

## Monthly bulletin of eviction observations documented by Human Rights Observers in the Calais area, Pas-de-Calais - March 2024

ince 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 **71 expulsions** from **9** informal settlements



At least **108 tents,** including at least **5 filled with personal belongings,** stolen



At least **9 displaced persons** arrested during evictions



At least **9 shelters** destroyed. At least **9 blankets**, **13 backpacks** stolen, as well as **11 tarps**, essential for protection from the environment



At least 29 unaccompanied minors\*\* encountered

#### Systemic violence suffered by displaced people recorded by HRO:

- On the **2**, **5**, **17**, and **23** of March, law enforcement forced the displaced persons to destroy their living site. On March 26 these orders were given without a translator, and on March 17 a CRS officer took the liberty to pressure a displaced person, who was folding up his tent, saying "go mister, quick"
- On the **2 of March**, a family was forced to cross muddy areas with a pushchair for a small child as they were evicted from their living site.
- On the **5 of March**, agents commissioned by the government to seize the belongings of displaced persons, searched the tents in the living site.
- On the 20 of March, law enforcement blocked the entrance to the living site, abstructing their possibility of retreiving their personal belongings (before they were seized by said commissioned agents)
- On the 26 of March, a CRS officer urinated at a living site during the police operation



<sup>\*</sup> Nos données se basent sur nos observations et ne sont donc pas exhaustives

<sup>\*\*</sup> Nombre de MNA auto-déclaré.e.s rencontré.e.s par l'association ECPAT (non mandatée par le département) au mois de mars alors qu'i.elles étaient en situation de rue. Ce nombre est une sous-représentation du nombre d'enfants en situation de rue car les actions d'allez- vers ne sont pas menées quotidiennement sur tous les lieux de vie par ces acteurs; certains enfants ne communiquent pas avec les associatifs; d'autres accèdent directement à la mise à l'abri via l'association mandatée par le département et ne sont donc pas intégrés à ce chiffre. Un constat demeure: les opérations de démantèlement répétées sont sources de fragilisation accrue voire de disparition de ces enfants, et donc de risques majorés de traite et d'exploitation.



- On the 17 of March, as law enforcement was preparing to leave the site just evicted, the displaced persons started to move back to their living site, from which they had just been evicted a few minutes earlier. Law enforcement, several times, turned around saying "Stop" as if they were playing "Red light, Green Light"
- On the 26 and 28 of March, law enforcement made racist remarks aimed at criminalizing displaced persons. On the 26, one of them said: "There was an assault in town, (the authorities) think it was people in the camp". On the 28, another officer said: "if more people arrive, it won't be manageable for our security".

The eviction operations are a daily form of violence suffered by displaced persons. Every two days or so, these people are forced to move all their belongings some fifty meters away from where they live, only to return once the police have turned on their heels. These operations reflect the determination of the State to demonstrate its ability to "control migration" in response to a racist logic that justifies policies of non-acceptance.

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

This month, HRO recorded 26 attempts at obstruction and/or intimidation, including:



4 abusive controls



Members were filmed without their knowledge at least 4 times and 1 time with a personal telephone.

#### Intimidation and/or violence suffered and recorded by HRO:

- On the 2 and 7 of March, law enforcement carried out identity checks of HRO members in an attempt to intimidate them. On the 2 of March, the police officer noted the volunteer's personal information on his personal phone.
- On the 2 of March, a CRS van speeds past HRO members standing on the side of the road with a 30 km/h speed limit.
- On the **5**, **9**, and **28** of March, CRS filmed HRO members without informing them in advance. On the **28**, a CRS played with turning the camera on and off in front of him to provoke him. On **the 9**, the camera was turned on when HRO had their backs to the law enforcement. On **the 2**, a CRS filmed the police operation with his personal phone.



- On the 7, 17, 27, and 28 of March, law enforcement addressed HRO members in a paternalistic, even disrespectful tone. On the 7, a CRS equipped with an LBD said: "Remember to wash your little shoes when you leave"; On the 27, a CRS ordered: "You let us do what we're doing, and then you back off"; On the 28, as the HRO team stood outside a so-called "security" perimeter set at random by law enforcement, a CRS said: "All you have to do is dress up as a migrant to get into the living area".
- On the **2 and 28 of March**, law enforcement deliberately stood in front of HRO members' cameras to obstruct their view.