



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers project supported by l'Auberge des Migrants in the Calaisis area, Pas-de-Calais - June 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 154 evictions of informal settlements	 At least 48 sleeping bags and blankets stolen
 At least 4 large-scale evictions followed by inadequate sheltering operations	 At least 13 arrests during evictions
 At least 179 tents and tarps stolen	 At least 46 unaccompanied children met**
 At least 10 bags stolen with personal belongings inside, including 6 backpacks	

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to daily evictions in the Calaisis area, 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 stolen 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.

On June 10, HRO observed 4 simultaneous large-scale eviction operations, during which displaced people were offered accommodation solutions that were unsuited to their situations and wishes, as the centres were too far from the border or in poor conditions. During these operations, all personal belongings were stolen, including for those who choose to stay in the Calaisis area. Large perimeters were also established to prevent HRO from documenting.

During the smaller-scale almost daily evictions, theft also occurs. HRO has received several testimonies from people who claim not to have been informed about the system of recovery of belongings. Also, on the 25th of June, HRO observers noted that torn tents obviously placed near the rubbish bins by displaced people were not taken by the APC cleaning staff, while during these operation of evictions they stole at least 15 tents still used by people***.

During the evictions operations, HRO members witnessed violent intimidation of displaced people. Our observations are non-exhaustive. These are some examples of instances of violent intimidation perpetrated by police against displaced people during evictions in June 2022;



During all the operations, HRO observed that police forces were excessively armed ; LBD, automatic weapons, detector dogs, etc. This level of armament is intimidating and disproportionate to the evictions operations.

On June 1, during the eviction of a living site where a ditch must be crossed by the inhabitants with their tents, a CRS said : "let's go, do some sport".

On June 9, two days after an eviction, residents of a living site reported to HRO that a CRS threw socks into the coffee they were preparing when the convoy arrived for the eviction.

On June 15, during an eviction, a CRS prevented an inhabitant from entering his living site and told him "you stay there and after a few minutes you leave", before pushing him.

On June 3 and 15, several CRS filmed displaced persons with their personal phones.

Harassment of observers during evictions :

	At least 32 attempts to intimidate and/or obstruct observation : Obstacles to observation are numerous. Without including the arbitrary perimeters deployed to prevent the observation of the operations by HRO members, 32 attempts of intimidation and/or obstruction were recorded. Of these, HRO members were filmed at least 17 times without being notified, including 11 times with personal phones, and had their identities checked 5 times.
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* Our data are based on our observations and are therefore not exhaustive.

** Number of self-reported unaccompanied children met by the ECPAT association (not mandated by the department) in June who were in a street situation. This number is an underrepresentation 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 eviction operation, the personal belongings of displaced people are seized by 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)