

Since 2017, HRO'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 observations, these figures should be taken as an extreme minimum.

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites :

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|  | At least 100 evictions from 16 informal settlements |  | At least 92 tents stolen, including at least 3 filled with personal belongings |
|  | At least 27 people arrested during evictions, including at least 4 using physical violence |  | At least 120 pallets, 4 chairs and 5 mattresses were stolen, along with a lot of wood, essential for warming up around fires |
|  | At least 29 unaccompanied children met** |  | At least 6 bikes stolen, along with 5 phones and power banks |

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" consists in **daily evictions in the Calaisis 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 operations, HRO 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 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 January 2, the police destroyed many of the shelters and kicked the tents occupied by people on the move, shouting "allez, allez!". On seeing a cat, a CRS said "they're going to eat it".

On January 2 and 4, CRS urinated twice on the living sites.

On January 6, the police refused to address the people on the move with anything other than hand signals, and completely destroyed the living site.


On January 16, a displaced person was injured following an arrest by Border Police officers. The person limped and his phone was confiscated by the police.

On January 18, a displaced person runs away from the living site to protect himself and slips on a patch of black ice, to the amusement of the CRS. At another site, the situation is repeated when a person is chased by a CRS.

On January 20, a CRS uses his tonfa to shake the tents and wake the occupants.

On January 25, CRS prevented a displaced person from retrieving her belongings and immediately evicted her.

Harassment of observers during evictions :

 **Obstacles to observation are numerous. Without counting the perimeters arbitrarily deployed to prevent the observation of operations by members of HRO, 46 attempts to intimidate observers and/or obstacles were recorded. Among these, HRO members were filmed without their knowledge at least 15 times, including 2 times with personal phones, and had their identity checked 4 times.**

During eviction operations, the observation work of HRO teams is regularly prevented by the forces of law and order, who use a variety of intimidating practices, relying on the following assertion: "the law is us anyway" (CRS, on January 16).

The tone used by CRS to address HRO members is regularly inappropriate. On January 16, a CRS did not hesitate to refer to a member of the team as a "little rascal" when she approached the perimeter and added: "you're a kid".

Video recordings are regularly the source of intimidation and even threats from CRS towards HRO. On January 10, a CRS said to his colleague, referring to HRO: "I filmed her very well". On January 18, CRS officers filmed the faces of HRO members at close quarters. At the end of the month, the recording by an HRO volunteer was used as a pretext by an officer to carry out an identity check, during which he used his personal phone to take a photo of her passport (January 27).

On January 16, the HRO vehicle was followed by a CRS van. On arrival at the eviction site, the CRS caught up with HRO, filmed them and made fun of the accent and outfit of one of them. Intimidation escalated to physical violence when a CRS pushed a HRO member into a ditch bordering the living site.

* 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 January 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 association mandated by the department 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, 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)