



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by Human Rights Observers in Grande-Synthe, Nord - August 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 5 evictions of informal settlements



At least 46 tents and 111 tarps seized



At least 79 unaccompanied children met **



At least 5 mattresses seized

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to increasingly frequent evictions in Grande-Synthe. Some sheltering options, with buses, are forced, as those who resist are arrested by the Police aux Frontières. During these operations, all shelters, along with personal belongings and basic necessities, are seized and 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. These arbitrary ID checks and arrests are daily, outside the context of evictions as well.



On 3/08, the bailiff opened tents while people were inside.
On 5/08, people were forcibly escorted out
On 12/08, people had their tarps stolen while they were underneath.
On 19/08, people were forced to get out of their tents and were pushed.

Harassment of human rights observers during observations :



20 intimidations attempts:

HRO observers were subjected to arbitrary identity checks 20 times; on 3/08 a police officer was physically and verbally abusive to an observer, another observer's ID card was also filmed on that day.

* This data is based on our observations, and is therefore not exhaustive.

** The number of reports made to authorities is below the actual number of unaccompanied children present and in danger in Grande-Synthe during August 2021. On this territory, contrary to Calais, no association that is not mandated by the State has any specific activity targeting UACs or is able to carry out this precise identification work. One observation remains: repeated evictions are a source of increased fragility and even disappearance of these children, both girls and boys, and therefore of increased risks of trafficking and exploitation (Source: Utopia 56).