



## Monthly Report on observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers, project supported by l'Auberge des Migrants, in Dunkirk and the surroundings, North - May 2022

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

### Data collected during evictions of informal living sites



At least 5 evictions of informal settlements



At least 103 tents and tarps destroyed



At least 44 unaccompanied children met\*\*



At least 159 blankets and sleeping-bags destroyed



At least 3 mattresses destroyed



At least 4 makeshift shelters destroyed

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to increasingly frequent and violent evictions in Dunkirk. 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 centres. These arbitrary identity checks and arrests are a daily occurrence, even outside the context of expulsions.

As part of the policy of harassment at the border, the state carried out large-scale expulsions in Dunkirk on 5, 12 and 25 May. At each expulsion, people's personal belongings (tents, blankets, bags, identity papers, mobile phones, medicines, clothes, etc.) were destroyed on the spot and/or thrown into the skip, without giving them the opportunity to take them back. These acts contrary to the law (Art 322-1 and following of the Penal Code) were committed under 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 evictees' 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 the police and the State.\*\*\*



During the evictions operations, HRO members witnessed violence and intimidation against the displaced people. Without claiming to be exhaustive, we have documented, among others, on 5/05 and 12/05, that CRS shouted at exiles without an interpreter to make themselves understood. Moreover, we have also observed an over-armament of the police during the expulsions (LBD, automatic weapons, detector dogs, etc.).

### Harassment of human rights observers during observations



#### Several intimidation attempts:

The observers had their identities checked on three occasions and were filmed twice. Also, members of HRO were escorted away from the eviction twice to prevent documentation, in addition to the setting up of arbitrary perimeters.

\* 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 Dunkirk and the surroundings during May 2022. On this territory, contrary to Calais, no association that is not 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