

Since 2017, HRO has the mission of observing, documenting and denouncing daily state violence at the Franco-British border. Obstacles to such eviction being common, these figures should be taken as extreme minimums

This month in numbers :



3 police operations resulting in the eviction of 7 living sites



During each of the three operations, the informal shops set up on camp were completely destroyed.



592 people displaced by evictions, of which at least 75 women and 25 children.



Up to 210 m³ of tents, bedding, and personal belongings seized, and at least 1 van full of blankets, including, counted individually :



62 tents



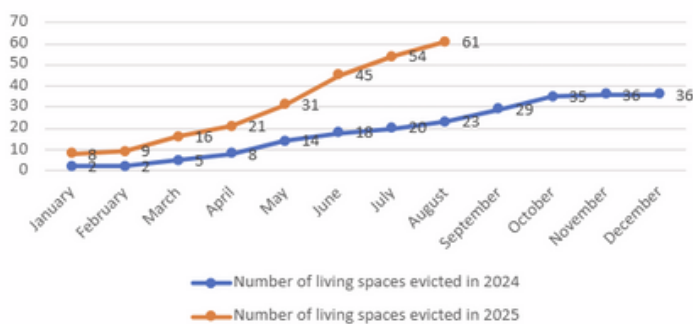
23 blankets, 15 tarps and 1 mattress.



3 backpacks

This year in numbers :

Places of residence in the Dunkirk area to be evicted in 2024 and 2025



As of August 2025, the number of eviction operations carried out by the poliyyece **has doubled from last year**, with **28 operations compared to 14 at the same point** last year.

Number of evictions carried out in the Dunkirk area in 2024 and 2025



Overall, the number of destructive police operations in the Dunkirk area has surged in 2025, **with at least 61 living sites evicted by August compared to at least 23 at the same point last year.**



Since the beginning of the year, we have documented **29 skips of seized goods**. If they are all full, this represents up to **870 m³ of seized goods, equivalent to 5,100 standard bathtubs** filled with tents, blankets and personal belongings.

Intimidation and/or violence suffered by people on the move and recorded by HRO :

HRO encountered at least one testimony of violence during an eviction. **On August 21, the police used tear gas** on a group of people charging their phones at the central distribution point, according to a testimony gathered by an external volunteer present on site during the eviction, who talked with teary-eyed witnesses.

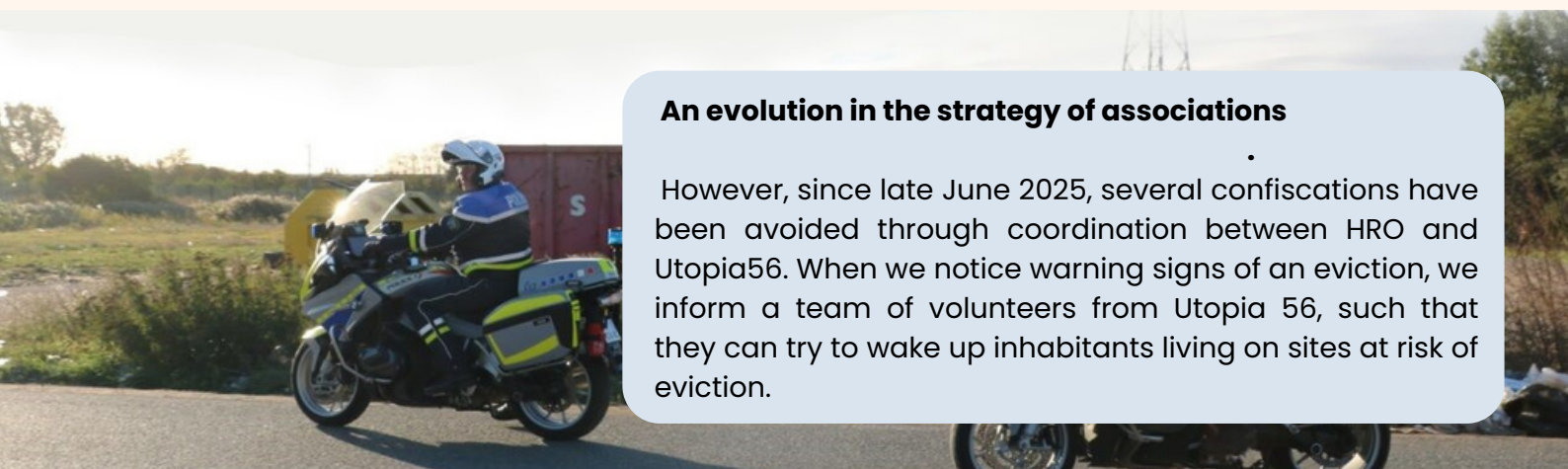
During evictions, people on the move repeatedly shared that essential personal belongings, medication and documents were taken from them, indicating that the police **does not allow inhabitants to collect their personal belongings before razing living sites**. As the evictions unfold, police officers prevent individuals from looking for and recovering their possessions by setting sweeping, arbitrary security perimeters.



- On **August 12**, a pregnant woman recounted to HRO that the police **seized her phone and shoes**.
- On **August 21**, a person recounted to HRO that his backpack containing **asthma medication was seized**.
- Later the same day, as heavy duty diggers crushed the rick-rack structures of informal shops, a CRS officer insisted there was "no possibility" for a mother to help her child recover **prescription glasses** before they were destroyed.
- Not long after, the officer reiterated his refusal when two people asked to recover **their phone and passport left in the area**. The operation chief insisted that the two people would "not pass, full stop. That same day, police officers also refused passage to a child which had been separated from his parents as a result of the eviction operation.
- **On 26 August**, HRO witnessed **police officers seizing bags of personal belongings** directly from living sites. This violates the prefecture's direct orders regarding evictions, which state that **only members of the cleaning team are authorised to handle confiscated items**.

An evolution in the strategy of associations

However, since late June 2025, several confiscations have been avoided through coordination between HRO and Utopia56. When we notice warning signs of an eviction, we inform a team of volunteers from Utopia 56, such that they can try to wake up inhabitants living on sites at risk of eviction.





Intimidations and/or obstruction suffered and recorded by HRO and other associations :



During the month of August, HRO members **faced 7 ID checks**, and our observation missions were near-systematically hindered by extensive security perimeters.

Police officers and members and other members of the eviction operation displayed aggressive and intimidating behavior towards HRO members.

- **On August 12**, the driver of a digger used by the cleaning team declared that if an HRO member photographed his license plate, he would **“hit her with his shovel.”**
- **On August 26**, the operations chief aggressively escorted the HRO team to the limit of an arbitrary perimeter. After shoving an HRO member, he added “if you want, I can push you much harder, you’ll go much faster like that.”

As usual, eviction operations in August **mobilized considerable resources** – on the side of the police and the cleaning team. In total, the three eviction convoys documented this month contained at least:

- 59 8-seater police vans
- 5 police cars
- 5 police motorcycles
- 5 large cleaning team diggers
- 3 small cleaning team trucks
- 10 cleaning team vans

Such an extensive show of force serves not only to intimidate and facilitate displacement, but also **to hinder any resistance and documentation during eviction operations.**

