











## Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers project supported by l'Auberge des Migrants in Calais, Pas-de-Calais - April 2022

Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers project 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 127 evictions of informal settlements		At least 219 tents and tarps seized
	At least 6 arrests during evictions		At least 42 unaccompanied children met**
	At least 31 sleeping-bags and blankets seized		At least 5 bags seized
	At least 1 valuable object seized		At least 1 large-scale eviction with forced sheltering

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to daily evictions in Calais, which mainly take place between 8am-7pm. 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.

HRO has recorded an increase in large-scale dismantling operations since 2020.

On the 11/04, HRO recorded a large-scale dismantling operation, despite the presence of a letter box with the names of the living site's inhabitants recalling the laws and codes to conduct an eviction operation in compliance with the right to a fair hearing.\*\*\* Contrary to the law, the inhabitants were not informed in advance; all tents, furniture and food supplies were seized.\*\*\*\*



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

On the 02/04, the border police (PAF) escorted to their car a displaced person, who ignored both the legal basis of his arrest and the reason why the two policemen were trying to tear his backpack off his hands. A policeman told him : "either way you are coming with us, so better for you not to cause any problem". In order to force him to enter into the car, they aggressively gripped him by the arm, making him hit the car with his shoulder. A third policeman intervened, blocking and handcuffing the person.

On the 08/04, the police captain took a photo of the displaced people during the eviction operation. That same day, the police did not allow an evicted person to recover his belongings that had just been seized. On the 10/04, two people were woken up by the police when they were still inside their tents. Afterwards, the border police questioned, patted down and arrested them. During the same day, the riot police (CRS) filmed several times with their personal phones the displaced people while they were dismantling their tents; another CRS took a photo of the living site. On the 16/04, the police yelled "oooh let's go" to the evicted people without a translator. On the 21/04, the police did not allow two people to recover their stuff. On the 23/04, a CRS told to a displaced person who was dismantling his tent "do not forget your house" while the other CRS were laughing.

### Harassment of human rights observers during the eviction operations:



#### 8 intimidation attempts:

HRO recorded an increase in obstructions to observations : the perimeters set up with the clear intention to prevent HRO from documenting. On the 10/04 and on the 27/04, the police imposed a perimeter in order to prevent HRO from being too close to the eviction operations, despite the fact that hikers and cyclists could pass by without any problem. On the 16/04, a policeman filmed the HRO team with his personal phone, claiming that "they (HRO) film us, so I film them too". On the 23/04, the HRO members asked to the police captain why the evicted people, who had been escorted out, could not recover their tent with their personal belongings inside. Instead, the police surrounded and escorted the HRO members out, and the captain said: "you have nothing to ask us" and "you are not my chief". On the 25/04, when HRO asked the legal basis of the eviction operation, the police captain answered: "you know my grade, my name, don't be surprised that I don't answer you".

In total, the police filmed HRO 9 times, at least 4 times with a personal phone.

\* 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 April (source: ECPAT). 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.

\*\*\* Reported by other associations' members

\*\*\*\* 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).