



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-de-Calais - November 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 *.

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites

	73 evictions of informal settlements		At least 336 tents and tarps seized
	At least 10 arrests during evictions		164 unaccompanied children met **
	At least 71 sleeping bags and blankets seized		At least 40 bags seized
	At least 9 bikes seized		At least 15 mobile phones and power banks seized
	Money seized at least 3 times		ID papers seized at least 5 times

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 13th and 27th November, HRO recorded large-scale dismantling operations, during which inhabitants were forced onto buses and transported out of the city. All tents, furniture and food supplies were seized and thrown away: on 13th November, 100 tents were seized.

Harassment of human rights defenders during observations



The observers were fined 16 times for non-compliance with confinement regulations. This targeted harassment has made our observations particularly hard to carry out this month.

The observers filmed/ photographed with the professional and/ or personal phone of the police forces 2 times; were encircled by officers 2 times; tripped by officers 1 time.

* 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 November. 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.