











Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers project supported by l'Auberge des Migrants in Calais, Pas-de-Calais - November 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 114 evictions of informal settlements		At least 97 tents seized
	At least 10 arrests during evictions		At least 45 unaccompanied children met **
	At least 2 sleeping-bags and blankets seized		At least 27 bags seized
	At least 2 bikes seized		At least 7 mattresses 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.

On the 16th November, HRO recorded a large-scale dismantling operation, during which inhabitants were forced onto buses and transported out of the city. All tents, furniture and food supplies were seized and thrown away, providing no information to the inhabitants on the possibility to recover their belongings.

HRO also recorded an increased difficulty in carrying out the activity of observation: the perimeters, which are arbitrarily established by the police during the eviction operations, are each time bigger, thus often forcing the HRO team to back off and impeding to observe and document. Therefore, the data collected is unrepresentative of the reality.



On 4/11, the police used violence against displaced people: one was hit in the face by a CRS and another one was pushed by a gendarme. CRS also threatened a group of people with his gas canister; on 16/11, during the large-scale eviction operation, the police chased displaced people who were trying to leave with their belongings; on 20/11, during an eviction operation, CRS intentionally walked on the food of the inhabitants.

Harassment of human rights observers during observations:



12 intimidation attempts:

On 1/11, during an eviction operation, a gendarme filmed very closely an HRO member; on 7/11, during an eviction operation, the police used tear gas against activists and human rights observers; on 16/11, an HRO member, who had already been filmed by a policeman, almost fell after having been pushed by the same policeman; on 24/11, a policeman physically blocked one of the two HRO members who were going back to their car.

HRO observers were pushed by the police 4 times, on 01/11, 16/11 and 26/11.

* 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 November. 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.