

Since 2017, HRO's mission has been to observe, document and denounce the daily state violence perpetrated against people in exile on the Franco-British border*. As there are many obstacles to observation, these figures should be taken as an extreme minimum.

Figures on evictions from informal settlements :



At least **75 evictions** from **9 informal settlements**



At least **38 displaced people** arrested during evictions



At least **23 unaccompanied minors**** encountered



At least **145 tents**, including at least 9 filled with personal belongings, stolen



At least **36 blankets, 5 chairs** and **10 mattresses** were stolen, as well as **111 pallets** and a lot of wood, essential for keeping warm around fires.

Systemic violence suffered by displaced people recorded by HRO :

- During all eviction operations, police officers were heavily armed (riot guns, truncheons, etc.).
- On **February 13, 18 and 27**, they used their truncheons to shake the tents and incite displaced people to leave. The police shouted "**come on, let's get out**", "**you move**" or "**come on, get up**", without even asking for a translator.



- On **February 2, 9 and 15**, the police pushed displaced people back over a ditch filled with water. People had to cross the ditch while single-handedly carrying their tents and other belongings.
- On **February 27**, a CRS expressed his delight to see cleaners destroying the shelters of displaced people, exclaiming "**bravo!**".

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

** Number of self-reported unaccompanied minors met by the Utopia 56 association (not mandated by the department) in February who were living on the streets. This number is an under-representation of the number of children living on the streets, as 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 thing remains clear: repeated dismantling operations are a source of increased vulnerability or even disappearance of these children, and therefore of increased risks of trafficking and exploitation.

- On **February 13**, a National Police officer and a translator opened a tent without informing the occupant beforehand.
- On **February 27**, a living area was completely emptied by the cleaning company mentaded by the state to carry out the evictions. All equipment required by people to survive under the bridges was stolen: tents, blankets, personal belongings...



These harassment strategies contribute to making life at the border impossible for displaced people. They are part of the application of dissuasive policies motivated by racist arguments, such as those expressed by the so-called "peacekeepers": "we can't take in all of Africa" (a CRS, February 27).

Figures for obstruction and/or intimidation of HRO by law enforcement agencies:

This month, HRO recorded 59 attempts at obstruction and/or intimidation, including :



5 abusive controls



Members were filmed without their knowledge at least 7 times and 7 times with personal telephones

Intimidation and/or violence suffered and recorded by HRO :

- On **February 7**, a CRS was forced to abandon the identity check he was about to carry out when the HRO team questioned him about the legal grounds for doing so.
- On **February 7, 13, 15, 18 and 29**, police officers filmed the eviction operations using their personal telephones. When the HRO members reminded the CRS of the illegality of capturing images of a private individual without his consent, he replied: **"If I do it, it's that I have the right to"**.



- On **February 13, 15 and 27**, members of the association were jostled and grabbed by the arm by CRS officers to get them to leave the encampment.
- On **February 29**, one of them, over-armed, scoffed: **"we should have taken the pshit [tear gas] to make them [HRO] run away"**.

Abuse of power by the authorities towards HRO teams is common practice, to intimidate members and limit their documentation work. Thus, in order to make institutional violence at the border invisible, the authorities do not hesitate to exceed their rights.