

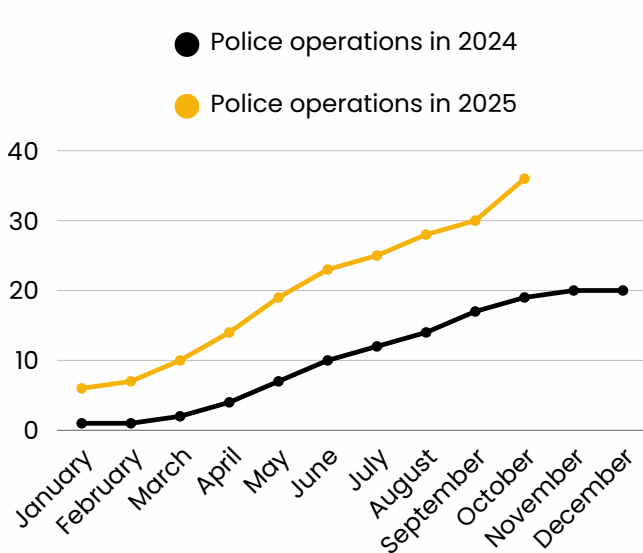
Since 2017, HRO's mission has been to observe, document and denounce state violence at the Franco-British border. Due to recurring hindrances to our observation work, the following figures should be taken as an extreme minimum.

This month in numbers

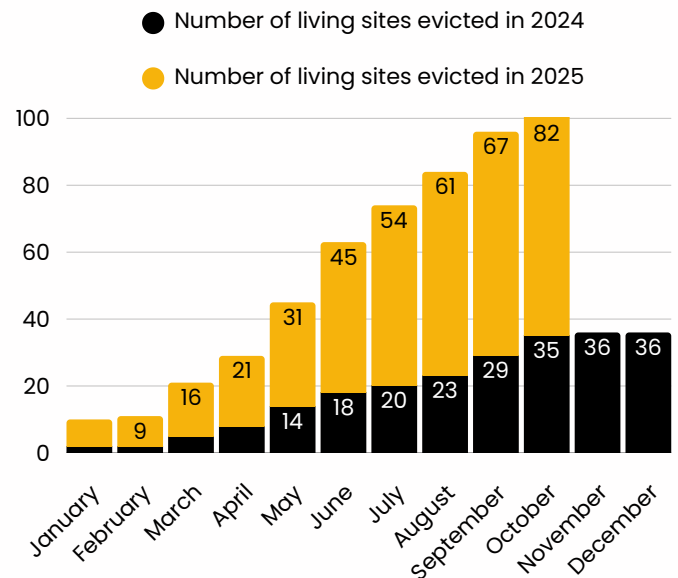
At least:



So far this year



The number of police operations has doubled between 2024 and 2025



Between january and october :
at least **82** evictions in 2025
against **35** in 2024

The routine of arbitrary arrests

This month, HRO documented at least 6 arrests during eviction operations. This is most certainly an under-count: **unmarked border police vans are systematically present during eviction operations**, roaming within the police perimeter to **perform arbitrary arrests and body searches**. Around the camp, people on the move are at **constant risk of police harassment**.

On October 10, **HRO documented the random arrest of a person around the camp of Loon-Plage**. 2 officers of the anti-criminality brigade in plain clothes, **without their mandatory identification armbands**, stopped two people walking on the side of the road. After a very brief conversation and a short pat-down, one person was escorted by the police and forced to enter their unmarked car, **without time to contest the arrest or explain their situation**.

Continued theft, despite public promises

On October 2, associations of the Dunkirk area attended a meeting with the region's under-prefect Frederic Loiseau, during which he **committed to clear limits for the seizure of personal belongings** during eviction operations. He acknowledged that **inhabitants of the Loon-Plage camp should be able to keep, at a minimum, their clothes and blankets.**¹

On the ground, this commitment went unheeded. We documented the seizure of blankets throughout the month of October. On October 7, we documented the mass theft of blankets during that day's eviction. Questioned on the matter, the police chief responsible for the eviction operation was visibly unaware of the under-prefecture's order against the seizure of blankets and asserted that she "has no orders."

