



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

Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers project, supported by l'Auberge des Migrants, has been to observe and document the daily human rights violations of displaced people at the French-British border \*.

### Data collected during evictions of informal living sites :



At least 168 evictions of informal settlements



At least 3 large-scale evictions with forced sheltering



At least 16 arrests during evictions



At least 34 unaccompanied children met \*\*



At least 47 bags seized



At least 6 mattresses seized



Wood seized at least 1 time

As part of the policy of "avoiding fixation points", these harassment operations consist of forcing displaced people to move their tents a few meters (from 2 to 500 meters) every day between 8am and 7pm, but also of seizing or destroying basic necessities and/or personal belongings\*\*\*. These operations are accompanied by identity checks that are often abusive (Court of Cassation, 25 April 1985, appeal no. 84-92916) and lead to arrests and then to placement in administrative detention, which is illegal.

On 03/03, 04/03 and 18/03 HRO documented large-scale dismantling operations, during which residents were forced onto buses and taken to centres outside Calais. All personal belongings were stolen: on 03/03, at least 40 tents, 43 tarps, 43 sleeping bags and 38 blankets.



During the forced sheltering operations, HRO members witnessed violent intimidation of the displaced people. Without claiming to be exhaustive, we have documented the following facts, among others.

On 10/03, a CRS threatened a displaced person by shouting at him and taking out his tear gas spray when he realised that he was trying to get the rest of his belongings. The same person was not able to recover his bag which was in the hands of the APC agent, although he had told the police that the bag belonged to him.

### Harassment of human rights observers during observations :



#### 38 intimidation attempts :

HRO recorded an increase in obstructions to observations : the arbitrary perimeters set up were only intended to prevent observers from documenting.

On 08/03/2022, a CRS started shouting at one of the HRO members' face in a very threatening manner while crushing the feet of another HRO member. On 10/03/2022, a HRO member was pushed violently twice while outside the perimeter. On 25/03/2022, after pushing two HRO members, the police refuse to show their RIO. On 27/03/2022, two HRO team members were pushed by law enforcement to remove them from the operation behind the arbitrary perimeter.

The HRO members were subjected to at least 8 identity checks, were filmed by the police at least 26 times, 11 of which were with their personal phones, and were violently pushed at least 4 times. In most cases, the CRS did not have their RIO visible.

\* Our data is based on our observations and is therefore not exhaustive.

\*\* Number of self-reported MIEs met by associations (not mandated by the department) in March while on the street. This number is an under-representation of the number of children living on the streets because outreach activities are not carried out daily in all living areas by these actors; some children do not communicate with the associations; others access shelter directly via the mandated association and are therefore not included in this figure. One observation remains: repeated dismantling operations are a source of increased fragility or even disappearance of these children, both girls and boys, and therefore of increased risks of trafficking and exploitation.

\*\*\*During each deportation operation, the personal belongings of the displaced people are seized by the agents of the private company APC, mandated by the State, under the supervision of the police. Evidence shared on our social networks (instagram: @Humanrightsobs, twitter: @HumanRightsObs).