



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

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

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites:

	At least 125 evictions of informal settlements		At least 199 tents and tarps seized
	At least 8 arrests during evictions		At least 47 unaccompanied children met **
	At least 2 bikes seized		At least 28 bags seized
	At least 2 woods seized		At least 15 sleeping-bags and blankets seized
	At least 6 mattresses seized		At least 3 valuable items 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.

In December, HRO recorded that accommodation solutions have never been proposed to the people evicted from their living sites, as well as the information on the possibility to recover their belongings have never been provided to the inhabitants.

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 the observation and documentation. The will of impeding these observations is evident: during all the eviction operations, two policemen follow the HRO team, even outside the perimeter. In addition, on 16/12 and on 20/12 some people who were passing by have been allowed to enter the perimeter, whilst the HRO team had been blocked. Due to these actions, the data collected is unrepresentative of reality.



On 14/12, the police used tear gas against displaced people; on 20/12, during an eviction operation, a person that had just been arrested was violently escorted out by 4 CRS. CRS also threatened the inhabitants with their gas canisters and LBD ; on 23/12, during an eviction operation, CRS obliged displaced people to cross the railways. During that same day, two CRS chased and pushed a displaced person that had just been evicted, impeding him to take back his belongings; on 30/12, during an eviction operation conducted by an exceptional police procedure, CRS chased and ran after displaced people, impeding them to take back their belongings; they also used tear gas and LBD against the inhabitants.

Harassment of human rights observers during the eviction operations:



12 intimidation attempts:

On 8/12 and on 12/12, policemen ran after HRO observers; on 12/12 a policeman pushed an HRO member; the vice police captain also filmed the HRO team; on 16/12, policemen pushed and filmed the HRO members; on 20/12, CRS ran after HRO members in order to impede the documentation of the police operation ; on 23/12, HRO members have been escorted out from the perimeter, and obliged to cross a small river; on 31/12, the police obliged HRO observers to cross the street even though the traffic light was red.

HRO observers were pushed by the police 4 times, on 14/12, 20/12, 22/12 and 31/12. On 23/12, HRO members were filmed 9 times.

* 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 December. 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.