

Since 2017, HRO's mission has been to observe, document and denounce the daily state violence perpetrated against people on the move at the Franco-British border* Due to recurring hindrances to our observation work, the following figures should be taken as an extreme minimum.

Numbers concerning evictions from informal living sites :



At least **15 police operations** led to **59 evictions** of **9 different informal living sites**



At least **203 persons** were **evicted** from their informal living sites



At least **86 tents and tarps** seized, including **8 tents** filled with belongings



At least **8 blankets, 3 sleeping bags, and 1 blanket** were seized



At least **14 people on the move** were **arrested** during the evictions

Occurrences of violence endured by people on the move recorded by HRO :

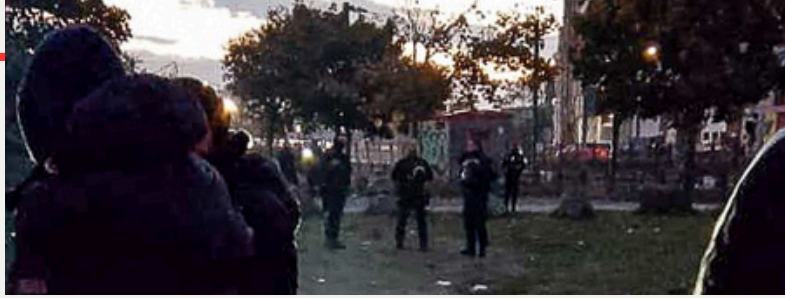
- The police carried out at least **25 evictions while the extreme cold weather plan was active**. The cold weather plan is an emergency accommodation scheme activated by the government when temperatures drop very low. It is available to people on the move, but not all of them go there for lack of information, lack of space or because they do not want to. Evicting people who have stayed in their living site contributes to **making them even more precarious** in a context of freezing temperatures.
- During each eviction where HRO was present, people “**self-evicted**” with their belongings before the police arrived, to protect them from seizure and to resettle afterwards. **This demonstrates the routine nature of evictions in the Calais area.**
- On **15th, 24th, 27th and 29th of January**, CRS officers were equipped with truncheons and defensive bullet launchers. The security arrangements put in place during eviction operations are **disproportionate** and designed to **intimidate people**.
- In **January 2025**, the **number of arrests** during evictions almost **tripled**, rising from 5 in December to **14** this month. These arrests are arbitrary and unfair.



Picture : @elio_j

Occurrences of violence endured by people on the move recorded by HRO :

- The **17th of January**, Border Police officers found a football in a living area and made passes at each other during the eviction, while the operation was still in progress. This kind of behaviour, while an eviction is being carried out, is inappropriate.
- The **27th of January**, **12 people were blocked by the CRS, without the help of a translator, and were unable to reach the living area to collect their belongings.** At the same time, tents were seized by the cleaning team, while their owners were stranded on the bridge.
- The **29th of January**, the clean-up team **seized only the tents**; the other belongings were left behind. This shows once again that the evictions are not aimed at emptying and cleaning the site, but at **depriving people of any means of shelter.**
- The **30th of January**, some people reported that they had been evicted from their home **during the night**, which is not one of the places frequently evicted at the moment. The police took their **belongings**. This is an example of the constant **harassment** to which people on the move are subjected, **day and night.**



Police violence against people on the move outside of evictions

- The **8th of January**, 3 people were controlled and searched. Several people were searched at bus stops, including 2 whose **pockets were directly searched by the National Police**, which is illegal. The Border Police **arrested 3 people.**

In January 2025, at least 3 people died at the Franco-British border.**

Abdul Raheem Quasem, a 24-year-old Yemeni, died following a shipwreck. He was found on the beach at Les Salines.

Suliman Alhusien, a 20-year-old Syrian died trying to cross the border.

The body of a third unidentified man was found on the A16 motorway.

These deaths are the consequence of the policies of the French, British and European governments, which, through the ever-increasing securitization of the border, police harassment and the creation of unworthy living conditions, are endangering the lives of people in transit across the border.

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

** Calais Migrant Solidarity: <https://calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com/deaths-at-the-calais-border/cette-frontiere-tue/>.

Numbers concerning the obstruction and/or intimidation of the police toward HRO:

This month, HRO has recorded numerous attempts to obstruct its work and/or intimidate its team, including :



On **25 occasions**, observation was totally blocked by the police, who kept them at a distance from many police operations. These perimeters hampered the work of documenting the evictions.



The observers were **filmed** without being told **at least 3 times**.

Occurrences of hindrance, intimidation and/or violence endured and recorded by HRO:

- **The 13th of January**, members of HRO and Utopia 56 tried to observe an eviction operation, but were blocked by the police. The CRS **pushed them back and grabbed their arms to prevent them from filming**. On the same day, another CRS officer told HRO that “you let them die with their mouths open in the tents, that's the difference”, while he was overseeing a violent operation that further undermined already precarious living conditions.
- **Throughout January**, HRO again noted **abusive “perimeters”** against its teams. These perimeters, presented as a means of ensuring their “safety”, are in fact set up to prevent the associations from documenting the evictions, by keeping them away from them. They are just one example of the State's desire to conceal the violence inflicted on exiles.
- **The 17th of January**, a **National Police car was dedicated to monitoring the HRO team** observing the eviction. The officers inside were responsible for keeping HRO at a distance and preventing documentation of the operation.
- **The 10th of January**, the “perimeter” set up by the CRS during an eviction **prevented an association from going to the living quarters to carry out its distribution**.



Picture : @elio_j

- **The 20th of January**, a National Police officer **threatened an observer that she would be taken into police custody** because she was on open ground, which she claimed was private land and not visually visible. This kind of intimidation of HRO is recurrent, and is evidence of a desire to discourage the presence of observers.
- **The 10th and 22nd of January**, when HRO asked about the legal basis for the operations, the heads of operations replied: *“Every time we see you, every time we answer and you come back asking the same questions. It's always the same thing”,* or *“as usual, you always ask the same questions”*. These interactions are evidence of the **recurrent nature of the evictions, and of the use of flagrante investigations to evict residents from informal living areas**.