



Since 2017, the HRO project's mission has been to observe, document and denounce the daily state violence perpetrated against people in exile on the French-British border\*. Due to a simultaneous forced sheltering eviction in Calais and Grande-Synthe, HRO was unable to observe the eviction in Grande-Synthe this month. The figures reported here are therefore based on observations by other associations, and should be taken as an extreme minimum.

Figures on evictions from informal settlements :



At least 2 evictions from 2 informal living sites



At least 4 destructive and deforestation engines used this month in eviction sites



At least 6 displaced people arrested during evictions



At least 23 buses in which people were forced to get on



At least 150 Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) met by the associations\*\*

The political strategy of **avoiding "fixation points"** is leading to increasingly frequent and violent evictions in the Dunkirk area. Some **sheltering options are not communicated** to the people living in the evicted areas. These evictions are accompanied by **identity checks that are often abusive** (Court of Cassation, 25 April 1985, appeal no. 84-92916) and lead to **arrests and subsequent placement in administrative detention, which is illegal**. These identity checks and arbitrary arrests are a daily occurrence, even outside the context of evictions.

As part of its policy of harassment at the border, the French government carried out large-scale evictions in the Dunkirk area on **November 29**. Personal belongings (tents, blankets, bags, identity papers, cell phones, medicines, clothes, etc.) were **destroyed on the spot and/or thrown into the skip**, without giving people the chance to recover them. These acts, contrary to the law (art. 322-1 et seq. of the French Penal Code), were committed under the eyes of the **bailiffs in charge of the evictions**.



**During the eviction operations, the organizations witnessed violent intimidation of displaced people. While fully accepting the non-exhaustive nature of this report, we have documented the following intimidation perpetrated by the police against displaced people during the evictions in November 2023.**

**The so-called "voluntary" sheltering by the police is in fact forced. Displaced people are given the choice of boarding a bus or being arrested by the border police.**

On November 29, in **sub-zero temperatures and icy ground**, the displaced people were woken up at **6.43am** by the police, who had come to evict them. By 7.18am, the entire perimeter had been set up, and **no one was allowed to leave**.

**Many children were present on the perimeter, rubbing shoulders with over-armed police. A member of an association challenged a CRS officer: "Well done, truncheons in front of the kids!", to which he replied aggressively: "I'm making them safe, madam!".**

Several **chases** took place, sometimes with police cars, to prevent displaced people from fleeing the forced busing.

During these operations, the associations noted the enormous police presence, including a convoy comprising at least 2 companies of CRS, a dozen mobile gendarmerie vans and Police Nationale vans, cars and motorcycles. The police regularly interact in French with non-French-speaking displaced persons, without translators.

Destruction of living sites :

Living quarters are often **destroyed to make them uninhabitable** and prevent displaced people from being resettled. For example, during the November 29 eviction, **a fence was built along one of the evicted living spaces**, and cleaning teams **seized all personal belongings** in the camp with backhoe loaders and piled them **indiscriminately** into dumpsters. The entire living space, where over 800 people survived and organized themselves, was thus **destroyed**.

Concerning the legal basis of evictions:

Most of the people displaced between Loon-plage, Mardyck and Dunkirk live on land belonging to the Port Autonome de Dunkerque. Evictions are carried out by means of a **court order, reused over several months by the authorities, without prior hearing** and in an **unpredictable manner**. In addition to the precarious and unstable situation of the people living there, there is the **risk of eviction every morning**. HRO strongly condemns this practice which, in addition to the **stress** it imposes on people, prevents displaced persons from gaining access to the courts and thus from **asserting their rights**.

*Our data are based on our observations and are therefore not exhaustive.*

*\*\* The number of reports made to the authorities is lower than the actual number of unaccompanied children present and at risk in Dunkirk and the surrounding area during the month of November 2023. In this area, unlike Calais, no association mandated by the State has specific activities targeting UFM's or is able to carry out this precise identification work. One fact remains: repeated expulsions are a source of increased fragility, or even disappearance, for these children, both girls and boys, and therefore of increased risks of trafficking and exploitation (Source: Utopia 56).*