



## Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Grande-Synthe, Nord - November 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 \*.

### Data collected during evictions of informal living sites



7 evictions of informal settlements



At least 268 tents and tarps seized



At least 8 arrests during evictions



59 unaccompanied children met \*\*

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.

In November, associations have also witnessed extensive deforestation of the woods in Grande-Synthe that many displaced people seek shelter in.



**Human Rights Observers witnessed the eviction team destroying tents and tarps with knives 4 times. On the 20th November, HRO heard reports of clothes having been taken out of bags and trodden into the mud.**

### Harassment of human rights defenders during observations



**10 intimidation attempts:**  
HRO teams were subject to 10 ID checks during observations.

\* 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 November. 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).