

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 :



At least **182 persons** were evicted from their living sites



At least **130 unaccompanied minors**** encountered



Destruction of the mosque et des shops, sociabilization spaces for people on the move

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

On the 15th of March, the Préfecture du Nord organized what the government calls a "sheltering operation". In reality, authorities did not give people a choice : either they get on the buses headed for unsuitable accommodation for their personal situation, or the border police takes them into detention. The police force deployed that day was of massive proportions (around a hundred police officers equipped with automatic weapons, LBDs, drones, etc.) and is part of a strategy that aims to criminalize people on the move and justify the daily violence they suffer.

HRO documented some of the violence that occurred on March 15:

- At 7.30am, some people on the move **run from their living site as law enforcement arrives**. They do not have the time to collect their personal belongings.
- At 9.02am, a CRS justifies urging the HRO teams to leave by saying: **"It's more dangerous here, that's sure"**.
- At 9.28am, the HRO teams observe the total destruction of one of the living quarters by the State-mandated cleaning company. An agent, **wielding a chainsaw, destroys all the shelters** in full view of the displaced people living on the premises.
- At 9.39 am, **at least one person was arrested by the border police** at the bus entrance. The HRO teams were unable to observe the bus area any further, as a so-called "security" perimeter had been imposed to keep them at a distance from the police operation.



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* 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.



- At 9.40 a.m, law enforcement **destroyed the shops**, which are places for socializing and trading within the living areas, and **the Mosque**. People on the move report that a police officer **stomped on the Quran while laughing**.
- At 11.12 a.m, a CRS on a motorcycle threatens a group of at least 30 exiled people accompanied by Utopia 56 volunteers of **gasing them to keep them away from the living quarters**.

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



- On March 6, while two HRO members were at a stop in a parking lot, a CRS was extremely violent: he used the **threat of detention to get one HRO member to stop filming**, and **shoved her while ripping her phone out of her hands**. A report has been sent to the public prosecutor and the Défenseure Des Droits.
- On March 8, police officers once again carried out **abusive vehicle and identity checks** of the HRO team.
- On March 14, a vehicle check as well as an identity check were carried out by National Police officers while the HRO team was parked in a supermarket parking lot. One of the officers was **particularly aggressive and refused to share the legal basis for the controls**.
- On March 15, members of the HRO team documenting the forced sheltering operation underwent **3 identity checks and a vehicle check**. During the same operation, teams from the association Utopia 56 had their **identities checked on 2 occasions**. When they left the scene, a displaced person informed them that police officers on motorcycles had **gassed the door handles of their vehicle**.

