



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers project, supported by l'Auberge des Migrants, in Calais, Pas-de-Calais - August 2021

Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers project has been to observe, document and denounce the daily State violence against displaced people at the French-British border *.

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites:

	At least 97 evictions of informal settlements		At least 404 shelters seized
	At least 4 arrests during evictions		At least 150 unaccompanied children met **
	At least 36 sleeping-bags and 88 blankets seized		At least 19 bikes seized
	Clothes have been seized at least 13 times		At least 21 mattresses seized
	At least 13 backpacks seized		

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to daily evictions in Calais, which mainly take place between 8am-11am. 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.



8 instances of violence/excessive force against displaced people during evictions were witnessed by the observers: On the 05/08, two women were not given back their personal belongings including medicines left on their living place; A displaced person was forced to get out of his tent without the presence of a translator and was pushed once he was out of his tent on the 07/08; A pregnant woman was forced to cross a slippery ditch on the 09/08; On the same day, police force were laughing about the seized life jackets; Displaced people were shouted at loudly without translators to wait outside the security perimeter before they could come back to their living place on the 25/08; On 2 occasions, displaced people were escorted by force out of their living place and were patted down without a legal basis. On at least 3 occasions, the translators were waiting in their car while the displaced people were escorted out of their living place.

Harassment of human rights observers during the eviction operations:



18 intimidation attempts:

On at least 4 occasions, HRO observers were subjected to receiving demeaning comments from police officers. ("The two dolls"). On the 04/08, HRO observers were called by their first names by a police officer; On the same day, a police officer took a picture of the HRO team and their car; On the 14/08, HRO observers were whistled at by police forces; On 10 occasions, HRO observers were subjected to arbitrary ID checks; On at least 2 occasions, HRO observers were photographed/filmed by police officers on their personal devices; On 8 occasions, HRO was prevented from carrying out their essential work due to the strategic placement of an extra-large perimeter around the living site by police officers; On at least 2 occasions, HRO observers were arbitrarily blocked by police from entering the security perimeter during eviction even though the general public (e.g dog walkers and a journalist) were freely granted access to entering ("Associations are coming so we'll have to block them").

* This data is based on our observations, 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 August. 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.