

Since 2017, HRO's mission has been to observe, document and denounce the daily state violence perpetrated against displaced people 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 :



Approximately **3 km** of fencing built around encampments



At least **119 unaccompanied minors**** encountered

Systemic intimidation and/or violence suffered by displaced people registered by HRO:

- On several occasions, we observed **police vehicles in the living areas**. This near-constant presence in the daily lives of displaced people is a strategy of intimidation designed to make the border an inhospitable zone.



- The **construction of fences** that began in December/January continued in February, enclosing the main camp at Loon-Plage and turning it into a **literal cage**. The ground is regularly turned over, trees cut down, walls erected... The sole aim of these territorial modifications is to dispossess displaced people of their environment, making them more precarious and hindering their mobility.

Police harassment of displaced people is a constant at the border. The scale of the repressive measures implemented on a daily basis in the Dunkirk area proves the determination to create a hostile climate designed to dissuade any displaced person from transiting through the region.

* 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.

The acts of intimidation and/or hindrance experienced and recorded by HRO :

Pressure on distribution associations has been reported this month:

Repression is a daily occurrence at the border (fines, repeated identity checks, threats and insults...). On several occasions this month, law enforcement agents have barged into distribution sites, **ordering associations to cease their activities for "security reasons" and by order of the prefecture**. However, despite research carried out by PSM*** with the various governing bodies in the Dunkirk area, **no written legal basis has been found**.



This kind of aggression is a continuum of the zero-fixing-point policy: for the state and its representatives, the aim is to prevent any form of support to displaced people, to the point of preventing the very acknowledgement of these people in a given place. In this sense, banning distributions, a sign of the effective presence of individuals in need of protection, is a key point in the state's policy of harassment.

The State, instance that is collectively understood as conditioning the lives of those present on its territory (birth, health and education policies, etc.), is here conditioning death. Displaced people are forced to survive in the most undignified conditions, which must be condemned and opposed by all.