



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

Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers project has been to observe and document the daily state violence against displaced people at the French-British border *.

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites :

	At least 105 evictions of informal settlements		At least 178 tents seized
	At least 7 arrests during evictions		At least 26 unaccompanied children met **
	At least 23 sleeping-bags and blankets seized		At least 56 bags seized
	At least 18 mattresses seized		At least 8 furnitures seized
	At least 5 bikes seized		Clothes have been seized at least 3 times.

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to daily evictions in Calais, which mainly take place between 8am-7pm. 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.

From the 3rd to the 27th October, HRO recorded that evictions were conducted daily in Calais.

HRO recorded that neither social diagnostics nor sheltering solutions were offered to the inhabitants after the daily evictions. The Human Rights Observers recorded the confirmation of these lack of solutions by the police commissioner of Calais. In each evictions operations, HRO recorded that the translators did not carry out their work properly, providing no information neither on the progress of the eviction, nor on the potential solutions for the inhabitants being evicted.

In addition to these daily evictions, dangerous deforestation operations have been carried out in the living site that has been dismantled the 28th September. HRO recorded that during these deforestation operations, police forces were forcing people to leave the living site without their shelters, and without any legal basis.



On the 7/10, one person has been arbitrarily patted down before getting arrested ; On the 17/10, polices forces were holding tear gas, threatening the inhabitants of the living sites ; On the 18/10, one person who was sleeping in his tent have been waken up by the police forces and forced to leave the living site. His full tent including his blankets, tarps and personal belongings have been seized, without any way to get it back ; HRO recorded 14 times that inhabitants of one living site, including women and children, were forced to cross slippery ditch during the evictions.

Harassment of human rights observers during observations :



28 intimidation attempts :

Everyday in October, the Human Rights Observers have been intimidated by the police forces, especially by the gendarms conducting the operations of evictions : The HRO members have been ID checked eighteen times (on the 5/10, 6/10, 7/10, 14/10, 15/10, 16/10, 17/10, 22/10, 25/10) ; HRO members have been filmed at least four times the 17/10, at least once on the 18/10, at least twice on the 19/10 ; On the 17/10, one gendarm pushed one HRO member and another gendarm took a photo of one HRO member's ID ; On the 18/10, at least 6 gendarms mocked the HRO members ; On the 27/10, one gendarm filmed HRO and the inhabitants of the living site, including small children and women.

* 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 October. 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.