



## Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Grande-Synthe, Nord - February 2021

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

	At least 5 evictions of informal settlements		At least 461 tents and tarps seized
	At least 5 arrest during evictions		At least 43 unaccompanied children met **
	At least 113 sleeping bags and blankets seized on 23/02		

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.

The informal living sites in Grande-Synthe that are currently being evicted on a regular basis are spread throughout a large wooded area. As such, what is counted as a single eviction operation actually affects upwards of 20 small living sites.

HRO registered an illegal eviction on the 24th February. Without having effectuated the requisite legal procedures, law enforcement agents, who were not legally competent, obligated people to leave their living sites with their belongings.

This month, security perimeters established by law enforcement are often large large. As a result, HRO team was unable to carry out observations properly.

	HRO team has started witnessing the systematic use of heavy machinery, including excavators and diggers, to clear the zones of evicted people's personal affairs. Often, this is whilst the proprietors are still present beside their belongings. ***
	Tents continue to be lacerated by the cleaning team under the supervision of law enforcement: observers witnessed tents lacerated with people still inside 5 times and the eviction team snatching the tents away from the proprietor 2 times.
	Police officers and the eviction team consistently walk all over blankets and clothes, into the mud.  During the eviction on the 23rd: a person with a disability was escorted out of their tent without consideration for their physical condition; a police officer entered into a tent without the proprietor present; a police officer told an evicted person to "Get lost" ("barre-toi"), and that they were only allowed to speak French in France.

### Harassment of human rights defenders during observations

	<b>20 intimidation attempts:</b> Observers were subjected to 10 arbitrary ID checks; observers were photographed and/or videoed by police officers with their professional and/or personal phone 7 times; observers were mocked by police officers 3 times.
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\* 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 February. 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).

\*\*\* For pictures and videos, please refer to our social media (instagram: @Humanrightsobs, twitter: @HumanRightsObs).