

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

This month in numbers

At least:



Significant events concerning people on the move

This month, the evictions in Calais have systematically mobilised significant police apparatus.

HRO counted at least :



The 6th of October operation, alone, mobilised **11 Republican Security Company vehicles, 4 national police vehicles, and 1 border police vehicle** for the eviction of 4 informal living sites.

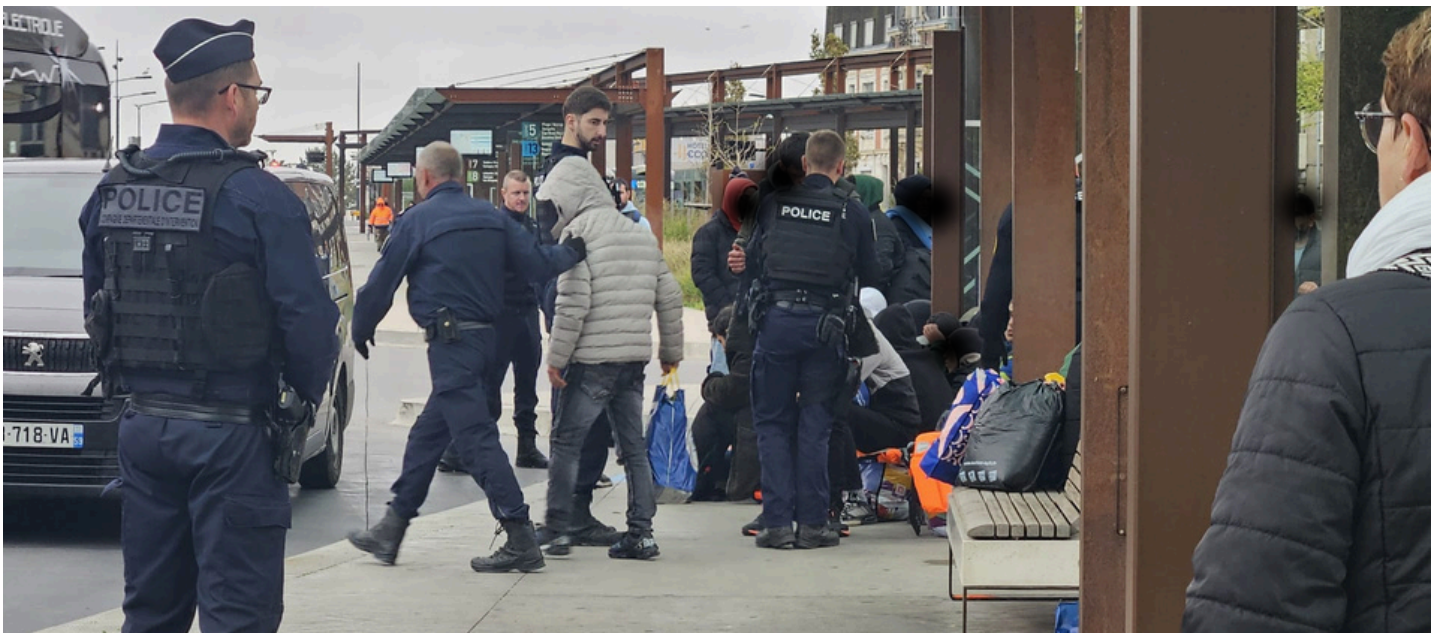
This massive police presence, repeated every 48 hours, gives people on the move no respite.

Arbitrary arrests

The evictions are almost systematically accompanied by **arrests** by border police officers.

- On the 8th of October, **2 men were arrested** by the border police. The HRO team heard **screaming**, including the cry of a border police officer: **'Shut your month'**. The two men arrested were **escorted and loaded into the van of the French border police**. Although requested, **the reason for the arrest was not given to us**.

Arrests to verify right of residence during an eviction operation are a **misuse of the law** and a tool for **harassment**. They contribute to the **exhaustion of residents** of informal living sites.



Theft of personal belongings

On the 8th of October, **more than 30 tents were seized in about 5 minutes** by the cleaning company staff.

During the 17th of October eviction, a person wishing to retrieve his belongings, was answered in English by the Republican Security Company officer : **'You have to go straight with your friends.'**

The **officers refused to allow him to fetch his backpack** left on the living site. According to his testimony, a Republican Security Company officer would have told him that he could get his belongings back later. Our team then asked for the officer where and when this would be possible. However, **the officer did not provide any answer**.

According to our observations, **people on the move are rarely able to recover their personal belongings once they have been seized**. These thefts aim at **preventing durable reinstallation but only accentuate the precariousness of the inhabitants** coming back to their living sites deprived of their means of survival.

The same day, **Republican Security Officers made the evicted individuals walk down a steep, muddy slope**. **Laughing, one of them said he was disappointed that no one had fallen**.

Eviction and “cleaning” before an archery competition to the detriment of people on the move

On the 10th of October, our team found out by **another organisation that an eviction had taken place very early in the morning**. When we visited the site after the operation was over, the **living site had been completely emptied**, leaving **no visible trace** of the people who had lived there.

We then gathered the **testimony** of a man looking for his belongings. He explained that the police arrived early in the morning, **loaded around 10 people into a bus**, then picked up all the remaining belongings. A municipal employee informed us that the area has been **‘cleaned in preparation for an archery competition organised on Sunday’**.

Presented as a simple ‘cleaning’, the operation nevertheless led to the **forced eviction of the inhabitants, the loss of their tents and their personal belongings, and exposed them to arrests**. It is therefore a **massive structure of repression deployed to make people on the move invisible and to conceal the state violence they suffer on a daily basis**.



Significant events concerning HRO members

Our field team’s observations keep being hindered by large security perimeters. HRO’s observations were totally blocked on 6 occasions. This provided an opportunity for law enforcement officers to behave in an **intimidating manner towards our observers**. On the 27th of October, a Republican Security Company officer, **tear gas canister in hand**, escorted our team who had come to observe the eviction.

On the 29th of October, **HRO members were shown the middle finger by the cleaning team** as they attempted to follow the convoy.