents, furniture and food supplies were seized: at least 48 tents were seized and according to testimonies, 67 evicted people were forced to board the buses.



4 cases of violence/excessive use of force against evicted people were observed by our teams: minors were hit lightly by police officers 2 times; displaced people were threatened with tear gas as they tried to climb onto the pavement from the road 1 time.

Harassment of human rights defenders during observations



One team of observers was fined 2 times during the same morning for non-compliance with confinement regulations. 40 other intimidation attempts: observers were threatened with fines 2 times; observers were shouted at and subjected to insults and/or mocking gestures 5 times; observers were subjected to arbitrary identity checks 11 times; observers were photographed and / or filmed by police officers with their professional and / or personal phone 18 times; observers were pushed and / or escorted out of the perimeter with excessive use of force 2 times; observers were encircled by at least 10 law enforcement officers 1 time; observers' were prevented from moving freely 1 time, while all other pedestrians and vehicles were allowed to.

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

** Number of self-declared UACs living in the streets, met by the associations (those not mandated by the State) in March. 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.