

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



At least 12 police operations resulting in 35 evictions



At least 305 people evicted



At least 12 arrests



At least 2 evictions for which observation was fully obstructed



At least 121 tents seized, 22 of which were full



At least 2 tarps seized



At least 3 mattresses seized



At least 2 bags seized



Chairs and armchairs seized

## Testimony of police violence

During the month of August, **HRO accompanied several people wishing to testify about experiences of police violence.** A father and his two young children, one of which in a stroller, was walking along the road among a large group of people on the move when two police cars obstructed the road. Here are extracts from his testimony:

**"They threatened to spray us with teargas if we did not turn back. One of the police officers came closer to me and gave me a violent kick in the left rib, after which I fell to the ground. My children started to scream [...]"**

**"Still on the ground, I tried to take out my phone. At that moment, the police officer who kicked me returned to wrestle the phone out of my hands and throw it away. I was taken to the hospital and learned that the blow I received fractured two of my ribs."**

HRO assisted this person to file a complaint, an investigation is ongoing. The ombudsman was notified of the event.

## Eviction of living sites during food distributions

On **August 6**, people living in the Calais region informed us that **the police conducted an operation in their living site while they had left the area to get breakfast at a food distribution** organised by Salam. 6 national police vans along with the state-mandated cleaning team were present on the site, **seizing all tents along with charger and external batteries**. At least 45 people were displaced, of which 15 women and 8 children. 2 people were arrested.

On August 25, **the police deployed for an eviction during a food distribution, disturbing and interrupting the distribution. More than 30 people were prevented from accessing food**, of which women and children. Police forces are aware of the location and timing of these daily distributions. Deploying on a living site during a distribution demonstrates **a clear desire to further a policy of harassment, leaving no respite to people on the move**. They are forced to choose between eating or staying close to their living site in hopes of keeping their belongings.

## Significant events concerning HRO members

### Violation of image rights

Trop souvent, pendant les expulsions, **les forces de l'ordre activent leurs caméras sans prévenir les observateurs**. Pendant une expulsion, le 14 août, un policier nous prend en photo. Quand on le lui fait remarquer il dit "vous avez des photos de nos têtes, comme ça au moins j'ai les vôtres". Au-delà de ne pas respecter leurs obligations quant à la prise d'image, les forces de l'ordre vont jusqu'à nous filmer avec leurs téléphones personnels comme ce fût le cas pendant une expulsion le 11 août 2025.

### Bad faith

During a police operation on August 14, as HRO was filming the confiscation of tents by the cleaning team, whose backs were turned on the observers, a police officer stated "one of them was facing you. Stop this bad faith attitude or i'll be the one to make you come down." At that moment, HRO members were standing on a high surface: the formulation is prone to confusion, an HRO member asks if the officer is threatening the team.

He responds "no, this is not a threat it is a fact. You are filming people without their consent which are not members of the police." When the HRO team explains that it is filming the police taking tents from people living outside, the officer affirms that "the police does not take tents." However, a few minutes prior, a national police officer, holding a tent in his hand, dropped it to ground after noticing observers filming him, leaving it on the road.