

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\*. The obstacles to observations being numerous, these figures should be taken as an extreme minimum.

## Chiffres concernant les expulsions des lieux de vie informels :



At least **73 evictions** from **9 informal settlements**



At least **18 displaced persons arrested** during evictions



At least **31 unaccompanied minors** encountered\*\*




At least **213 tents** including **38 filled with personal belongings** seized



At least **16 blankets, 37 mattresses**, as well as **21 tarpaulins** essential for weather protection and **254 pallets and pieces of wood** needed to protect against the cold stolen

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

- On the **4th and 13th** of April, CRS searched tents and trampled on the property of displaced people.
  - On the **4, 16, 28 and 30th** of April, law enforcement officers addressed exiled people in a threatening tone without calling for a translator, whistled and pushed them away by aggressively waving their arms.
  - On the **9, 13, 21, 23, 26 and 28th** of April, food distributions were held on the living sites at the time of the evictions. These distributions were therefore interrupted.
  - On **9, 19 and 21st** April, the exiled people were evicted under gusts of wind and rain. On the 9th, the Pas-de-Calais was in orange vigilance for the arrival of the Pierrick storm.
- 
- On the **11th** of April, 3 minors were arrested by the Border Police. A few days later, these young people informed HRO that their passports had been confiscated by the PAF during their detention. Once released, the officers told them that they could get them back **“once they take a flight out of the country”**.
  - On **19th** of April, police threatened to use their tasers and batons to prevent exiled people from recovering their personal belongings left behind.
  - On the **21st** of April, a police officer kicked a tent in which an exiled person was sleeping to evict him from his home.

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

\*\* Number of self-reported MNAs met by the ECPAT association (not mandated by the department) in April while they were in a street situation. This number is an under-representation of the number of children in street situation because the actions of go-to are not carried out daily in all living sites by these actors; some children do not communicate with associations; Others access the shelter directly through the association mandated by the department and are therefore not included in this figure. One observation remains: repeated dismantling operations are sources of increased fragility or disappearance of these children, and therefore increased risks of trafficking and exploitation.

## On the 4th of April, during an operation claimed to be a “sheltering” operation by the authorities:

- The displaced people were awakened between 5 and 6 a.m. In the rush, many people were unable to carry essential personal belongings: phones and medicines were seen on the living sites after the police operation ended.
- According to the testimonies of exiled people met after the “sheltering” operation, at least 30 exiled people were put in buses against their will during the operation.
- At least 9 people were arrested by the Border Police. According to the testimonies of exiled people present at the time of the arrests, a person suffered physical violence from the police.

## The month of April was marked by an upsurge of police violence at the stations of Calais-Ville and Fontinettes, in Calais :

*On the 23, 24 and 29th of April, police intervened to violently remove groups of at least 100 displaced people from trains directed to other coastal cities. HRO documented these events:*

- On the **23, 24 and 29th** of April, National Police officers used their batons to beat people on the train. At least one person was hit in the head and at least 2 others were hit in the shoulders and arms.
- On **23rd** of April, National Police officers went to the “Ola” as soon as an exiled person left the station.
- On the **23rd** of April, a railway safety officer told his dog, **“Don’t worry, you’ll get them all”** as he gets ready to get on the train to expel the exiled people.
- On the **23rd** of April, HRO members were violently pushed up the stairs by several National Police officers.
- On the **23rd** of April, two National Police officers not wearing RIO filmed HRO members using their personal phones.
- On the **29th** of April, at least two National Police officers threatened to use tear gas against exiled people to the train compound.
- On the **29th** of April, a young woman sitting on the train was struck by a panic attack when the railway safety officer ordered her to leave the train with his dog in front of her. Help must have been called.
- On the **29th** of April, a National Police officer violently shakes an exiled person who is thrown at least two meters back.



***The British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, stated on the same day\*\*\*, “to prevent people from making these very dangerous crossings”, is in fact materialized by the implementation of harassment strategies that confine them to manhunt. The deaths at the border are being used to justify repressive policies that only put people at greater risk.***

## Figures on police interference and/or intimidation of HRO:

This month, HRO recorded 23 attempts to obstruct and/or intimidate, including:



4 abusive identity checks



The observers were filmed without having been notified at least 7 times including 4 times with personal phones

## Acts of intimidation and/or violence suffered and recorded by HRO:

- On the **4, 13 and 16th** of April, CRS put their hands on the phone of a member of the HRO team to prevent him from filming.
- On the **9th** of April, faced with the threatening attitude of the security forces, to stay safe, the HRO members decided to stay away from the eviction operation.
- On April the **11th**, a BAC officer who did not have any identifying information adopted a threatening tone to force HRO members to leave the living site.



- On **April the 16, 19, 26 and 28th**, National Police officers shoved the HRO team members to force them to leave the perimeter of the eviction.
- On the **19th of April**, a National Police officer obstructed the view of the HRO members by moving his vehicle in front of them several times. When a member of HRO reminds him that there is a right to observe police operations, he answers **“apparently no”**.
- On **April the 21st**, a police officer pulls out his baton when he goes to HRO members to conduct an identity check.

**April brought a change in the way evictions were carried out. Indeed, 60 were carried out by the National Police and the Anti-Criminality Brigade, without the support of the CRS. HRO had made similar observations in 2023 during the mobilizations against pension reform: the current situation is undoubtedly to be put in resonance with the mobilization of major police deployments in the Île-de-France region in order to carry out a “social cleansing”\*\*\*\* of Paris by pushing people who are living on the streets out of the city as 2024 Olympic Games are approaching.**