

Since 2017, the HRO project's mission has been to observe, document and denounce the daily state violence perpetrated against displaced people on the French-British border*. As there are many obstacles to HRO observations, these figures should be taken as a bare minimum.

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites :

Seizing data excludes the forced evictions of November 29, which were too massive to be properly documented :

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|  | At least 95 evictions from 16 informal settlements |  | At least 132 tents including 13 full of personal belongings and 29 tarps stolen |
|  | At least 14 people on the move arrested during evictions |  | At least 2 shelters destroyed, clothes and a suitcase full of personal belongings stolen |
|  | At least 90 unaccompanied children met** |  | At least 5 bike stolen |

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to daily evictions in the Calais area, which mainly take place between 8am and 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***. In Calais, a place for the recovery of belongings has been set up without people being systematically informed of its existence by members of the Prefecture or the police. HRO has received several testimonials from people who claim they were not informed about the existence of this recovery system.

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.



During the eviction operation, HRO members witnessed violent intimidation against displaced people. Our observations are non- exhaustive. These are some examples of violent intimidation perpetrated by police against displaced people during evictions in November 2023.

During all the operations, HRO noted the over-armament of the police forces, who are very often armed with LBDs, tear gas, tonfas, shields, helmets... This armament is intimidating and disproportionate to the operations in question.

On November 3, 15, 17 and 26, people on the move were **prevented from collecting their belongings** during the eviction; these were repeatedly **stolen** or **destroyed** by the cleaning teams. On November 5, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 26, the police **shouted orders at the displaced persons**.

Despite the **Ciaran storm** that hit northern France on November 4 and the floods in the Calais region, evictions continued in **water and mud**, making life even more precarious for people living in unfit conditions.

On November 15, a CRS **violently pushed a displaced person**, threatening to **"rip the fat bastard's hair out"**. On the same day, other CRSs called the evicted people **"dirty cunts"** after **pushing them to the ground from the top of a hill**.

On November 17, a CRS at the perimeter stood in front of the evicted people and, imitating an orchestra conductor: **"Let's sing! Il était un petit navireuuuh"**.

The same day, a CRS called "Gégé" by his colleagues **took photos of the living space** with his phone. Laughing, he told his colleagues: "Look at the WhatsApp, guys!" His colleagues asked if Gégé has found an Airbnb.

On November 21, the displaced people were forced to navigate a **huge mud puddle** during the eviction from their living space, some of them were **sunk up to their ankles for several dozen minutes**.

Harassment of observers during evictions :



Several attempts at intimidation:

Obstacles to observation are numerous. Without counting the perimeters arbitrarily deployed to prevent the observation of operations by members of HRO, 56 attempts to intimidate observers and/or obstacles were recorded. Among these, HRO members were filmed without their knowledge at least 21 times, including 8 times with personal phones, and had their identity checked 3 times.

On November 5, a CRS **threatens to "debone"** the HRO members.

On November 15, as the **head of operations** pushes an HRO member, she asks: "Can you please not touch me? I'd prefer not", to which he responds: **"I'd rather not either, I don't want to get dirty"**.

On November 17, two HRO volunteers are taken into **administrative detention** to check the legality of their stay on French territory. Despite the stamps on their passports attesting to this legality, they **remained in the border police's cells for 23h30**.

On November 19, during an identity check, a CRS **pulled down the pants of an HRO member** and **patted him down under his clothes**, before **reading out his criminal record in a humiliating manner**.

* 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 November 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 medias (instagram @HumanRightsObs, twitter @HumanRightsObs)