



## Monthly Report of observations of evictions by Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-de-Calais – May 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>.

From 17<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> May, under the “**responsible and supportive**” lock down, displaced people were subjected to **169 evictions** whilst being **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*”.<sup>2</sup> Our work was restricted, therefore we lack certain data, particularly concerning items seized during these evictions.

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



101 evictions of informal settlements



116 tents seized



97 sleeping bags/blankets seized



11 bicycles seized



3 times woods was seized



1 time drinking water was seized



26 arrests



15 personal documents seized



9 phones seized



2 times medicine was seized



106 unaccompanied minors present<sup>3</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.

### Harassment of Human Rights Defenders



1 times we were filmed by technical and forensic police / mobile phones



11 intimidation attempts<sup>4</sup>



40 requests to leave and move away from the perimeter of operation

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

<sup>2</sup> In a letter dated 25th March 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Number of unaccompanied minors, met by the associations in May, living on the streets. The various dismantling operations are sources of increased fragility and even disappearance of children and adolescents, girls and boys, and therefore put them at increased risks of trafficking and exploitation. The youngest child met this month is 11 years old. Marauding is restricted and consequently, the associations estimate the number of children on the street to be higher than the above-mentioned figure.

<sup>4</sup> These intimidations took several forms: volunteers were filmed/photographed by police using their phones 7 times; 2 observers were pushed from the perimeter; one gendarme aggressively shoved their RIO in a volunteers face; one volunteer was told by a gendarme officer that he like here perfume and that she “smelled good”