

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 **8 evictions** of **5 different informal living sites**



At least **39 tents** seized



At least **2 people** arrested



**Buses** taking people to centres far from the border

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

- Between **the 7th and the 15th of January**, the police **evicted residents from at least 4 living sites 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.
- The **7th of January**, at least **3 people were arrested** during the eviction.
- The **7th of January**, the Utopia 56 team present at the eviction noted that **several trees and living spaces had been destroyed during the eviction**. This practice is designed to make it more difficult or impossible for people to resettle after the eviction, and contributes to their physical and psychological exhaustion. In addition, some evictees report having been gassed during the eviction.
- The **27th of January**, HRO received a video taken following an eviction showing the evicted living space ransacked, **with belongings left strewn about after the cleaning company had passed through**. Once again, the aim of these companies is not to "clean" the sites, but to make them uninhabitable and destroy the belongings of people.



Picture : @elio\_j

In **January**, at least **3 evictions were carried out in a unusual way**, without the usual convoy, once by the Municipal Police, and at unusual times such as in the evening or in the afternoon. It is likely that these were carried out by police officers without any legal basis. Residents of these sites told the associations about the theft and/or destruction of their personal belongings, in particular their tents and shelters. This shows that the harassment of people on the move is **relentless** and unjustified.

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

- The **14th of January**, during an eviction, the HRO team on site underwent 3 different identity checks. On the **7th and 27th of January**, members of Utopia 56 and Help 4 Dunkerque were stopped by police officers during an eviction. These checks are a **way for the police to intimidate the observers and, more generally, people who come to support people on the move**.
- The eviction on the **14th of January** was particularly violent for the members of HRO. The observers were **pushed and then shouted at by a police commander as they made their way to the requested location**.
- The team was then **followed in a car by a police vehicle**. Following HRO in a car as they travel is a recurring form of intimidation used by the police.
- Finally, during an interaction with a police officer, the latter **put his hand in front of an observer's camera** to obstruct the recording and prevent her from filming him. However, under **Direction Générale de la Police Nationale circular no. 2008-8433**, it is permitted to film police officers in the performance of their duties.



Picture : @elio\_j

