











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

Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers supported by l'Auberge des Migrants 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 98 evictions of informal settlements		At least 379 tents seized
	At least 12 arrests during evictions		At least 54 unaccompanied children met **
	At least 52 sleeping-bags and blankets seized		At least 46 bags seized
	At least 14 mattresses seized		At least 17 bikes seized

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.

HRO has recorded an increase in large-scale dismantling operations since the 10th July 2020, concurrent with the appointment of Gerald Darmanin as Minister of the Interior. On the 14 and 28 of September, 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 3 September, the police chased exiles who were trying to leave with their tents; on 12 September, the police threatened the exiles with tear gas and were ready to use it.

On 14 September, during the eviction operation on the Magnesia site, the exiles were surrounded in their living quarters and physically escorted by the police to the buses. Some of these people have been subjected to palpation and frisks at the entrance of the buses.

On September 28, during the operation of expulsion from the Hospital, the police, with anti-riot armor, used violence against the exiles. They were frisked and tackled to the ground before boarding the "shelter" buses. CRS also used tear gas against some people.

According to the observations of the HRO teams, which were blocked because of a very large perimeter: 42 tents and tarpaulins seized.

According to the Prefect's figures given to the France 3 newspaper: 450 tents seized.

Harassment of human rights observers during observations :



21 intimidation attempts:

On 9/14 a policeman said "if they want to be useful, they should pick up the migrants' garbage"; on 9/15 and 9/22 gendarmes mocked a member of HRO; on 9/17 a gendarme said "we'll tell you every day until we've had enough" referring to the perimeter; on 9/20 a gendarme told members of the HRO team "we are dealing with pète-culs", he refused to show his RIO and then told the HRO team "all you know how to do is piss off the world"; on 9/28, after asking us to leave, a policeman told us: "If I see you again, I'll write you up, stop taking me for a fool", while people were walking around the perimeter (8 cases of intimidation that day).

* This data is based on our observations, which have been largely hindered this month, 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 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 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.