The seizure of blankets on October 7 was not a one-off: we subsequently documented the seizure of blankets on October 14, October 21, and October 28. In all, **we observed the seizure of blankets during 4 of the 5 eviction operations carried out during the month of October.**

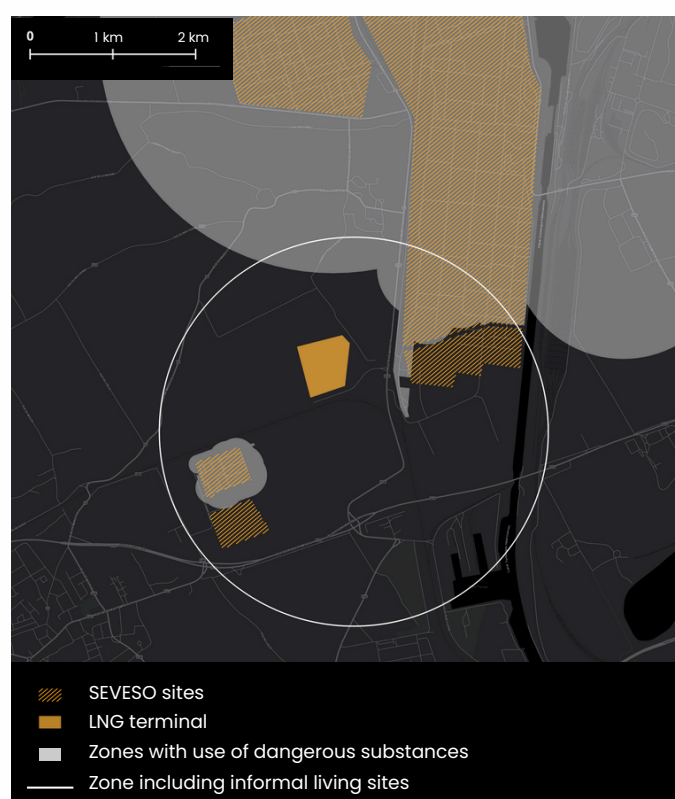
During the meeting, the under-prefect refused to make any statement or commitment against the seizure of tents. Tents and tarps constitute the only way for inhabitants of the camp to protect themselves against the elements as winter approaches. F. Loiseau justified the continued seizure of tents as a deterrent, preventing people from "re-installing elsewhere." Hence, **manufacturing a humanitarian crisis through brutal living conditions remains the only acceptable approach**, despite ample evidence over the past decade that this strategy does not stem the arrival of people on the move in the region nor deter crossings. In the meeting, the under-prefect stated that he could not "accept that a child leaves barefoot because he did not have the time to take his shoes." It seemed, however, perfectly acceptable for him to be left without a tarpaulin roof.

¹ https://www.liberation.fr/societe/immigration/nous-allons-sur-le-campement-avec-la-boule-au-ventre-dans-le-calais-les-priorites-opposees-dune-sous-prefecture-et-des-associations-20251019_LW6AFZHQXBAJ3FTHU6GXSPWZJM/

