



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers, project support by l'Auberge des Migrants, in Grande-Synthe, Nord - April 2022

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 1 evictions of informal settlement



At least 120 tents seized



At least 2 arrests during evictions including 1 underage



At least 39 unaccompanied children met **



At least 31 clothes destroyed



At least 9 caddies full of personal belongings

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to increasingly frequent and violent evictions in Grande-Synthe. Some sheltering options are not communicated to the inhabitants of the evicted places. During these operations, all the shelters, necessities and personal belongings are destroyed. These operations of exhaustion are accompanied by identity checks that are often abusive (Cour de Cassation, 25 avril, 1985, n° de pourvoi 84-92916) followed by arbitrary arrests and illegal stays in administrative detention, which are then illegal. These arbitrary identity checks and arrests are a daily occurrence, even outside the context of expulsions.

As part of the harassment policy conducted at the border, the state carried out a large-scale expulsion operation in Dunkirk on April 28. During this operation, people's personal belongings (tents, blankets, bags, identity papers, cell phones, medicines, clothes etc.) were destroyed and thrown into a skip, sometimes without allowing the owners to keep them. These illegal acts, (Art 322-1 and following of the Penal Code), were committed before the eyes of the bailiffs in charge of the evictions



The HRO team observed the systematic use of heavy machinery, including tractors and excavators, to destroy and thus empty the areas of the evictee personal belongings. This is despite the fact that the owners of these belongings were often close to the operation. Like the previous evictions, all tents and shelters are destroyed by the company "Ramery" under the supervision of law enforcement and the State. ***



During the eviction operations, HRO members witnessed violent intimidation of the displaced people. Without claiming to be exhaustive we have documented, among other things, that one CRS member told to a displaced person "Either you get on the bus or you go to the police station", another CRS member told to a displaced person "Not this way, no discussion" without an interpreter to make himself understandable.

Harassment of human rights observers during observations :



3 intimidation attempts:

The observers had their identity check. Also, HRO members recorded several obstructions to the observations. One policeman stated that "it was forbidden to film" to stop the documentation. Another officer said, "Don't you have other things to do?". Arbitrarily defined perimeters were also set up to keep the observers away.

* 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 April 2022. On this territory, contrary to Calais, no association 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).

*** Ramery is a company mandated by the State to seize and destroy property during evictions