



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

Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers project, supported by l'Auberge des Migrants, 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 :

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|  | At least 8 evictions of informal settlements |  | At least 556 tents and 11 shelters destroyed |
|  | At least 105 sleeping bags and blankets destroyed |  | At least 57 trolleys destroyed |
|  | At least 70 clothes destroyed |  | At least 2 strollers and 1 baby bed destroyed |
|  | At least 43 arrests during the evictions |  | At least 39 unaccompanied children met ** |

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to increasingly frequent evictions in Grande-Synthe. Some sheltering options are either not communicated to the inhabitants of the living sites, or are forced. Those who resist are often arrested by the Border Police. During these evictions, all shelters, essential supplies and personal belongings are seized 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.

As part of the harassment policy at the Franco-British border, the state carried out large-scale evictions in Grande Synthe on 09/11, 16/11, 18/11, 23/11 and 30/11. These evictions affected at least 600 people, including families with children. During these operations of harassment, the personal belongings of the inhabitants (tents, documents, mobile phones, medicines, clothes, etc.) were lacerated, destroyed and/or thrown into the skip, without giving the opportunity for the owners to keep them. These illegal acts, (Art 322-1 and following of the Penal Code), were committed before the eyes of the bailiff in charge of the evictions and the sub-prefect of Dunkirk.



HRO has recorded an increase in large-scale dismantling operations since the 10th July 2020, concurrent with the appointment of Gerald Darmanin as Minister of the Interior :

On the 9/11, observers saw that 3 inhabitants surrounded by CRS were not allowed to take their tents, destroyed in front of their eyes ; One person couldn't take his belongings in his tent.

On the 16/11, HRO members observed a forced sheltering operation ; the inhabitants were forbidden to leave the site and were forcibly escorted to buses, without any information being given to them ; a CRS opened a tent and entered it to check if anyone was still sleeping inside.

On the 18/11, HRO observed CRS pushing and shouting at the evicted inhabitants ; HRO members saw that the translator was not interacting with the evicted people.

On the 23/11, members of HRO saw 1 CRS kicked a tent in front of its owner for no reason ; at least 5 inhabitants were forcibly escorted, patted down and arrested without any legal basis.

On the 30/11, HRO observers testified that a police officer told an evicted resident: "There is no solution for you when you come to France".

Harassment of human rights defenders during observations :



27 intimidation attempts :

HRO observers have their identities checked 12 times, sometimes several times a day and without any reason given ; The observers were pushed 4 times and filmed closely by the police at least 5 times, on 09/11, 18/11, 23/11 ; On the 09/11, a police agent escorted HRO and said "you're a pain in the neck", another CRS called an observer by her first name ; On the 18/11, a police officer told a volunteer "stop asking stupid questions to piss people off". On the same day, a police officer asked for a volunteer's phone number. Ordering him to stop filming, the officer said "either you stop or I throw your phone in the bin" and added "I'll evict you".

* 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 2021. 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).