Escalating encirclement and marginalisation

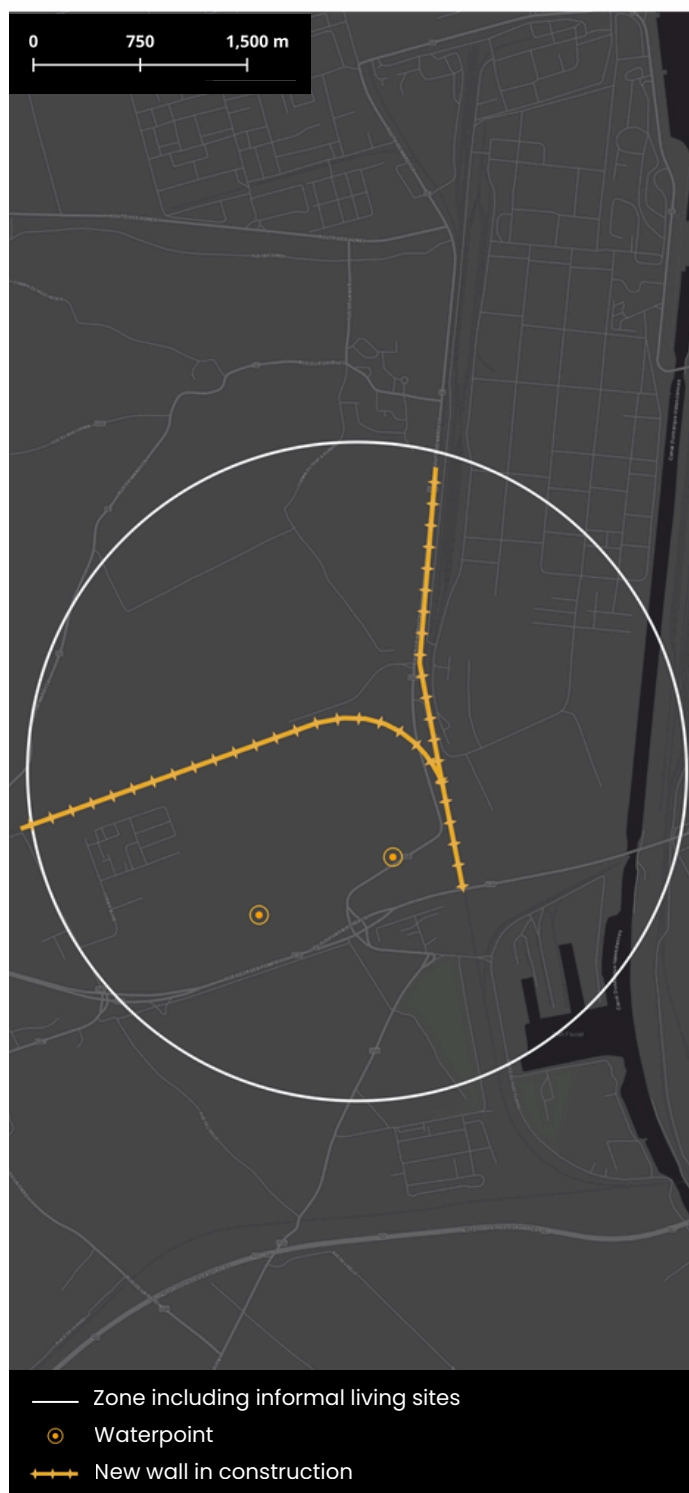
Living sites in Loon-Plage are always rapidly changing, reconfigured according to evictions and the installation of new fences. **The state's aggressive strategy against informal housing has pushed inhabitants away from visible sites towards more isolated, dangerous zones.**

Currently, **camps in the Dunkirk area are located between a railway, a freeway and petrochemical facilities.** Natural gas and chemical pipelines run through the area, which contains **several sites designated SEVESO** – an official classification for sites which produce or store substances dangerous to man or the environment. The installation of several hundred people in these zones is a direct result of the gradual expulsion of people on the move from large agglomerations and populations centers, such as Dunkirk or Grande-Synthe, without proposing any viable housing alternatives and no safe passage routes to the UK.



On October 28, a 30-van convoy drove into the Loon-Plage camp, ready to evict upwards of 300 people living in a large plain bordering the railway. After the forcible expulsion of inhabitants and the confiscation of their belongings, it is another, more permanent, form of violence that is unfurled next to the camp.

Transport trucks line up to deliver large concrete blocks and start piling them into a 3-meter concrete wall blocking off the area. Bankrolled by the United Kingdom, the wall will span 1.5km and cost up to 800,000€, amounting to around 533 euros per meter of construction. The new wall is intended to **blockade a patch of empty land from the intrusion of undesirable bodies, concrete proof of the state's determination to create a hostile landscape, in which people on the move are left to survive in shrinking peripheries.** Like previous fencing setup in the area, this wall will also likely impede access to essential services, by lengthening the journey between living sites and the sole water point in the area.



Police intimidation and barriers to documentation

During the month of October, HRO faced increased obstacles to its documentation work. **Police officers repeatedly forbade HRO members to film ongoing operations**, in blatant disrespect of civic rights enshrined in law. Indeed, a circular from December 23 2008 states that members of the police do not benefit from "any specific protection of their image rights" such that "freedom of information, whether exercised by the press or a private individual, takes precedence over image rights." Therefore, **"police officers cannot oppose the recording of their image when they are on mission. [...] It is not possible to arrest a person for this reason, or confiscate their equipment, destroy the recording or its support."**

On October 8, **a national police officer snatched the phone of a volunteer to stop him from filming and deleted to video he had just recorded.** This same officer asserted that HRO members were not authorized to film during an ID check – in blatant violation of the rights enshrined in the above circular. Asked if HRO had the right to film, the police officers stated "for you, no."

On October 14, a member of the riot police aggressively remarked that HRO members were not allowed to film the ongoing operation. **After striking a volunteer on the shoulder, he shouted "don't film."** That same day, the operations chief asserted that **there were "things you are not allowed to see or film"** to HRO volunteers who had come to document the eviction operation.

