



Monthly Report on observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers, project supported by l'Auberge des Migrants, in Dunkirk and the surroundings, North - June 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 6 evictions of informal settlements	 At least 35 blankets and sleeping bags destroyed
 At least 12 displaced people were arrested during the evictions	 At least 1 mattress destroyed
 At least 129 tents and tarps destroyed	 At least 65 unaccompanied children met**

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to increasingly frequent and violent eviction in Dunkirk. Some sheltering options are not communicated to the inhabitants of the evicted places. During these operations, all shelters, necessities, and personal belongings are destroyed. These operations of harassment 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 detained in administrative detention centers. These arbitrary identity checks and arrests are a daily occurrence, even outside the context of eviction.

As part of the policy of harassment at the border, the state carried out large-scale eviction in Dunkirk on 3, 9 and 30 June. At each eviction, 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 are unlawful (Art 322-1 and following of the Penal Code) and were committed in front of the bailiffs in charge of the eviction.



The HRO team observed systematic use of heavy machinery, including tractors and excavators, to destroy and empty the areas of the evictees' personal belongings. This is despite the fact that the owners of these belongings were often closeby at the time. Like most evictions, all tents and shelters are destroyed by the company "Ramery" under the supervision of the police and the State. ***



During the eviction operations, HRO members witnessed violence and intimidation against 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 ; on 09/06 and 30/06, that CRS shouted at displaced people without an interpreter to make themselves understood. On 09/06, CRS pushed displaced people out of the living site and even used a whistle to make them gather together. On 30/06, the border police grabbed people who had been arrested without a translator. Moreover, we have also observed that the police were excessively armed during the evictions (LBD, automatic weapons, detector dogs, etc.).

Harassment of human rights observers during evictions :

Several intimidation attempts :



The observers had their identities checked on two occasions and were filmed twice. One time, they were filmed on a personal phone, which is illegal, and when HRO members told the police forces, they laughed and said, "how sad". Furthermore, one time one policeman pretended to arrest HRO members due to "an offence" but subsequently laughed and said, "just kidding". Throughout the exchange, he had a camera in his hand. In addition, HRO members were escorted away from the eviction twice to prevent them documenting. At each eviction, an arbitrary perimeter was put in place.

* 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 June 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.

Evidence shared on our social networks (instagram @Humanrightsobs, twitter @HumanRightsObs)