



## Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-De-Calais – September 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>.

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



41 evictions of informal settlements



5 mattresses seized



370 tents seized



Clothes were seized 9 times



12 bicycles seized



70 arrests during the evictions



6 backpacks seized



173 unaccompanied children met<sup>2</sup>

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 10<sup>th</sup> July, concurrent with the appointment of Gérald Darmanin as Minister of the Interior. On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September HRO witnessed large-scale dismantling operations of three places of life during which approximately 310 tents were seized, 32 inhabitants were arrested, and the encampments that were home to 1,000 people were entirely destroyed. The dismantling operations on the 29<sup>th</sup> September were not forewarned with an eviction notice; the official legal basis remains unknown.



**During 2 evictions, the occupants were sprayed with chemical agents, to the point that someone ended up in hospital; 1 person was pinned to the ground with excessive force and held down for several minutes by numerous officers**

### Harassment of human rights defenders during observations



#### 21 Intimidation Attempts:

The observers were filmed/photographed with the personal and/or professional phone of the police forces 15 times; were pushed 3 times; ridiculed 1 time, threatened with arrest 1 time and were ID checked 1 time.

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

<sup>2</sup> Number of self-declared UAMs living in the streets, met by the associations (those not mandated by the State) in September. 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 UAMs 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.