











Monthly report of observations of evictions by Human Rights Observers in Grande-Synthe, Nord – March 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 border¹.

Data collected during weekly evictions of informal living sites

 9 evictions of informal living sites	 1 x cooking utensils seized
 10 tents seized	 2 unaccompanied minors present
 10 sleeping bags/blankets seized	 4 – number of times food was seized
 3 – number of times drinking water was seized	 1 intimidation attempt ²

The political strategy of avoiding ‘fixation points’ has led to weekly evictions in Grande-Synthe, with on average 3 to 5 evictions of displaced peoples’ living sites per week. All shelters, along with personal belongings and basic necessities are seized and destroyed by various means (with knives, chainsaws etc.). 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.

Data collected during “sheltering operations”³

 7 single men accommodated	 25 single men turned away
 12 families accommodated	 24 families turned away
 15 days no accommodation proposed	 4 unaccompanied minors turned away

During weekdays, people can go to a specified meeting point and request to be accommodated. This is done via a sheltering system provided by AFEJI (state mandated association).

¹ This data is based on our observations, and therefore not exhaustive.

² Vehicle control during our work.

³ This data is collected in collaboration with Refugee Women’s Centre.