



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-de-Calais - February 2022

Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers project, supported by l'Auberge des Migrants, 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 153 evictions of informal settlements		At least 306 tents and tarps seized
	At least 12 arrests during evictions		At least 39 unaccompanied children met **
	At least 23 sleeping-bags and blankets seized		At least 1 bike seized
	At least 41 backpacks seized		At least 12 mattresses seized
	At least 15 chairs seized		At least 1 valuable object seized

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to daily evictions in Calais, which mainly take place between 8am-17pm. 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 January, HRO has recorded the presence of a disproportionate police convoy, almost always heavily armed, during each eviction operation, contributing in increasing the hostility and pressure against displaced people blocked at the French-British border. In addition, during the evictions of the living sites, no accommodation was offered to the evicted inhabitants despite the cold temperatures, nor any kind of information on the possibility to recover their belongings was provided.

On the 24/02, HRO recorded a large-scale dismantling operation, during which inhabitants were forced onto buses and transported out of the city.



On 01/02, a CRS was joking about the fact that there was a lot of wind, wondering where the bullets of his grenade launcher could end up. On 04/02, during an eviction operation, a CRS aggressively yelled "Move, move there" to displaced people. While he was escorting them out of the living site, the same CRS was making jokes and laughing very loud. In addition, he took a photo with his personal phone of the people evicted, while they were obliged to cross a ditch.

Harassment of human rights observers during the eviction operations:



28 intimidation attempts:

HRO recorded an increase in obstructions to observations: arbitrary perimeters were formed in order to prevent HRO from documenting the evictions.

On 09/02, a CRS van prevented the HRO car from accessing a specific road which headed to a living site that was being evicted, without providing a reason; yet, the other cars could pass. On 08/02, a policeman stared at the HRO team, who was documenting an eviction operation, in a threatening way for a long time. During the same day, a CRS pushed and walked on the feet of a HRO member; another CRS filmed the scene. Both of them refused to show their RIO number. On 17/02, while HRO was being escorted out of the evicted living site, a CRS violently pushed a volunteer, who fell down. On 19/02, the police pushed, walked on the feet and yelled at the HRO team. On 22/02, the chief of the police operation asked the HRO members, who were filming the seizing of the displaced people's belongings, to follow her without providing any reason. While HRO was following her, the team argued that she had to explain why they had to move. The chief refused to answer and instead she started pushing the HRO team, asking the CRS to help her. However, neither the CRS knew where to escort the HRO members, who were still being pushed; in fact, it was evident that they aimed at impeding HRO to document the seizing of belongings. Actually, when the APC society's staff*** finished to seize the tents, the CRS retreated.

* 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 February. 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.

***During each eviction operation, displaced people's personal belongings are seized by the staff of the private society APC, mandated by State, under the supervision of the police. Evidences shared on our social media (instagram: @Humanrightsobs, twitter: @HumanRightsObs)