

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*. Due to recurring hindrances to our observation work, these figures should be taken as an extreme minimum.

Figures on evictions from informal settlements :



At least **360 persons** were evicted from their living sites



At least **112 unaccompanied minors**** encountered



Destruction of shops, a space for socialization for people on the move***

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

- On **April 4**, the eviction operation consisted in the destruction of shops only. These spaces of socialization allow people on the move to live and make the space their own.
- On **April 11**, displaced people were woken up at 7am by law enforcement. At least 300 raced outside the living site to run away from the police, creating a dangerous stampede.
- On **April 11**, at least 9 displaced people stated that no explanations were given to them about the nature of the ongoing police operation. The police informed them by shouts and hand gestures that they had to leave.
- On **April 11**, a construction company was appointed by the authorities to use a backhoe loader to move boulders in front of the parking lot serving as a distribution point. It is now inaccessible, forcing associations to make distributions on smaller spaces along a dangerous road.
- On **April 11**, a part of the living space was deforested to make the people installed on the site visible to authorities. While the eviction operation was ongoing, barbed wire was placed on the fences, marking the perimeter of the living place.



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

**Number of self-reported unaccompanied minors met by La Croix Rouge association (not mandated by the department) in April 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.

*** Agier, M., Bouagga, Y., Galisson, M., Hanappe, C., Pette, M., & Wannesson, P. (2018). La jungle de Calais.

- On **April 11**, when a group of people on the move approached a group of around ten CRS to ask for their belongings left behind, the officers, armed with LBDs and semi-automatic weapons, put on their helmets as if to signal their readiness to intervene. The people on the move stepped back, and could only watch as the agents of the state-commissioned cleaning company seized their belongings.
- On **April 11**, at least 5 people on the move were escorted to the bus entrance by the CRS, only to be stopped by the Police Aux Frontières (PAF). After conducting a body search on each of the people expelled from their homes, the PAF officers proceeded to arrest them. No translator was present to ensure that the procedure was properly understood. Just as the PAF had left the scene, two people got out of the bus and walked away from the police operation.

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

- On **April 11**, as CRS forces the HRO members to leave, one of them said **“take two/three cans on your way out”**.
- On **April 11**, two HRO members had their identities checked by two particularly aggressive National Police officers. One of them adopts an authoritarian tone when he realizes that the HRO members are documenting the operation: **“You stop filming right now and respect orders, especially when it's the Dunkirk police commissioner”**. The two HRO members were then forced into a police van to be escorted away from the living site.



- On **April 11**, on two occasions, National Police officers conducting identity checks on HRO members took photos of their ID with their personal phones.
- On **April 11**, a National Police officer filmed the HRO members with his personal phone.
- On **April 11**, an agent from the cleaning company commissioned by the State to carry out the seizures flips off members of the HRO team as he leaves the premises.

Strategies of non-acceptance are materialized at the border by the raising of walls, barbed wire and fences. Each expulsion operation at Loon-Plage is followed by the installation of a new device designed to turn these living spaces into caged spaces, comparable to open-air prisons. In order to survive, people are forced to adapt to the evolution of these spaces, even if this means putting themselves in danger. On April 18, a man died in Loon-Plage. A wall had been built under a bridge, forcing him to cross a departmental road to reach a distribution point. He was hit by a car. In the Dunkirk area, endangering people on the move has become a tool used by the state to construct the image of an “empty border”**, through which no more exiled people pass. These violent policies must stop.**